



***Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002

ISBN: 9780312427733 (trade paperback)

*Age Range: Adult

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A dazzling triumph from the bestselling author of *The Virgin Suicides*—the astonishing tale of a gene that passes down through three generations of a Greek-American family and flowers in the body of a teenage girl.

"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day of January 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974 . . . My birth certificate lists my name as Calliope Helen Stephanides. My most recent driver's license . . . records my first name simply as Cal."

So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus in Asia Minor to Prohibition-era Detroit, witnessing its glory days as the Motor City, and the race riots of 1967, before they move out to the tree-lined streets of suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan. To understand why Calliope is not like other girls, she has to uncover a guilty family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns Callie into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction. Lyrical and thrilling, Jeffrey Eugenides's *Middlesex* is an exhilarating reinvention of the American epic.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Part Tristram Shandy, part Ishmael, part Holden Caulfield, Cal is a wonderfully engaging narrator. . . A deeply affecting portrait of one family's tumultuous engagement with the American twentieth century." —*The New York Times*

"Expansive and radiantly generous. . . Deliriously American." —*The New York Times Book Review* (cover review)

"A towering achievement. . . [Eugenides] has emerged as the great American writer that many of us suspected him of being." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review* (cover review)

"A big, cheeky, splendid novel. . . it goes places few narrators would dare to tread. . . lyrical and fine." —*The Boston Globe*

"An epic. . . This feast of a novel is thrilling in the scope of its imagination and surprising in its tenderness." —*People*

Updated October 21, 2024

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“Unprecedented, astounding. . . . The most reliably American story there is: A son of immigrants finally finds love after growing up feeling like a freak.” —*San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

“*Middlesex* is about a hermaphrodite in the way that Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward, Angel* is about a teenage boy. . . . A novel of chance, family, sex, surgery, and America, it contains multitudes.” —*Men's Journal*

“Wildly imaginative. . . frequently hilarious and touching.” —*USA Today*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- Finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award and a Lambda Literary Award
- Received the Ambassador Book Award, the Great Lakes Book Award, and the Santiago de Compostela Literary Prize
- Named a best book of 2002 by the *New York Times Book Review*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Entertainment Weekly*
- Named one of the best books of the twenty-first century by the *New York Times*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Oprah.com interview with Jeffrey Eugenides about *Middlesex*](#)
- [Q&A between readers and Jeffrey Eugenides about *Middlesex*](#)
- [New York Times interview](#)
- [NPR interview](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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