



***Identical* by Ellen Hopkins**

ISBN: 9781416950066 (Trade Paperback)

Margaret K. McElderry, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010

\*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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Sixteen-year-old Kaeleigh and Raeanne are identical down to the dimple. As daughters of a district court judge father and a politician mother, they are an all-American family...on the surface. Underneath run very deep and damaging secrets. What really happened in the car accident that Daddy caused? And why is Mom never home, always running far away to pursue some new dream?

The girls themselves have become hopelessly divided over the years. Sick of losing Daddy's game of favorites, Raeanne turns to painkillers, alcohol, and sex to dull her pain her anger. Kaeleigh tries to be her father's perfect little flower, but being the misplaced focus of his sexual attention has her seeking control anywhere she can—even if it means cutting herself and unhealthy binge and purge eating.

Secrets like the ones the twins are harboring are not meant to be kept—from each other or anyone else. Before long, it's obvious that neither sister can handle their problems alone, and one must step up to save the other, but the question is...who?

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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"Hopkins' teen fans will be mesmerized by the emotional portrayal of the twins. A plot twist at the end will send readers immediately back to the beginning to track the clues." —[Booklist](#)

★ "Hopkins's gift with free verse reaches new heights in this portrait of splintered identical twins . . . Masterful shards of verse convey the fragmented emotions." —[Kirkus, starred review](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- NYPL Best Books for Teens
- Pacific Northwest Young Reader's Choice Award Master List
- Joan F. Kaywell Book Award - Honoree (FL)
- ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults - Top Ten
- ALA/YALSA Teens' Top Ten List

**Updated 3.28.24**

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Contact: [Education.library@simonandschuster.com](mailto:Education.library@simonandschuster.com)

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Reading Group Guide](#)
- [Identical Book Trailer](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)
- [KIDS' RIGHT TO READ PROJECT INTERVIEW WITH ELLEN HOPKINS](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[KIDS' RIGHT TO READ PROTESTS EFFORTS TO CENSOR YA AUTHOR ELLEN HOPKINS](#)

[NCAC DEMANDS RETURN OF 13 BOOKS BY ELLEN HOPKINS TO HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES](#)

[NCAC PROTESTS CANCELLATION OF ELLEN HOPKINS APPEARANCE AT TEEN LIT FEST IN TEXAS](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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“Identical tackles perhaps the most difficult subject matter of all. It is about identical twins whose father is sexually abusing one of them.

I chose this subject matter because the issue touched the lives of three of my friends. Today, they are successful, beautiful women who you would never believe this might have happened to. I want readers to know it is possible to find a way beyond this terrible place, into a brighter future.” —Ellen Hopkins

“Censorship comes from a place of fear. We fear that which is different, what we cannot comprehend. Books gift us with understanding, empower us with knowledge. So, obviously, would-be censors have it all wrong.” —Ellen Hopkins

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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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