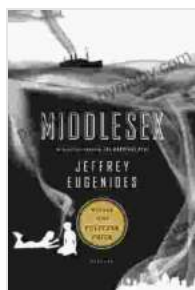


# Middlesex Novel by Jeffrey Eugenides: A Journey of Identity, Gender, and Family

## Synopsis

Middlesex is a novel by Jeffrey Eugenides that follows the life of Calliope Stephanides, a Greek-American hermaphrodite born in Detroit in 1960. The novel explores themes of identity, gender, and family, as Calliope grapples with her unique physical condition and the expectations of her conservative Greek family.



## Middlesex: A Novel by Jeffrey Eugenides

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1086 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 539 pages



## Background

Eugenides was born in 1960 in Detroit, the same year as Calliope. He drew inspiration for the novel from his own Greek heritage and from stories he heard from his relatives about life in Greece. Eugenides has said that he wanted to write a book that would explore the complexities of identity and the ways in which we can be defined by both our physical and psychological characteristics.

## **Plot**

The novel begins with Calliope's birth and follows her through her childhood and adolescence. Calliope is raised as a girl, but she soon begins to realize that she is different from other girls. She is attracted to both boys and girls, and she struggles with her gender identity.

As Calliope gets older, she learns more about her condition and the medical options available to her. She eventually decides to have surgery to remove her male genitalia and live as a woman. However, her decision is not an easy one, and she continues to struggle with her identity throughout her life.

## **Characters**

Calliope Stephanides is the central character in the novel. She is a complex and contradictory character, struggling with her identity, her family, and her place in the world. Other important characters in the novel include Calliope's parents, her grandmother, and her brother, Lefty.

## **Themes**

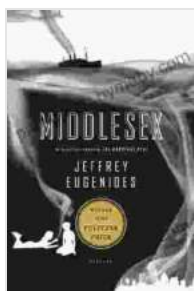
Middlesex is a novel that explores a wide range of themes, including identity, gender, family, and love. Eugenides deftly weaves together these themes to create a rich and complex story that resonates with readers long after they finish the book.

## **Reception**

Middlesex was met with critical acclaim upon its release in 2002. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle

Award. It has been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold millions of copies worldwide.

Middlesex is a powerful and moving novel that explores the complex and often contradictory nature of human identity. Eugenides's writing is lyrical and evocative, and his characters are unforgettable. Middlesex is a must-read for anyone interested in the human condition.

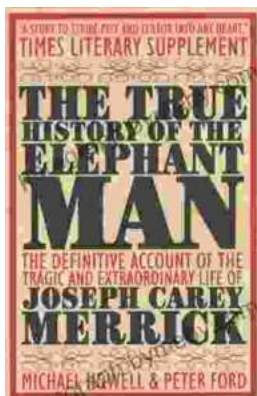


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