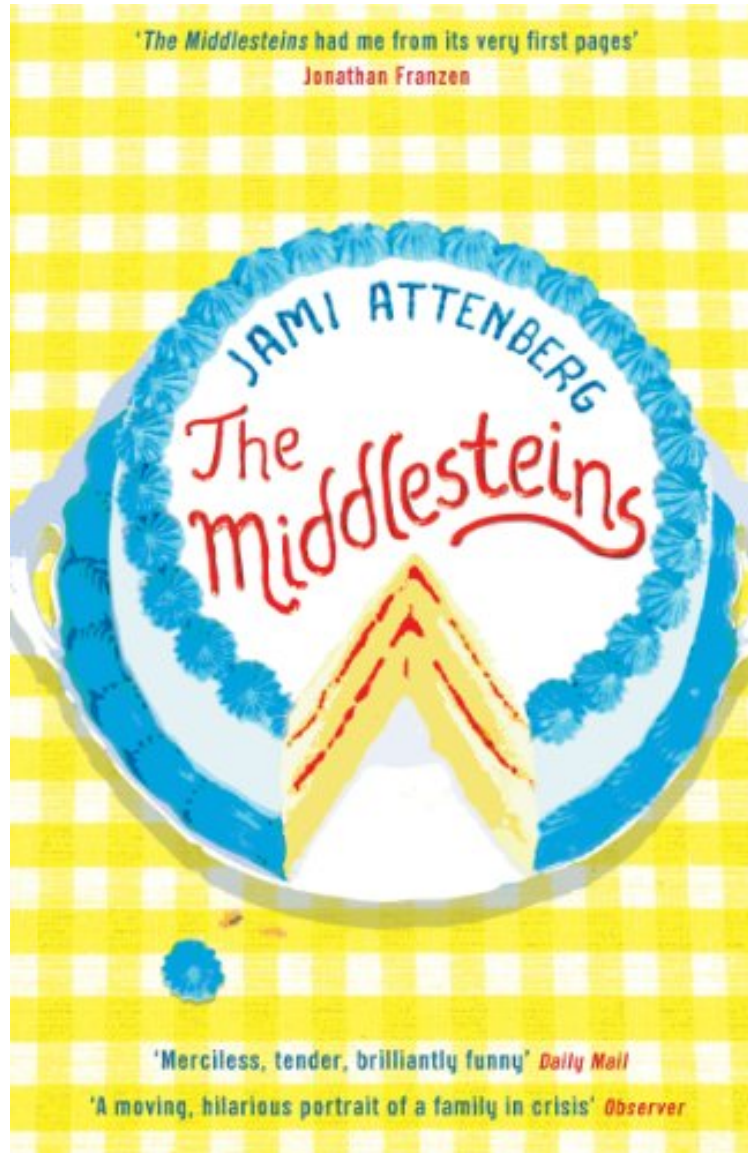


The Middlesteins

Von Jami Attenberg

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Von Jami Attenberg : The Middlesteins before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Middlesteins:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Jami Attenberg - The MiddlesteinsVon Michael CollinIm Zentrum des Romans "The Middlesteins" geht es um einen ganz handfesten Skandal, um eine Ungerechtigkeit, die gerer nicht sein knnte: Wie kann es sein, dass manche Menschen glcklich sind, whrend anderen diese Fhigkeit nicht gegeben ist?Molekularforscher wrden vermutlich antworten, dass

die Gene verantwortlich sind; nur hilft den Unglücklichen diese Auskunft nicht weiter. Allerdings muss die Fähigkeit zum Glück auch erlernt werden, und eben hier setzt dieser wunderbare Roman an. Anhand der weiblichen Linie der Middlesteins macht Jami Attenberg deutlich, wie Tochter Robin genau wie Enkelin Emily Gefahr laufen, ihr Leben in ganz hohem Fahrwasser wie Edie zu verbringen, wenn ihnen entgegen der Vererbung und Erziehung der Ausstieg aus einem glücklosen Leben nicht gelingt. Die Frauen dieser Familie leiden an einer inneren Leere, die Edie Zeit ihres Lebens erfolglos mit Nahrung zu füllen versucht. Food was made of love, and love was made of food, and if it could stop a child from crying, then there was nothing wrong with that either." Doch Essen ersetzt nicht die Liebe, und so kommt Edie auch mit 170 kg Körpergewicht dem Glück nicht näher. Edies Tochter Robin ist als Kind recht stimmig, auf dem Weg, fettleibig wie ihre Mutter zu werden. Doch als ein Freund stirbt, ändert sich dieses, an die Stelle der Esssucht tritt etwas Neues: ...something new and cruel, a taste that was better than all the processed sugar in the world: bitterness." Diese Bitterkeit ist fortan Robins ständiger Begleiter und hindert sie nicht minder an einer glücklichen Beziehung als die Fresssucht, die schließlich zur Scheidung Edies von ihrem Mann Richard führt. Richard, der sich mit 60 Jahren auf der Suche nach einem Rest Lebensglück von Edie trennt, als dieser eine zweite Operation bevorsteht, nachdem sie ihre Ernährungsgewohnheiten nicht umzustellen bereit ist. Als er aus der Familie aussteigt, wird er dafür sofort sozial geächtet, von seinen erwachsenen Kindern Benny und Robin, von Bennys selbstgerechter Ehefrau Rachelle, die Richard aus moralischer Empörung den Umgang mit seinen Enkelkindern untersagt, und auch von den Enkelkindern selbst. Offenbar gibt es nur einen wirklich guten Zeitpunkt, aus familiären Mustern auszubrechen: die Pubertät. Drücken wir also Bennys Kindern die Daumen, dass sie die ersten Repräsentanten einer glücklicheren Generation der Middlesteins werden können. Mir gefällt der Tonfall, in welchem Jami Attenberg diese jüdische Familiengeschichte erzählt, sehr gut. Ohne Pathos und ohne das Geschehen episch aufzublähen, erzählt sie auf humorvolle und beruhigende Weise die Geschichte von Edie, die an ihrer Fresssucht zugrunde geht und von ihrer Familie, die im Strudel dieser starken Persönlichkeit mitgerissen zu werden droht. "The Middlesteins" ist ein kurzer, gut und schnell zu lesender Roman, der gleichwohl tiefgründig ist. Er steckt voller uerst treffender Beobachtungen und wunderbarem jüdischen Humor. Anders als Franzens in den Korrekturen" erzählt Jami Attenberg aber nicht eine Familiengeschichte, die hochliterarisch für eine ganze Epoche einzustehen hat, sondern sie bleibt ganz nah an Familie Middlestein, deren Mitglieder kein moderner Jedermann / keine Jederfrau sein wollen. I expected something different - so beginnt manche zwei- oder drei-Sterne-Rezension, und jedes Mal frage ich mich, warum ein Buch oder sein Autor für die Erwartungshaltung des Lesers haftbar gemacht wird. Oft führt der Verlag zu Werbezwecken eigenwillige Vergleiche an, oft sind es auch die Kritiker. Der Kunde, der sein mühsam Erspartes dann für das Produkt auf den Tisch gelegt hat, möchte nun zufrieden gestellt werden. Jami Attenbergs "The Middlesteins" ist offenbar mehr als einmal mit Jonathan Franzens "Corrections" verglichen worden und auch ein Lob von Franzens wurde auf das Cover der "Middlesteins" gedruckt. So wurden Erwartungen geschürt, die beiden Buchtiteln nicht gerecht werden. "The Middlesteins" ist keine Fortsetzung von Franzens Erfolgsroman, sondern ein ganz wunderbarer, unvergleichlicher eigenständiger Titel. 3 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hatte ich mir anders vorgestellt Von Rena Sch. Das Buch ist nicht schlecht, zwischendurch auch spannend, aber hat mich nicht vom Sitz gerissen. Die Charaktere werden wirklich ganz genau beschrieben und man kann sich jeden gut vorstellen. Trotzdem hatte ich für mich den Eindruck, die Personen nicht wirklich zu kennen (außer vielleicht Edie). Ich habe immer auf etwas gewartet, was nicht kam und so war ich auch fast überrascht, als das Buch plötzlich zu Ende war, weil die Geschichte für meinen Geschmack zu viele ungelöste Fragen lässt.

Kurzbeschreibung "The Middlesteins had me from its very first pages" - Jonathan Franzen Edie and Richard have been married for over thirty years, living in the Chicago suburbs. Everyone who knew them—even their own children Robin and Benny—agreed that Edie was a tough woman to love, but no one expected Richard to walk out on her, especially not in her condition. Edie is fifty-nine years old, she weighs 300 pounds, and her doctors have told her she'll die if she doesn't stop eating. As Richard is shut out by the family and seeks solace in the world of internet dating, Robin is dragged back from the city and forced to rebuild a relationship with her mother. Meanwhile Benny and his neurotic wife Rachelle try to take control of the situation. But have any of them stopped to think about whether Edie really wants to be saved? Written with sly humour, warmth and great insight, The Middlesteins is a novel about what it means to be part of a family. Pressestimmen Praise for The Middlesteins: "The Middlesteins had me from its very first pages, but it wasn't until its final pages that I fully appreciated the range of Attenberg's sympathy and the artistry of her storytelling." Jonathan Franzen, author of Freedom "Deeply satisfying. . . . A sharp-tongued, sweet-natured masterpiece of Jewish family life." Kirkus (Starred) "Expansive heart and sly wit... Throughout this poignant novel, the characters wrestle with two defining questions: What do we owe each other after a life together? What do we owe ourselves?" Abbe Wright, O Magazine "The Middlesteins is a tender, sad and funny look at a family and their mother. In fact, it's so readable, it's practically edible." Meg Wolitzer, NPR All Things Considered "With a wit that never mocks and a tenderness that never gushes, [Attenberg] renders this family's ordinary tragedies as something surprisingly

affecting... Attenberg is superb at mocking the clichés of middle-class life by giving them the slightest turn to make people suddenly real and wholly sympathetic."Ron Charles, Washington Post"[An] irresistible family portrait with piquant social commentary. Kinetic with hilarity and anguish, romance and fury, Attenberg's rapidly consumed yet nourishing novel anatomizes our insatiable hunger for love, meaning, and hope."Donna Seaman, Booklist (Starred)"Attenberg finds ample comic moments in this wry tale about an unraveling marriage. She has a great ear for dialog, and the novel is perfectly paced. . . . [She] seamlessly weaves comedy and tragedy in this warm and engaging family saga of love and loss."Library Journal"The most authentic, endearing fictional portrait of a family in recent memory. . . . There is no page of this novel without compassion, empathy, humor and restraint."Carmela Ciuraru, Dallas Morning News"[Attenberg's] characters' thoughts-Richard and Benny in particular-seem utterly real, and her wry, observational humor often hits sideways rather than head-on. . . . [A] wonderfully messy and layered family portrait."Publishers Weekly (Starred)"Jami Attenberg's comic-tragic portrait of The Middlesteins, a quirky midwestern Jewish family collapsing under burdens of betrayal, desire, and obesity, is delish."Elissa Schappell, Vanity Fair"[A] remarkable feat.... Clear-eyed funny and truthful and deeply moving, especially in the killer-punch of its ending... Refined, economical and beautifully crafted."Stefan Fleischer, The Buffalo News"Definitely comedic and acutely sensitive, Jami Attenberg confronts our profound hunger for meaning and love in The Middlesteins.... [This book] generates disturbing, hilarious and tender revelations."Donna Seaman, Kansas City Star Tribune"A smart novel that tackles big issues."Chicago Tribune (Editor's Choice)"Funny, compassionate tragicomedy...notable for the nimble way it combines humor and pathos. Attenberg can be wry and sharply funny, but there's a tenderness in her portrayal of her outsized main character and her family."Yvonne Zipp, Christian Science Monitor"Vibrant . . . Thanks to Attenberg's sure-handed prose, this agile narrative swiftly moves around in time and perspectives . . . Attenberg evokes memorable moments of authentic sadness and tenderness while thoughtfully and comically examining the question of what we inherit from our families. In the case of the Middlesteins, it is many things, including their sometimes-enduring love for each other."S. Kirk Walsh, San Francisco Chronicle"This gem of a book is swift, moving and brutally honest, but it has as family-centric moral at its heart: Without family, we are nothing."Susannah Cahalan, New York Post"Jami Attenberg has written a brilliant novel in The Middlesteins, as blazing, ferocious, and great-hearted as anything I've read. For anyone who has ever known heartbreak, the terrible love of a family, or a passion so deep you think it'll kill you, The Middlesteins will blow you away."Lauren Groff, New York Times bestselling author of The Monsters of Templeton"I couldn't help absolutely devouring The Middlesteins. This smorgasbord of a book about food, family, love, sex, and loss is like the Jewish The Corrections, yet menschier and with a heart--and it's hilarious!"Jenna Blum, author of Those Who Save Us and The Stormchasers"The Middlesteins is a truly original American novel, at once topical and universally timeless. Jami Attenberg has created a Midwestern Jewish family who are quintessentially familiar but fiercely, mordantly idiosyncratic. This novel will make you laugh, cry, cringe in recognition, and crave lamb-cumin noodles. This is a stunningly wonderful book."Kate Christensen, author of The Astral and The Great Man"Jami Attenberg has a gift for making you sympathize with each and every one of her characters. The result is a rich family portrait that's sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes hilarious, and gripping all the way through. The Middlesteins are every bit as complex and contradictory as your family, or mine. I'm still thinking about them long after I turned the final page."J. Courtney Sullivan, author of Commencement and Maine"Jami Attenberg writes with startling honesty and haunting compassion about characters caught between desire and obligation. Blunt and beautifully written, The Middlesteins peels back the layers of one family's struggle to hold together even as its members fall apart, examining the commitments and betrayals, the guilt and grievances, the wounds and recoveries. Told with great hope and humor, this is a novel about fear and forgiveness, blame and acceptance, the roles we yearn to escape, and the bonds that prove unbreakable. It's a wonderful book."Aryn Kyle, author of The God of Animals"The Middlesteins, the novel, is great literature: in lucid and lustrous prose, Jami Attenberg tells a flawlessly paced, profound story that is equally intimate and universal. And the Middlesteins, the family, are great company: warm, tragic, funny and so deeply, complexly, entirely human that I could almost swear I grew up down the street from them. I read Attenberg's book as voraciously as Edie Middlestein downs her surreptitious feasts, and now I'm insatiable for more from this brilliant author."Stefan Merrill Block, author of The Storm at the Door and The Story of Forgetting

Kurzbeschreibung"The Middlesteins had me from its very first pages" - Jonathan Franzen

Edie and Richard have been married for over thirty years, living in the Chicago suburbs. Everyone who knew them-even their own children Robin and Benny-agreed that Edie was a tough woman to love, but no one expected Richard to walk out on her, especially not in her condition. Edie is fifty-nine years old, she weighs 300 pounds, and her doctors have told her she'll die if she doesn't stop eating. As Richard is shut out by the family and seeks solace in the world of internet dating, Robin is dragged back from the city and forced to rebuild a relationship with her mother. Meanwhile Benny and his neurotic wife Rachelle try to take control of the situation. But have any of them stopped to think about whether Edie really wants to be saved? Written with sly humour, warmth and great insight, The Middlesteins is a novel about what it means to be part of a family.