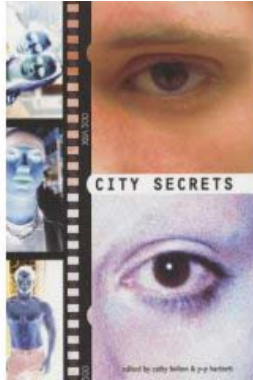




LGBT Reading Group



June/July 2007



The Read... City Secrets

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans writers reclaim the headlines in this dark, witty and refreshingly uncensored collection of short stories. They introduce us to characters you'd never guess lived next to you: stalkers, religious freaks, mermaids and vampires. They show us how easy it is to develop an unhealthy interest in young boys, older women, meat cleavers, vaginas and jazz. And they show us how to survive Gender Dysphoria, HIV, abusive relationships and Lesbian Bed Death. This is *Sex and the City* meets *Queer as Folk* and everything in between. ISBN 0-946745-32-3



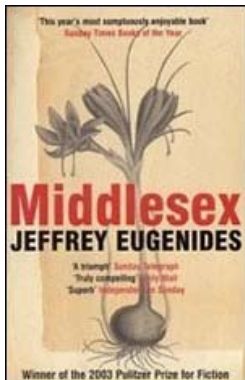
The Editors... PP Hartnett & Cathy Bolton

Apart from being author, editor, photographer, poet and performer, **Paul** used to be a Special Needs teacher. He lives alone in a terraced house on a hill in Lancashire. A free interview DVD is available from the Library via libraries@wolverhampton.gov.uk



Cathy works as a writing development worker for Commonword community publishers, a partner organisation on the Big Gay Read. Her poetry and short fiction has appeared in a wide range of literary journals and anthologies.

Our Opinion... The primary reason for choosing this short stories compilation was that Hartnett had been a recent guest of Wolverhampton City Libraries during Big Book Fortnight, but also that we thought the mix of LGBT writing would appeal to a broader group of readers. Although there were a few stories whose quality did stand out (for example *She's Come to Tell* where it's the gay man's mother who turns out being HIV+), the general consensus was that the writing varied between plain average and gratuitous. Uncensored? So what? A big, disappointed thumbs down from the group.



What Next? Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

'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.' So begins the breathtaking story of Calliope, and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny village in Asia Minor to Prohibition-era Detroit, before they move out to the tree-lined streets of suburban Michigan. To understand why she is not like other girls, Calliope has to uncover a family secret and the astonishing genetic history that turns her into Cal, one of the most audacious and wondrous narrators in contemporary fiction. Lyrical and thrilling, this book is an exhilarating epic. ISBN 978-0-7475-9008-8



www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/lgbt

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