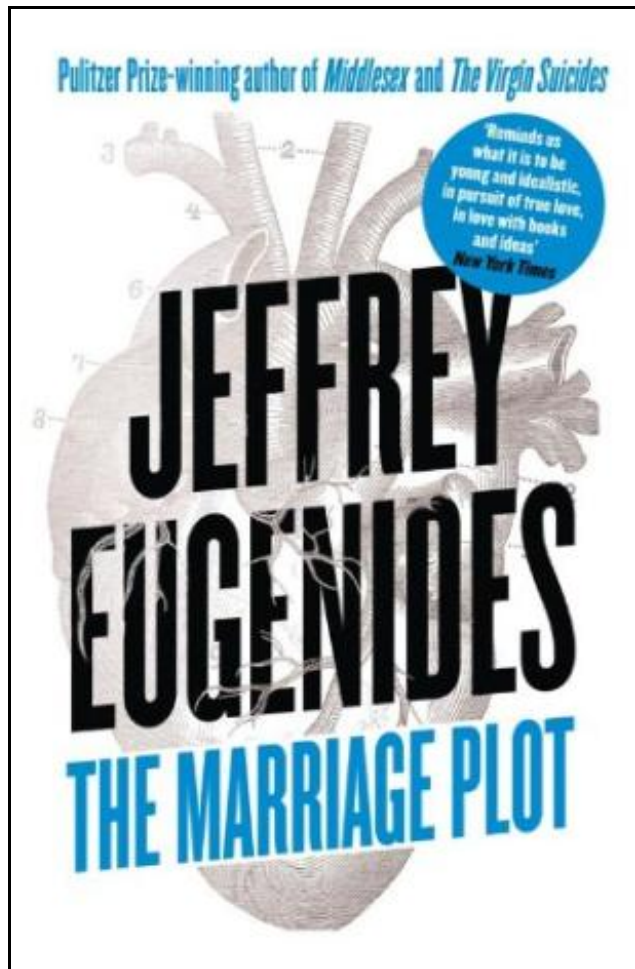


The Marriage Plot



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Reviews

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(Prof. Damon Kautzer III)

THE MARRIAGE PLOT



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4th Estate. 1 Paperback(s), 2011. soft. Book Condition: New. (Winner of the 2011 Salon Book Award for Fiction) In his first novel since the 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner *Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides gives us a classic love-triangle novel and then brilliantly deconstructs it. English major Madeleine Hanna eschews the deconstructionist fervor of the early 1980s for Austen and Eliot and other purveyors of the marriage plot in 19th-century novels. When she gives in to her curiosity and takes a semiotics course, she falls in love with the brilliant if erratic Leonard Bankhead. Then her old friend Mitchell Grammaticus reappears, studying Christian mysticism and convinced that Madeleine is destined to be his mate."Your standard love triangle? Absolutely not. This extraordinary, liquidly written evocation of love's mad rush and inevitable failures will feed your mind as you rapidly turn the pages."Library Journal (starred review)"[The Marriage Plot] so impressively, ambitiously breaks the mold of its predecessor that it calls for the founding of a new prize to recognize its success both as a novel and as a Jeffrey Eugenides novel. In capturing the heady spirit of youthful intellect on the verge, Eugenides revives the coming-of-age novel for a new generation. The book's fidelity to its young heroes and to a superb supporting cast of enigmatic professors, feminist theorists, neo-Victorians, and concerned mothers, and all of their evolving investment in ideas and ideals is such that the central argument of the book is also its solution: the old stories may be best after all, but there are always new ways to complicate them."Publisher's Weekly (starred review) 406.



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