

The Middlesteins

JAMI ATTENBERG
NARRATED BY MOLLY RINGWALD

For more than thirty years, Edie and Richard Middlestein shared a solid family life together in the suburbs of Chicago—two children, a nice house, ample employment, and generous friends. But things are splintering apart, for one reason, it seems: Edie's fixated on food—thinking about it, eating it—and if she doesn't stop, she won't have much longer to live. When Richard abandons his wife, it is up to the next generation to take control. Robin, their schoolteacher daughter, is determined that her father pay for leaving Edie. Benny, an easygoing, pot-smoking family man, just wants to smooth things over. And Rachelle—a whippet-thin perfectionist—is intent on saving her mother-in-law's life, but this task proves even bigger than planning her twin children's spectacular b'nai mitzvah party. Through it all, they wonder: Do Edie's devastating choices rest on her shoulders alone, or are others at fault, too? With pitch-perfect prose, huge compassion, and sly humor, Jami Attenberg gives us an epic story of marriage, family, and obsession. *The Middlesteins* explores the hopes and heartbreaks of new and old love, the yearnings of Midwestern America, and our devastating, fascinating preoccupation with food.

Jami Attenberg is the author of a story collection, *Instant Love*, and two novels, *The Kept Man* and *The Melting Season*. She lives in New York. Visit her website at www.JamiAttenberg.com.

Molly Ringwald's work in film is characterized by what the renowned *New Yorker* film critic Pauline Kael called her "charismatic normality." Her fiction debut *When It Happens to You: A Novel in Stories*, was published this year. Molly lives with her husband and three children in Los Angeles.



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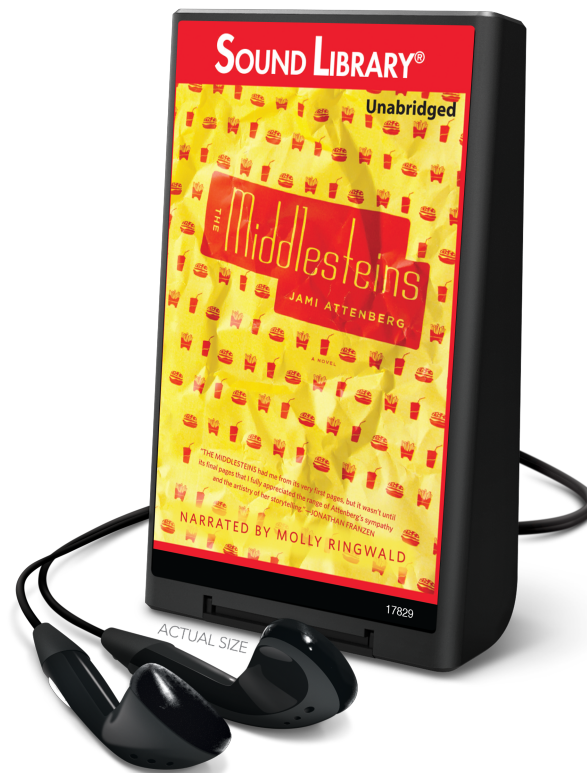
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