



# Identical

By Ellen Hopkins

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## Identical By Ellen Hopkins

Sixteen-year-old identical twins must come to terms with their darkest secrets in this poignant tour de force from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Ellen Hopkins.

Do twins begin in the womb?  
Or in a better place?

Kaeleigh and Raeanne are identical down to the dimple. As daughters of a district-court judge father and a politician mother, they are an all-American family -- on the surface. Behind the facade each sister has her own dark secret, and that's where their differences begin.

For Kaeleigh, she's the misplaced focus of Daddy's love, intended for a mother whose presence on the campaign trail means absence at home. All that Raeanne sees is Daddy playing a game of favorites -- and she is losing. If she has to lose, she will do it on her own terms, so she chooses drugs, alcohol, and sex.

Secrets like the ones the twins are harboring are not meant to be kept -- from each other or anyone else. Pretty soon it's obvious that neither sister can handle it alone, and one sister must step up to save the other, but the question is -- who?

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## Identical By Ellen Hopkins Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Identical teen twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne share a picture-perfect California life that is rank with dark, dangerous secrets under its surface. Their mother, who is running for Congress, leaves them at home with their father, a district court judge who is addicted to liquor and OxyContin. Daddy regularly molests Kaeleigh, using her as a stand-in for his absentee wife, and controls every aspect of her life. Raeanne sees every detail and reacts to her father's favoritism by acting out sexually and getting high on pot whenever possible. Written in free verse from alternating viewpoints, *Identical* tells the twins' story in intimate and often-graphic detail. Hopkins packs in multiple issues including eating disorders, drug abuse, date rape, alcoholism, sexual abuse, and self-mutilation as she examines a family that "puts the dys in dysfunction." The tension builds slowly and subtly, erupting in a shattering climax of psychological disintegration and breakthrough that reveals the truth about the twins and their father's own childhood secrets. Gritty and compelling, this is not a comfortable read, but its keen insights make it hard to put down.—*Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS*

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From [Booklist](#)

Identical twins Kaeleigh and Raeanne alternate their stories in this tale of family secrets and self-destructive behavior. Their campaigning-politician mother is largely absent from their lives, and their father, a renowned judge, sexually abuses Kaeleigh and ignores Raeanne. The twins fight their demons in various destructive ways, including drug and alcohol use, sexual promiscuity, and eating disorders. Flanagan reads the parts of both girls—a great choice for identical twins who appear as mirror images of one another. Raeanne's jaded, harsh tones are in stark contrast to Kaeleigh's dreamy little-girl voice. The free-verse construction of the novel is especially suited to audio, with Flanagan bringing forth the drama and timing of the poems. Though the content of the book—especially scenes of incest—makes for uncomfortable listening, this is a powerful interpretation of an emotional story. Grades 9-12. --Heather Booth

### Review

Hopkins's gift with free verse reaches new heights in this portrait of splintered identical twins. . . . Kaeleigh and Raeanne maintain distinct voices throughout as they wrestle with psychic damage and an astonishing, devastating realization. Sharp and stunning, with a brilliant final page. [starred review]

—*Kirkus Reviews (Kirkus Reviews)*

Hopkins's verse is not only lean and sinuous, it also demonstrates a mastery of technique. [starred review] (*Publishers Weekly*)

"A powerful interpretation of an emotional story." (*Booklist*)

"Hopkins' word sculpture and verse patterns are just as keen as ever, creating shapes and secret messages. . . . One thing is for certain—you won't soon forget this story."

—*The Trades (The Trades)*

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Helga Lever:**

The book untitled Identical is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to an individual. The language that article author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Identical from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

**Becky Pope:**

Identical can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Identical however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

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