



Flesh and Blood: A Novel

By Michael Cunningham

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This novel follows the Stassos family through four generations, as it is touched by ambition, love, violence, and the transforming effects of time.

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Flesh and Blood: A Novel By Michael Cunningham Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Cunningham presents a family saga of an ambitious but frustrated immigrant and the wildly disparate paths his children undertake.

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From Library Journal

The story of Constantine Stassos freshly examines the American immigrant experience and conflict between generations. He, wife Mary, and three children Susan, Will, and Zoe seemingly embody solid middle-class values. However, Constantine's cruelty, voracious appetites, and questionable business practices poison his marriage and brutalize his children. Through painful quests for independence, personal balance, and community, the Stassos children learn acceptance of themselves and their siblings. Fairly brief episodes, often occurring years apart, recount key moments in the establishment, disintegration, and reconfiguration of the family. Thoroughly realized action, vivid character delineation, and the splendid control of language guarantee both the unity and powerful impact of this successful novel by the author of *The Home at the End of the World* (LJ 10/15/90). Very highly recommended.

Jane S. Bakerman, Indiana State Univ., Terre Haute

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From [Booklist](#)

Family defines us, one way or another. In Cunningham's empathic and searing family drama, the haphazardness of genetics and fate plays in mocking counterpart to the predictability of heartache. Author of the widely acclaimed novel *The Home at the End of the World* (1990), Cunningham is a tenacious and word-perfect writer with acute insight into the eccentricity of personalities and the chemistry of intimate relationships. He stretches this sorrowful saga across an entire century, beginning in 1935 in Greece, where a boy suffers poverty and neglect. Constantine Stassos eventually immigrates to the U.S., where he marries a lovely and industrious young woman, amasses a fortune, and turns his attractive home into a living hell. No one goes unscathed, from his suffocating wife, Mary, through his self-negating eldest daughter, his acerbic gay son, and his younger daughter, Zoe, a strangely feral child. As the years go by and abrupt social changes become the rack upon which families are wrenched and broken, each member of the Stassos clan struggles to achieve love and respect. Cunningham, in a remarkable performance, inhabits the psyche of each of his striking characters as they find themselves in one surprising situation after another. *Donna Seaman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edna McArdle:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or data even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which can be always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Flesh and Blood: A Novel* is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

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