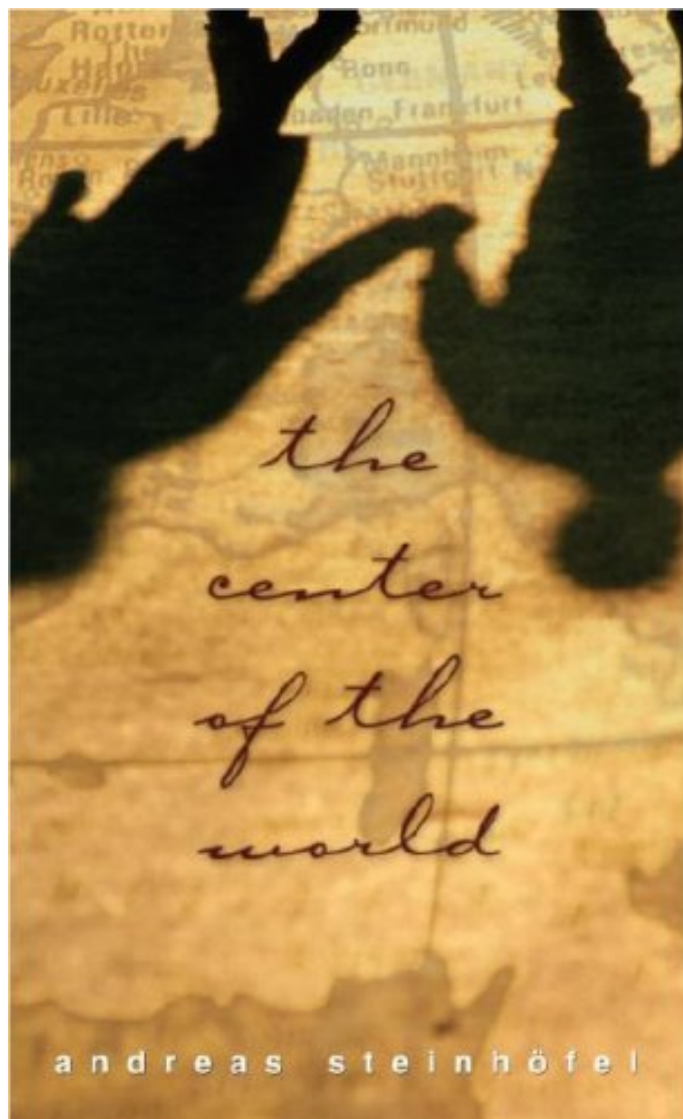


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**Andreas Steinhöfel**

**The Center of the World**



Title: The Center of the World

Author: Andreas Steinhöfel

Format: Mass Market Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 480

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## Description

Seventeen-year-old Phil has felt like an outsider as long as he can remember. All Phil has ever known about his father is that he was Number Three on his mother's long list—third in a series of affairs that have set Phil's family even further apart from the critical townspeople across the river. As for his own sexuality, Phil doesn't care what the neighbors will think; he's just waiting for the right guy to come along.

But Phil can't remain a bystander forever. Not when he's surrounded by his mother, Glass, who lives by her own rules and urges Phil to be equally strong; his sister, Dianne, who is abrupt and willful, with secrets to share; his uncle Gable, a restless mariner, defined by his scars; his best friend, Kat, who is generous but possessive. And finally, there is distant Nicholas, with whom Phil falls overwhelmingly in love—until he faces the ultimate betrayal and must finally find his worth . . . and place in the world.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## Insightful reviews

Piet: Een genot om te lezen, hilarisch en diepzinnig. Wat wil een mens nog meer!

Robert-Henry Koch: Hilarious, painful, contemporary, recognizable story.....coming of age sucks

Gundula: If you never had a chance to dive into a story of surreal family structures - here you go...

Andreas Steinhöfel's *The Center of the World* tells the story of seventeen-year-old Phil, who lives with his twin sister, Dianne, and mother, Glass, in an old castle in a small German town. The father he has never met and knows little to nothing about remains in America. Glass' promiscuous sexual behavior makes the children targets of the neighborhood bullies' taunts and jeers and relegates them to the role of outsiders in the community. Phil is befriended by Kat, the daughter of the school headmaster, who is willful, proud, and possessive. When Phil falls in love with the new boy, Nicholas, Kat supports the relationship but soon finds herself falling for Nicholas' charms, too. In order to nurse and ultimately heal the wounds that result from the love triangle, Phil must decide what is most important to him, accept his own self-worth, and become a more active participant in his life. This novel is rich and multi-layered with several interwoven stories that take the reader backward and forward in time, weaving a complex story of love, betrayal, and family connection. As Phil reveals and reflects upon his relationships with those around him—his sister, his mother, his seafaring uncle, his adult friends, his lover, his enemies, even his absent father—we are pushed and pulled through time and given the opportunity to bear witness to his coming of age.

Alexandra : Diesen Jugendroman kann guy ohne Frage als "leise" und zart bezeichnen, sowohl durch die wunderbare Sprache als auch von den Familiengeschichten her, die gewoben

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werden. Nichts in der tale ist spektakulär, aber mit soviel Liebe und Hingabe wird über das Anderssein, Erwachsenwerden, Homosexualität, Familie, Liebe, Freundschaft und braveness erzählt, dass es die reine Freude ist. Jeder einzelne Charakter von den Hauptfiguren bis zu den kleinen Nebendarstellern ist derartig vielschichtig, realistisch, detailliert und liebevoll gezeichnet - das ist wirklich große schriftstellerische Kunst. Dadurch ist dieses Buch eigentlich für mich nicht ausschliesslich ein Jugendroman, denn er hat mich auch als Erwachsene restlos überzeugt. Einen Punkt Abzug werde ich dennoch geben (eigentlich sollte es nur ein halber sein), da mich das Timing der Rückblenden öfter gestört hat. Sie wurden eingesetzt, als bei mir ob der vielen angedeuteten Hintergründe schon längst tausend Fragezeichen entstanden - additionally immer einen Tick zu spät wurde ich vom Autor darüber aufgeklärt, was once in der Vergangenheit passiert ist. Diese permanente Verstärkung der Neugier und Verwirrung hätte Steinhöfel gar nicht nötig gehabt, bei einem derart hintergründigen Roman - irgendwie passt dieses "laute" Stilelement nicht zum Charakter der restlichen Geschichte. Trotz dieser kleinen Kritik ist der Roman ein Juwel, auf das ich zufällig in einem Wühlkarton bei der Caritas gestossen bin. Fazit: Grandios! Absolute Leseempfehlung von mir für alle :-)

Amy : i used to be hooked to this tale from the 1st page. The writing variety is bold, but detailed. it's totally deep too. This tale is set 17-year-old Phil, who's a misfit in his personal city as a result of his mother's undesirable reputation. correct before everything of the e-book we're pulled right into a unusual and mysterious world, jam-packed with the ghosts of Phil's past. His simply pal is Kat, who stocks her boy problems with him whereas he mopes approximately his non-existent ones. Phil's relatives hasn't ever been close; his mother, Glass, is understood to have slept round with a number of men, and the one factor Phil understands approximately his father is that he was once quantity 3. on Glass's lengthy record of flings. Phil's sister is changing into extra secretive and is shutting Phil out of her life. yet issues switch for Phil whilst the good-looking and mysterious newcomer Nicholas comes into Phil's world. i actually need to say that this can be a very.... mature novel, no longer the standard form of younger grownup book. The kinfolk dynamics is instructed amazingly, with all the characters having their very own "baggage" with the intention to say. simply learn it and be dragged down into the intensity of Phil's world.....

Tamer Lorika: you recognize what? i did not love it. i did not even like it. I hated the consistent flashbacks, I hated ready in worry for what used to be going to take place within the genuine story, after which having the entire premise of "before the flashback" thoroughly forgotten. yet on the related time, this publication should be read. there's something so ... true. So undervalued and real approximately this book. this can be real. this is often life. the writer simply displays a existence in growth in a manner that perfectly and completely information every body else's lifestyles in development in a manner i do not understand. and each moment, i cannot discover a cause to hate the protagonist. None at all. even supposing he is silly and naive and petty, he is ME. he is YOU. he is EVERYONE. This ebook isn't really what I wanted. I by no means sought after it to finish like this. "I by no means requested for this". yet its how it IS, and everybody has to learn it, to know.

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