



Sappho's Leap: A Novel

By Erica Jong

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"Sappho's Leap delights." USA Today

Sappho's Leap is a journey back 2,600 years to inhabit the mind of the greatest love poet the world has ever known. At the age of fourteen, Sappho is seduced by the beautiful poet Alcaeus, plots with him to overthrow the dictator of their island, and is caught and married off to a repellent older man in hopes that matrimony will keep her out of trouble. Instead, it starts her off on a series of amorous adventures with both men and women, taking her from Delphi to Egypt, and even to the Land of the Amazons and the shadowy realm of Hades.

Erica Jong, always our keenest-eyed chronicler of the wonders and vagaries of sex and love, has found the perfect subject for a witty and sensuous tale of a passionate woman ahead of her time. A generation of readers who have been moved to laughter and recognition by Jong's heroines will be enchanted anew by her re-creation of the immortal poet.

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Sappho's Leap: A Novel By Erica Jong Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [The New Yorker](#)

What if the poet Sappho had paused to tell the story of her life in the moment before her legendary leap from the cliff? It's a neat premise, and the grab bag of brilliant bits that is all we know of Sappho's life might, in defter hands, have been fashioned into shimmering whole cloth. Instead, we get a windy, chaotic tale, which owes more to Bob Guccione's "Caligula" than to classical scholarship (sample chapter headings: "Aesop at the Orgy," "The Binding of the Babe"). Jong can't resist turning Sappho into a sandal-shod Isadora Wing, careering from one rapt, cartoonish embrace to another while occasionally crooning verses that as an imitation of Sappho's ravishing, elusive poetry are hopelessly inadequate.

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Review

"What a romp, what fun, what good sex, what a pleasure it is to read *Sappho*. Who would think that the distant dim classical world could be transformed into such a startling adventure...?" (Anne Roiphe)

"If Odysseus had been a woman, this is the journey he might have taken." (Susan Cheever)

About the Author

Erica Jong is the author of eight novels?including *Fear of Flying*?six books of poetry, and several works of nonfiction. She lives in New York City and Connecticut.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Christine Brooks:

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