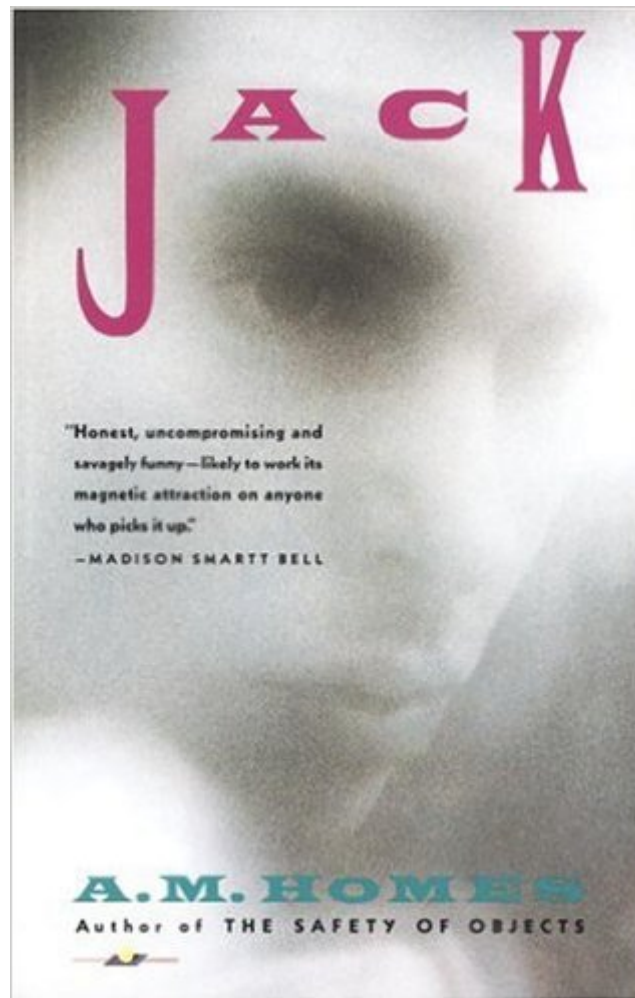


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# Jack



## Synopsis

In *Jack*, A. M. Homes gives us a teenager who wants nothing more than to be normal— even if being normal means having divorced parents and a rather strange best friend. But when Jack's father takes him out in a rowboat on Lake Watchmayoyo and tells his son he's gay, nothing will ever be normal again. Out of Jack's struggle to redefine what "family" means, A. M. Homes crafts a novel of enormous humor, charm, and resonance, the most convincing, funny, and insightful novel about adolescence since *The Catcher in the Rye*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (September 5, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679732217

ISBN-13: 978-0679732211

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,098,911 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in [Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues](#) #170 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families](#) #703 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents](#)

## Customer Reviews

*Jack*, a work of fiction by A. M. Homes, is a remarkable story in which Jack must make his way through high school with more than just the usual pressures and awkwardness of growing up because his father is gay. It is hard to believe that this is Homes's first novel because the Sarah Lawrence graduate has won several awards such as a James Michener Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and a Henfield Transatlantic Review Award. Although *Jack* has a cornucopia of themes the most constant theme is that whatever happens your family is always your family, no matter how strange they are. In the story Jack lives with his mother and her boyfriend Michael sometime in the 1980's or 1990's. He is an only child and is fifteen, when the novel begins, attending public high school where his best friend is Max and his girlfriend is Maggie. Even though Jack thought he knew his father pretty well it turns out that he knew less than he thought, because he reveals on a boat one afternoon to Jack that he is a homosexual. Unfortunately, the novel takes place in the years before homosexuals were accepted because people were afraid they would "get

AIDS from them or something" (pg. 40). However strange and uncomfortable Jack feels, after much difficulty he realizes that he can't just shut his father out of his life because he is his son and he knows that he is just going to have to get used to his father's sexuality. Clearly Jack's life is much more complicated than that of the average high schooler. Homes's novel is full of numerous interesting and real characters. Jack is what I think of as a typical teenager; he plays on the basketball team, has a best friend and a girlfriend, despite his bumpy home life, he is fairly normal.

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