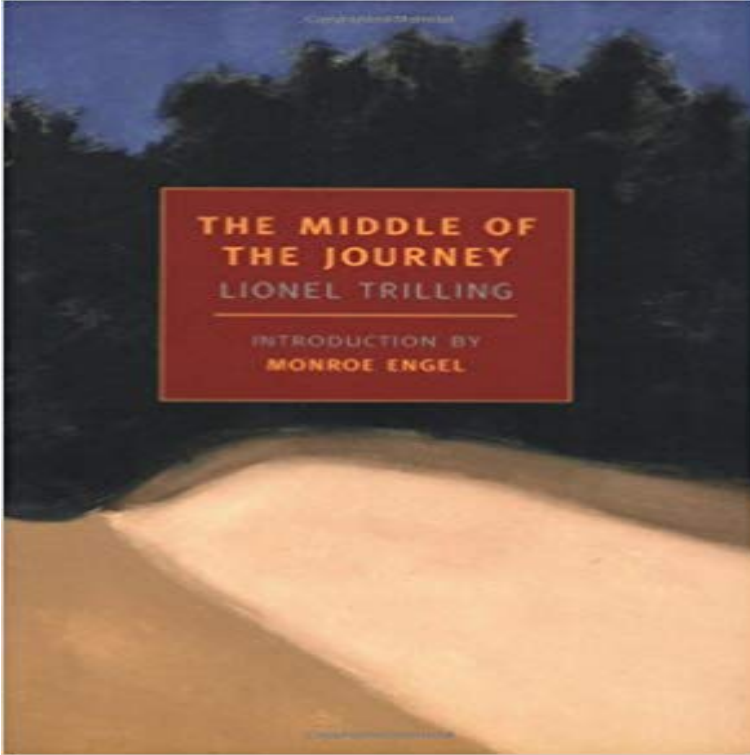


The Middle of the Journey (New York Review Books Classics)



Published in 1947, as the cold war was heating up, Lionel Trilling's only novel was a prophetic reckoning with the bitter ideological disputes that were to come to a head in the McCarthy era. *The Middle of the Journey* revolves around a political turncoat and the anger his action awakens among a group of intellectuals summering in Connecticut. The story, however, is less concerned with the rights and wrongs of left and right than with an absence of integrity at the very heart of the debate. Certainly the hero, John Laskell, staging a slow recovery from the death of his lover and a near-fatal illness of his own, comes to suspect that the conflicts and commitments involved are little more than a distraction from the real responsibilities, and terrors, of the common world. A detailed, sometimes slyly humorous, picture of the manners and mores of the intelligentsia, as well as a work of surprising tenderness and ultimately tragic import, *The Middle of the Journey* is a novel of ideas whose quiet resonance has only grown with time. This is a deeply troubling examination of America by one of its greatest critics.

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The Liberal Imagination: Essays on Literature and Society. New York: New York Review Books, 2008. . The Middle of the Journey. New York: New York
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Fermor set out in 1933 to cross Europe on foot with an ox cart. Series: NYRB Classics Between the Woods and the Water On Foot to Constantinople: From the Middle Danube to the Iron Gates. Monroe Engel (1921-2014) was Lionel Trilling's editor at the Viking Press in 1947, when *The Middle of the Journey* was published. He is the author of five novels. Editorial Reviews. Review. *Journey by Moonlight* is a beautiful book, the sort of book that stays in the Middle East. Subscribe with Amazon Discover & try