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# Among The Hidden (Shadow Children #1)



## Synopsis

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke, an illegal third child, has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm in this start to the Shadow Children series from Margaret Peterson Haddix. Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Series: Shadow Children (Book 1)

Paperback: 153 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689824750

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 664 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This futuristic novel focuses on a totalitarian regime and the Internet. PW noted, "The plot development is sometimes implausible and the characterizations a bit brittle, but the unsettling, thought-provoking premise should suffice to keep readers hooked." Ages 8-12. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-8-Born third at a time when having more than two children per family is illegal and subject to seizure and punishment by the Population Police, Luke has spent all of his 12 years in hiding. His parents disobeyed once by having him and are determined not to do anything unlawful again. At first the woods around his family's farm are thick enough to conceal him when he plays and works outdoors, but when the government develops some of that land for housing, his world narrows to just the attic. Gazing through an air vent at new homes, he spies a child's face at a window after the family of four has already left for the day. Is it possible that he is not the only hidden child? Answering this question brings Luke greater danger than he has ever faced before, but also greater possibilities for some kind of life outside of the attic. This is a near future of shortages and deprivation where widespread famines have led to a totalitarian government that controls all aspects of its citizens' lives. When the boy secretly ventures outside the attic and meets the girl in the neighboring house, he learns that expressing divergent opinions openly can lead to tragedy. To what extent is he willing to defy the government in order to have a life worth living? As in Haddix's *Running Out of Time* (S & S, 1995), the loss of free will is the fundamental theme of an exciting and compelling story of one young person defying authority and the odds to make a difference. Readers will be captivated by Luke's predicament and his reactions to it. Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My son blew threw this and begged me to read it as well. It's a great read and I can't wait to read the second one. Given the current state of things in the US, the things in this book could become a reality.

An excellent book. I read it with my 7th grade resource class as a class novel and they literally begged me to not stop reading each day. As soon as we finished a couple of them starting hunting for the rest in the series. Very well written and engaging.

I read this book with my 9 year-old son and we both loved the story and the characters. The reading was easy enough that my son was able to understand it and stay interested on the story. Even though this book was written for young readers the writing doesn't feel like another twilight book and that is a very good thing.

The beginning was really good and when he found the third child girl the story got that much better.

But after the rally when there was only 40 people and they all got shot my expression immediately turned to sadness. ' very good book I recommend it to anyone of any age. 5 stars.

A teacher and friend of mine suggested this series for my 12 year old son who doesn't enjoy reading. He read it in two days. I also read it and we discussed the details of the book and how likely this was to happen in our society( read book review for details). It opened the door to many stimulating conversations. We have started the second book and it is just as good so far.

I really loved the book, it was very engaging. However theres some details from the story that are not clarified. While I do realize there are 6 more books to add to the story I feel that Among the Hidden could have been longer. Perhaps its just that I'm used to much larger books. Otherwise a very good read, I found that I could really relate to the characters.

Awesome super sad ending but worried what might next of what will happen to Jen's dad pr the Grant family and if they will find out about Luke or Lee

I used this book in my 5/6 combo class. The students really got into the story and many are working on reading the series. We tied this into a lesson on China's population law and did a compare and contrast.

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