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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

ISBN-13: 978-0689824753

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (901 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,523 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#) #218 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#) #248 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

If you want to start reading a good book series, you may want to grab this book. This is the first of several books. In this one, you get all of the background information. Luke is a third child in a futuristic society, where families are only allowed to have two children. His parents hide him away and he knows a quiet family life, one in which he is made to hide a lot and keep quiet, so that the

population police will not know that he exists. It is a lonely life for Luke, who wishes he could go outside and play, like his brothers do, and also go to school, to leave the house and go anywhere. When the land behind their farm is developed into a neighborhood, Luke is shocked to meet another child like him, Jen. She tells him all about other "shadow children" who live hidden away from the rest of society. When Jen tells him about a big rally that she's organizing to support the hidden children, will Luke risk his life by going to it? Does he trust his new friend with his life? Read this book and you'll find out. It will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat (and you'll want to have the 2nd book in the series, "Among the Impostors" ready and waiting to read when you're done with this one).

Among the Hidden was a great book and an absolute page turner! I loved the book and was unable to put it down for 2 days. I don't know how to explain the book. With Luke's farm and very few appliances you think you are looking at a hard life from the past but when he meets Jen it is like a whole new world opens for him. Being hidden seems hopeless for Luke until he sees Jen's view. She may not be allowed to be 'FREE' but she still knows a way to make a good life out of captivity. Luke gets a daring chance to make history with Jen, but will he go? Or will he stay at home like a coward, safe, but coward? You have to read the book to find out, but once you do, trust me, you won't regret it. I am now searching for another novel by Haddix, and praying it is as good! :)

I read the book Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. The story is about a boy named Luke and a girl named Jen. They had a problem, because there was a very unfair law that a family was only able to have two children. That law was so that country wouldn't run out of food. Jen and Luke were third children. At first Luke could help his father in the back of his dad's farm, because there was a forest. Unfortunately, they knocked down the woods where Luke's house was, so if he went outside he'd be seen and killed. Luke was very upset because the only reason they knocked down the trees was for houses for rich people. Then, one day Luke saw another third child's face and went to her new house! He wanted to meet her! It was Jen! I could relate to Jen in the story, because sometimes when I'm sick I stay home alone, because my mom and dad both have to go to work. I feel cooped up and I watch T.V, and go on the computer. I also pretend to plan a meal when a lot of my family is going to come over for dinner, and it keeps me busy. I love it when visitors come, but like Jen I don't really know who's coming, so I get scared. I don't get defensive, because there is no way that anybody outside my family can get into my house. I thought Among the Hidden was exciting, sad, and calm all in one. Books that make me cry are my favorite books, because

they're dramatic. This one made me cry. My favorite part of the book is when Jen cuts herself, so Luke isn't found. I think this book is good for people that are ages 10 to 14, because it has some violent and sad issues in it. In conclusion, I'd like to state that I loved this book.

I read this book today and for the first time am suggesting that prents and teachers think carefully and preread this book before deciding to use it with children younger than 12. The themes are well worth discussing but my 9 year old reads Dickens yet this is inappropriate for her based on content. Among the themes raised by the book are the following:infanticide, mass murder, totalitarian government, subterfuge, and complete isolation . This was recommended as a candidate for a youth book club and will not be used for the suggested age range as the content while worthy of consideration is not appropriate for 9 or 10 year olds unable to comprehend the enormity of the issues raised in the book. Many contemporary educators and librarians fail to look beyond the readability of a text and ask the harder questions about content and age appropriate themes-I urge you to do so before jumping on the bandwagon and sharing this well written yet fairly adult book with those too young to appreciate and understand it.

My child's 4th grade advanced class read this and I read it on my Kindle to keep up since I knew it was going to be a challenging read. Love the teacher. It has all worked out, but I would never have chosen this book for my child at age 10. The adolescent heroine is murdered, shot along with 40 kids toward the end. My child was hurt by this. He was angry at the author for writing such a thing. He wanted to tear up the book. I let him. I let him because he needed to do it. He had originally wanted to read the whole series and I read reviews and realized I would not allow it because it gets more and more violent as the books go on. Read the kids' reviews on Common Sense and on about this book and series. Did it challenge the class? Yes. Did they make it through ok? It appears so. The teacher was expanding the class' brains on types of governments and their problems- totalitarian at its worst in this book. I get her point and I think it worked. I do think the parents should have been allowed some input. As a teacher you don't know the emotional state or internal anxiety of all your kids. I found out about the murder a few days before they read it in class and planned to tell my child that weekend, not realizing they would read it before I could tell him. If your child must read it, you might consider preparing them for what will happen.

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