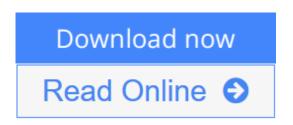


Among the Betrayed (Shadow Children Book 3)

By Margaret Peterson Haddix



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In the third installment of Haddix's series about a futuristic society in which families are forbidden to have more than two children, Nina, a secondary character in Among the Impostors, is falsely accused of treason and imprisoned by the Population Police. Her interrogator gives her an ultimatum: either she can get three other child prisoners, illegal third-borns like Nina, to reveal who harbored them and where they got their fake identification cards, or she will be executed. Nina sees a chance to escape the prison and, taking the prisoners with her, quickly discovers their street smarts. But when their food supply runs out, Nina seeks the boy she knew as Lee.

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Among the Betrayed (Shadow Children Book 3) By Margaret Peterson Haddix Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In the third installment of Haddix's series about a futuristic society in which families are forbidden to have more than two children, Nina, a secondary character in Among the Impostors, is falsely accused of treason and imprisoned by the Population Police. Her interrogator gives her an ultimatum: either she can get three other child prisoners, illegal third-borns like Nina, to reveal who harbored them and where they got their fake identification cards, or she will be executed. Nina sees a chance to escape the prison (which seems rather convenient at the time) and, taking the prisoners with her, quickly discovers their street smarts. But when their food supply runs out, Nina seeks the boy she knew as Lee (the series' original protagonist). Haddix expertly describes the impact of Nina's upbringing in hiding (she doesn't know how to swim; the sound of students laughing loudly reminds her of the first time she overheard children playing outside and could not join them). As with the last book, there are dense revelations at the end (including an explanation of Nina's ease in escaping prison), and some of them may test readers' willingness to suspend disbelief. Even so, the author delivers more than enough suspense to keep fans hooked and to intrigue new recruits as well. Ages 9-14.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-9-Haddix continues her science fiction dystopian tale about illegal third children in this sequel to Among the Hidden (1998) and Among the Imposters (2001, both S & S). Nina is imprisoned by the Population Police for being an illegal child. She is given the opportunity to save herself by spying on the other three children who are in the jail cell with her. Nina finds herself both drawn to them and fearful for her own life. When she has a chance to escape, she decides to take them with her and is surprised at their survival skills as they fend for themselves in the wild. Then, Nina is captured again. This time, though, she has an even harder decision to make-will she put her life in danger in order to save her friends? In a surprising ending, Nina finds that the children she rescued and the man from the Population Police who arrests her the second time are part of a group dedicated to saving third children like herself. While the book could stand alone, it is much more interesting and meaningful when read after the two previous volumes. As a character, Nina is well drawn and believable but it is the agonizing moral decisions that she must make that elevate the book beyond the average tale. Haddix is a superb storyteller and her view of a future world short of food that allows only two children per family is both scary and plausible. *Janet Hilbun, formerly at Sam Houston Middle School, Garland, TX*

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Review

"This text's strength, in common with its predecessors', is its ability to imagine the bizarre and surreal experiences of its protagonists." (Kirkus Reviews)

"As a character, Nina is well drawn and believable but it is the agonizing moral decisions that she must make that elevate the book beyond the average tale. Haddix is a superb storyteller and her view of a future world short of food that allows only two children per family is both scary and plausible." (School Library Journal)

"[Delivers] more than enough suspense to keep fans hooked." (Publishers Weekly)

"Nina's story will bring to light questions readers will want to ponder." (BCCB)

"The grim plot comes to a surprise conclusion, suggesting future empowerment for the chracters and leaving readers eager for the next installment." (Horn Book)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessie Nathan:

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Kelly Livingston:

Among the Betrayed (Shadow Children Book 3) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Among the Betrayed (Shadow Children Book 3) although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into new stage of crucial imagining.

Alissa Sowell:

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