

## **Among The Hidden**

**By: Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Imagine that you are living in a time when the government has forbidden families to have more than three children, but you are a third child. At first, it did not appear to be a problem. Your family owns a farm, miles from anywhere. You can somewhat have a normal life, helping out on the farm, playing outside with your brothers, but then the government forces your family to give up some of their property so they can build homes on it. All of a sudden, the life as you know it comes to a halt. You no longer are able to go outside because there are no more trees to hide you. Eating at the dinner table with your family or even looking out a window is too risky. This was the life of twelve year old Luke. Among the Hidden, written by Margaret Peterson Haddix writes a realistic fiction book that appears to grab your heart and make you appreciate the government that we have here in the United States.

Luke is an innocent child who is a victim to the government. It isn't fair that he has to live this way, just because he is a third child. I cannot imagine the loneliness he must feel as he watches his brothers go to school day after day and his parents go to work. All of the simple things of life we take for granted, like the sun shining on our face or the playing in the rain or snow is not even an option for him. Until one day, Luke has found a way to look out into the neighborhood and he notices there is an extra child at another home near him. At last, someone who can identify with how he feels.

It was interesting how the author writes about a farm home. I questioned as to why she went that direction until I read about her life growing up as a child on the farm. Actually, it was a perfect situation for a third child to be in, until the growth in the community occurred. I love the way the author included her life in the book.

Among the Hidden captured my attention from the beginning. I found myself cheering on Luke and encouraging him to take risks that most people would not normally take. If you like suspenseful type of books, this is one that I highly recommend. All readers can identify and sympathize with Luke in what he must deal with. The ending sets up the next book perfectly to entice you to read it. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to be entertained.

