



Hidden: A Novel

Helen Frost

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Hidden: A Novel

Helen Frost

Hidden: A Novel Helen Frost

When Wren Abbott and Darra Monson are eight years old, Darra's father steals a minivan. He doesn't know that Wren is hiding in the back. The hours and days that follow change the lives of both girls. Darra is left with a question that only Wren can answer. Wren has questions, too.

Years later, in a chance encounter at camp, the girls face each other for the first time. They can finally learn the truth—that is, if they're willing to reveal to each other the stories that they've hidden for so long. Told from alternating viewpoints, this novel-in-poems reveals the complexities of memory and the strength of a friendship that can overcome pain.

Hidden: A Novel Details

Date : Published September 6th 2016 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (first published May 10th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Helen Frost

Format : Kindle Edition 156 pages

Genre : Poetry, Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade

 [Download Hidden: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Hidden: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Hidden: A Novel Helen Frost

From Reader Review Hidden: A Novel for online ebook

Erika Ramirez says

Spoiler Alert

Have you ever read a book where you feel like your inside that book? That you feel like your going through what the characters are going through?, well if not they you should totally read "Hidden". The genre of the book is realistic fiction because what happened to Wren could actually happen to anyone in this world . I think this book is really interesting and mysterious because you are wondering what might happen to Wren next, also this book makes you feel like your the one that's going through all of the things that Darra and Wren are going through.

Hidden is about how an eight year old (Wren) technically got kidnapped by a man who was stealing cars and Wren was inside one and the man took the car where Wren was inside and took it to his garage and it turns out that the man that stole the car had a daughter (Darra) same age as Wren (8) and she (Darra) finds out that someone is in her garage (Wren) and she (Darra) gives Wren food but she doesn't mention anything about wren being in their garage, then on the 2 day Wren runs away and they found her by a farm and the police found out where Wren was and they arrested Darras dad for stealing cars and taking Wren , six years later pass and the girls (Wren and Darra) have camp together and they become really close friends and forgot what happened when they were 8 . The setting of this book takes place in Central Michigan , also according to the text Camp Oakwood is located in Michigan's beautiful upper peninsula. The conflict of this book is person vs. person because at first Darra and Wren hated each other also Darras mother and father would always argue according to the text Darras father was really mean to her and her mom. The theme of this book is to love everyone no matter how they treat you or how they act because According to the text Darra still loved and missed her dad even if he treated her and her mother bad.

The title "Hidden" relates to the book because Wren was hiding in Darras garage and she stayed hidden there for 2 days without anything that's how the title relates to the book. The setting of this book adds to the conflict because it all takes place in Darras house and it's person vs person because Darras parents always use to argue about why did Darras dad had to steal cars and of that girl they talk about in the news . A major symbol in the story is to love every one no matter how they act and treat you and to help other not wanting something back.

I was surprised when I started reading this book because right away in the beginning the man (Darras dad) stole the car in which Wren was on and it was really surprising because you barely started reading and they already stole/ kidnapped Wren. My favorite part of this book was when Wren and Darra started talkin and they started becoming really close and when they became really close friends and forgot about what happened when they were 8 was the best thing ever. "Hidden" is a good title for this book because Wren is actually hidden in Darras garage so it makes a lot is sense because she is hiding from Darras family to see her and she is hidden in their garage without them even knowing .

From a 1-5 I'll give this book a 5 because I like when books make you feel like your inside them and I like the way this book made you feel like you were inside it and like you were going through what Wren and Darra are going through . I would recommend this book to the people that like realistic fiction book or the people that like mystery books and to all of those people that like books that make you feel like your inside them . At the end of the book "Hidden " Darras mother sends her a card that her dad is going out of jail but Darra is scared she dosent think is going to be the same anymore, Wrens family calls her to inform her that Darras dat is out of jail they just wanted to make sure she stayed safe but Wren was safe she felt safe and she even forgot about what happened when she was 8.

Richie Partington says

15 May 2011 HIDDEN by Helen Frost, Frances Foster Books/FSG, May 2011, 160p., ISBN: 978-0-374-38221-6

"Whoosh!

What do you do when all of a sudden your dad is gone and the rest of your life is nothing like it was before. We had plans to go back to the lake -- we'd be going back every summer! Dad and Mom had already saved up almost all the vacation and money they needed. And then, whoosh! First Dad lost his job, and 'started a business' -- I pictured him fixing cars for people, with his business partner, named Stu. (Like beef stew? I thought when I heard that.) But it turns out Stu was already on a Most Wanted list before he even met my dad, and they weren't fixing cars, they were stealing them. They stole seven cars -- I remember every one of them. They'd bring them into our garage and paint them. Mom and Dad started fighting a lot. Mom hated Stu. She said Dad should stay home and take care of me while she went to work. Dad was okay most of the time -- I thought it would be fun, and it was, at first. Then one time he took me with him to 'pick up a car at Stu's place,' and I caught on. It didn't take long to figure out that Mom knew what Dad was doing, and neither of them wanted me to tell. I never said a word about it. When I saw the first part of the TV news about Wren Abbott, I wondered: Did the store-robber who took the car ever go out fishing with his kid? I knew it couldn't be Dad because he would never rob a store. Then they showed a picture of a man who got shot by the store clerk. It was Stu, right there on our TV. He was dead. I thought fast. Maybe no one besides Mom and me knew that Dad was Stu's partner -- which meant Dad might not get caught. There was a chance. If Wren Abbott hadn't led the cops to our house that morning, Dad would probably still be home with us. My family would have gone back to the lake that summer, and all five summers since. We might be heading up there right now."

As we read a story, we either look into a mirror at ourselves or we look through a window at another side, another perspective. HIDDEN by Helen Frost compels us to do a bit of each.

HIDDEN is the story, written in poetic form, of Darra Monson, the girl whose father was sent to jail when

she was eight years old. When the store robbery went so horribly wrong, her father -- who had no gun -- raced out, jumped into a minivan in the parking lot in which someone had left the keys, sped home, and hid the stolen minivan in the garage. What Darra's father didn't know was that a girl -- the same age as his daughter -- had been sitting in that minivan while her mother ran into the store, but had jumped into the back and ducked under a blanket when she heard the gunfire erupt.

Darra takes several dangerous steps to help the girl whose picture is on the television news and who, Darra comes to realize, is hiding in her garage. These are pivotal steps that could no doubt get Darra beaten if she is caught deceiving her father. These are pivotal steps that buy the accidentally-abducted girl time to figure a way to escape from the garage -- which she eventually does -- without being detected by Darra's parents. And what does Darra get out of the deal? Her father and those blissful times with the boat, vacationing on the lake, are locked away from her for the rest of her childhood.

Author Helen Frost cleverly begins Darra's story by having an entire first section written from the point of view of young victim Wren Abbott, who conveys her account of the robbery gone wrong, the accidental abduction, the terror in the garage, and the eventual escape. This tense depiction permits our seeing how little Wren learns of Darra and her world.

The moment Wren escapes the garage, she disappears from the story for the next six years until the two girls -- now fourteen -- find themselves both randomly bunked in the same summer camp cabin. In powerful, alternating poetic pieces, we see the results of this volatile mixture and the past history which both girls must keep secret from their fellow campers.

I've engaged in several lively discussions about the cover of HIDDEN featuring the two fourteen year-old girls, one light-skinned and one dark. We are nearly through the book before we learn anything about the physical appearances of either girl. Except for the difference in skin and hair colors, the two girls depicted on the cover are essentially interchangeable. I find this brilliant because, with it being so random who you end up with as your parents, the two girls could have so easily ended up on the reverse ends of the equation.

A mirror or a window. Whoosh! It can so easily be us looking from the other side.

Richie Partington, MLIS

Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.com>

BudNotBuddy@aol.com

Moderator http://groups.yahoo.com/group/middle_...

Moderator <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EcolIt/> <http://slisweb.sjsu.edu/people/facult...>

Stacy Lynn says

It's a very deep book talking about two girls who met after a kidnapping. I normally don't enjoy reading fast-paced books, but this is one I enjoy reading.

Wendy says

Very likely this author's books are just never going to connect with me. I didn't loathe it the way I loathed

Diamond Willow, but I didn't think it was very good. It seems to me a bad sign when you have to explain the new poetic form in the back of the book in order for readers to see what it is you're trying to do--god help me, this concept worked better in Diamond Willow--but after I went back to read the secret messages, I didn't think they added to the story anyway.

I think it's great that the author tries new things and is experimental, and I'm glad if that connects with some readers.

Kayla says

3 Stars.

Short and sweet. I enjoyed this book quite a bit. It was a quick easy read and the story was really interesting. I liked the characters and the pace. the only thing I would say is that I wish it would have dug a little deeper & expanded more.

Wendy says

I really loved this YA novel about a young girl (Wren, 8 years old) who is mistakenly "kidnapped" when the car she is in is carjacked by an out-of-work father. She stays hidden in the family's garage where she is helped by the man's daughter, Darra, who is about the same age. After 2 days she is able to escape and Darra's father is sent to jail. Years later the 2 girls are attending the same summer camp. There was so much that I loved about this book. First of all, it is written in verse from alternating viewpoints (Darra and Wren). It flowed beautifully and it was fun to realize that the last words in the long lines of Darra's verse made sentences and told more about the story. It felt like a little hidden mystery to solve. There were lots of ways to use the title "hidden" to describe this book - the hidden words at the end of the long lines, Wren being hidden in the car and the garage in the beginning, and then the girls hiding what happened to them when they eventually meet again at the summer camp. A solid 5 star book!! Recommended to me by Amy, the librarian I work with.

Whitney Atkinson says

This book started out great then went downhill. It's a book about an accidental kidnapping, and the book begins with that. Those 30-ish pages were great, very atmospheric, very beautiful writing, but then there reached a point. I don't know what it is about kidnapping stories, but I always go into it expecting a full novel of suspense and tragedy, but then they escape or the issue gets resolved only half-way through the story, and then I end up being bored for the rest of the book when everything is okay and they're just sorting through psychological issues. This book was very heavily focused on the afterward, and it was dual perspective, and both of those added together just made the last half of this book so bland. The writing was very focused on characters' actions rather than imagery, descriptions, or character development, so I was having a hard time injecting myself into the summer camp setting of this novel just because there was so much lacking description. I literally didn't even know that one of the main girls was a POC until I saw the alternative cover of this book 5 minutes ago on goodreads, which I think reveals something significant about the lack of characterization and details. Overall this was worth the few bucks I paid for it on bookoutlet, but it's not one of my favorite books written in verse.

Lesly Duran says

Have you ever had a huge trauma in your life where you can't get over it no matter how hard you try? Well this happened to the main characters in this book Wren Abbott when she got accidently kidnapped and Darra Monson when her dad goes to jail. The genre of this book is realistic fiction because what happened to Wren and Darra could happen to anyone else in real life. Overall I really liked the story because it was an interesting story and relatable to some people.

This story had two very important settings. The first setting took place at Darra's Garage and the second setting took place at Camp Oakwood. Wren was eight years old when Darra's dad West stole her mom's gold minivan that was parked by the gas station. Before stealing the car West kills his best friend because they were arguing. What West didn't know was that Wren was at the backseat of the minivan so he ended up kidnapping her. The conflict is person vs. person because West is very aggressive and is always hurting people like Wren, Darra, and Darra's mom Stacey. Plus he also illegally sells stolen vehicles. But West never noticed Wren when he parked the minivan in his garage so he didn't worry at all. Darra, West's daughter saw that they were looking for Wren Abbott in the news so she assumed she was hiding in her garage since she couldn't be anywhere else. Darra fed Wren and helped her escape but they never saw each other face to face. Darra's dad had to go to jail and Wren was reunited with her family. Now they have to face each other at Camp Oakwood years later. At first its hard to face the truth but at the end they tell each other their version of their story. The memories are unpleasant to remember but they get the missing pieces from the story that they needed back. At the end Darra's dad gets out of jail and Wren meets Darra's mom Stacey. The theme of the story is to be brave under all circumstances and not to be frightened to get to meet new people. I say this is the theme because Wren was scared to meet Darra because she thought she was as aggressive as her dad and Darra was scared to meet Wren because she thought she was the one that put her dad in jail but they ended up being good friends at the end of the story.

The point of view differs from Darra to Wren. Some parts of the story are from Darra's point of view and some are from Wrens point of view but the author always makes sure to include the name of whose point of view it is before each chapter. Also instead of using dialogue she uses normal print for the first person point of view and italic for the other person. I've never seen a book with dialogue like this but I think its a great idea and way easier than normal dialogue. Like for example in one point of the book the exact words were, "A man's voice. *C'mon start!* He was yelling at our car- and the car was obeying him" told from Wren's point of view. The title relates to the book because Wren had to hide inside the boat in Darra's garage when West took the car so that's probably why the book's name is hidden. The setting of the book is important to the theme because Wren and Darra are at Camp Oakwood so they have to spend time together since they are in the same cabin which lead to them getting to know each other better. So it adds to the theme because they were scared to meet each other at first since they only remembered each other's voices but through the camps games and teachings they bonded and took away the fear of meeting new people. The author's tone through out the story changed because at the beginning it was more as of a childish tone since they were little eight-year olds back then and the author added details for the reader to infer what was happening but towards the end since the characters were older he told us exactly what was happening in a more mature tone.

I was surprised when I realize that both of them were in the same camp and same cabin because I didn't think that they would see each other again but these event was important for the plot of the story. I liked the way the author wrote the book in stanzas to make it look like a poem because I found it easier to read and I felt like it gave more of a poetic tone. I was satisfied with the ending of the story because I like that Darra's dad got to go out of jail even if he was a violent person because Darra really needed him and she missed him a lot, I think by now West has learned his lesson. An interesting thing I learned from thus book was the different activities you could do in a summer camp, like for example they had played a game called "Drown Last" where you try to drown a person until they give up. There's a lot of fun games and routines that I didn't know you did in camps until I read this book. The characters Darra and Warren are different because Darra is

very shy and doesn't want to talk to anyone and she also doesn't have much money and nice clothing like the rest of the girls on the camp. On the other hand Warren is really wealthy and is kind of like the mean girl at first because some of the girls were making fun of Darra at the beginning of the game and Warren just went along with it. I like that Darra didn't let that stop or bother her and kept going even if people made fun of her. I was surprised with an important event in the story, probably the rising action since it was so intense because Darra and Warren were playing drown last and Wren literally tries to drown Darra from all that hate she has stuck inside her for all these years. But this event helped because the girls talked it out and solved the problem that had started years ago.

In conclusion, I would give this book four stars because it was a really good book but it wasn't the best book I've ever read. I would recommend this book for people that like suspenseful books because this was totally a mystery book. So if you ever get mad at someone and it feels like the problem will never get fixed just think about what happened to Darra and Warren and talk things out.

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

Cramathon book #6: complete!

More like 3.5. This was really touching and sweet. Definitely snuck up on me. Also shout out to the Cramathon ladies for making the "read a book in verse" challenge bc I'm like 99% sure I never would have read this otherwise. Haaaaaaa

Sandra Stiles says

I loved the premise of the book when I read about it online. When I received a copy for review I was thrilled. The story is told in poetry and alternating points of view. You have Wren's story about being inadvertently kidnapped by Darra's father. Then you have Darra's story. It is obvious that they blame each other for what they perceive to be the truth. It isn't until they end up at the same camp that they learn each other's stories. At first they try to ignore each other. When they are finally put in a situation where they must face each other, then the healing can begin. I kept thinking how I would feel if I was each of them. They each were right in their feelings if you look at their situation through their eyes. The one thing I really loved about this book was the author's note that told you about a special form. If you read the author's note she tells you how to go back into Darra's story and read it a special way to get a hidden story. This was simple, yet suspenseful. This is a book that didn't even make it to my school shelves before it was checked out. An excellent book to recommend to everyone, especially to reluctant readers. They see the short lines and think they can read it. Once they get into the story they are hooked.

Kate says

The premise of this book should hook kids right from the start: When one girl is accidentally abducted when her mother's car is stolen, the daughter of the car thief, a child the same age, quietly helps her by bringing her food while she's hiding in the family's garage. Years later, those same girls meet at summer camp, recognize one another, and come face to face (literally) with the past that connects them.

Written in verse, with two unique voices and an unusual format twist, this is a quick read that's emotional, compelling, and beautifully crafted. The white space of the format and high-interest hook make it a great

choice for reluctant readers and avid readers alike. Highly recommended.

Ashley (Lost in Pages) says

To see this review and more, head to the Lost in Pages blog!

"None of this was our fault."

Hidden is one of the hundreds of books I have randomly put in my cart when BookOutlet was having a massive sale. It looked interesting and it was probably less than 2 dollars.

It's also one of those books I picked up off my shelf (back in 2016) as a palette cleanser, something to get me out of my post-ACOMAF funk.

I must say, Hidden was probably one of my better cheap and random choices. It's short, taking just a couple hours to read it, and it's interesting in a way that goes beyond plot.

Not to say the plot isn't interesting. The storyline of a girl being accidentally kidnapped, escaping, and later meeting her kidnapper's daughter at camp, is quite unique. But it's Frost's storytelling and stylization that really steals the show.

The book is told in alternating POV chapters between both girls, and the voices are so different between them. Beyond voices though, Frost gives each character their own style of writing. Wren is written in free verse and Darra has a unique writing style that Frost invented for this book, (which I will elaborate on in just a second).

Even if you aren't one for alternating POV's (let's be honest, Divergent might have ruined that for a lot of us), Frost really created a distinction between each character that is undeniable. There isn't much of a chance of getting them confused.

Now about that special writing style Frost created. In the back of the book is a "notes on form" page that gives light to this stylization. After reading the book (and I recommend reading it completely first) you can go back through Darra's story and the "last words of the long lines, when reading down the right side of the page" tell their own story. So although you get more of Wren's story in the plot, this little stylization gives you more of Darra that you might have been craving.

As I was writing this review I actually changed my rating from a 4.5 to a 5 because I was realizing just how brilliant Frost is. You don't need a long novel to build a story. I think she created something beautiful. I wholeheartedly recommend this book. It will take you less than a day to read it, so pick it up. I feel like it needs more love.

Sesana says

I've read several of Helen Frost's novels in verse. I think this is her most recent. The story is quite different from anything else I've read by her. The two girls who narrate are brought together in a very unusual way, when Wren is accidentally kidnapped by Darra's father. (He steals the car without realizing she's in it.) Wren's experience obviously changes her life, and Darra's is changed by knowing what she went through and

because her father is arrested afterwards. Years later, the two meet again at summer camp, where they're forced to confront their shared past.

The first section of the book, when Wren is kidnapped, is the better part. The second part, in summer camp, can drag in spots. I feel like that needed tightening up a bit. Still, it was well written, and emotionally honest, and I greatly appreciate that.

Becky says

This book is on my Newbery short list! The premise is believable and riveting. Wren and Darra alternate telling their stories. The beginning is a flashback where Wren sets up the crime. When she was 8 years old, her mother ran into a convenience store and left Wren in the car with the keys so that she could play the radio. She hears one gun shot and, frightened, hides under a blanket in the rear of the car. A man, reeking of cigarette smoke, jumps into the car and drives off, unaware that Wren is hiding in the back. Wren escapes through a ca tdoor in his garage, but not before the man's daughter, Darra, notices that Wren is hiding but doesn't tell. Darra tries to help her by leaving food in the garage. When she escapes, Wren goes to the first house she encounters; the adults call the police, the man is apprehended and sent to jail. Flash forward...now both girls are 12-years-old and end up at the same summer camp in the same bunkhouse. They realize who each other is and have the summer to work out their past and their present relationship. Not only are those issues fascinating, but the style in which the stories are written are equally interesting. Both girls' stories are written in a different form of free verse. In an author's afterward, you learn that the last word in each long sentence of Darra's story make another sentence and give futher insight into her thoughts. A cleverly written, engaging book...wonderful for discussions.

Betsy says

If poems had been introduced to me as a child as puzzles, maybe I would have taken to them a little more. A poem is a kind of puzzle, isn't it? Depending on the kind of poem you have to make the syllables and words conform to a preexisting format. Unless it's free verse, of course. Then all bets are off. That's what you do when you're writing a poem, but can reading one be an act of puzzle-solving as well? Earlier this year I reviewed Bob Raczka's *Lemonade: and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word* which required the reader's eyes to leap around the page, piecing together the words. *Hidden* by Helen Frost requires relatively less work to read, but the reader willing to seek out the messages hidden (ho ho) in some of the poems will be amply rewarded. The result is that "Hidden" manages to be both a book of poetry and a wholly original story of two girls bound together by a singular, accidental crime.

When you go to a new summer camp you usually have to deal with not knowing anyone. That's not Darra's problem though. Her problem is that she does know someone and, worse, that person knows her too. Years and years ago Darra's father accidentally kidnapped a young girl by the name of Wren Abbot. He didn't mean to, of course. He was carjacking, unaware that Wren was hidden in the back of the car, frightened out of her mind. Years later Darra, who once helped Wren, runs into the girl that, she is convinced, led the cops back to her home and got her dad arrested. Now they have no idea how to act around one another, and in the midst of the usual tween summer camp dramas they need to return to the past to clarify what happened and to figure out if they both can recover from the experience.

I've been a fan of Frost's for years. Lots of authors write verse novels (stories written in free verse) and most of them are little more than just a series of sentences broken up without much reason except to pad out the

pages. Frost is never like that. When she writes a verse novel she commits. Her books are written in various forms for a reason. In *The Braid* she created an intricate braid-like form of poetry that twisted and turned on itself. In *Diamond Willow* her poems were diamond shaped with special messages hidden inside. *Hidden* take a different tactic. Wren's voice is straight up free verse, while Darra's requires a little more work. As Frost puts it, "The last words of the long lines, when read down the right side of the page, give further insight into her story." Well when I read that I had to flip the book back to the beginning to see if it was true or not. Sure as shooting, each and every one of Darra's sections yields a new side of her story. The words behind her words, you might say. The experience of discovering this is akin to a small treasure hunt. When pitching this book to kids, make sure you play up this aspect. Some children will immediately decode the messages first. In doing so, they'll reveal a fascinating mystery and will probably be inclined to read the whole book as well.

Considering the format, the story makes for a very fast read. That said, you might think that the writing was relatively simple as well. Yet for all that it stands at a svelte 147 pages, Frost has managed to say only that which is important to the text. There isn't any blubber to be found. Nothing to cut out. To show the emotional journey of two damaged girls, many authors would pile on the descriptions and the overblown language. Frost doesn't have that luxury, so the result is a spare, pointed read without a trace of fat. It's a little lesson in saying only what what is essential.

The long and short of the matter is that I believed in these girls. I believed in Darra with her fears about belonging to a different class than most of the girls at the camp. I believed in Wren, suppressing the memory of what happened all those years ago. They work because they aren't the usual stock characters. This isn't a story of the rich girl and the poor girl that become friends. And then there's Darra's father. She loves him, though he was abusive and a thief. Dig a little deeper (and read the hidden messages in Darra's speech) and you get a glimpse of what made him that way. It's not an excuse, but the book does a good job of showing that even an abuser can be loved.

Kids get assignments in school to read books that contain "more than 100 pages" for class all the time. Reluctant readers hate this and the older the kid the harder it is for them to find something that fits. For them, verse novels have become kind of a godsend. Here you have all the plot and character development a teacher could require, but with words that don't intimidate someone unaccustomed to Harry Potter-sized tomes. Of the verse novelists, Frost is one of the best because she never forgets that books of this sort are poetry, first and foremost. So for something original and smart, fun and harrowing all at once, *Hidden* delivers. It's verse done right.

For ages 10 and up.
