



Escape from Memory

Margaret Peterson Haddix

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While playing around with hypnotism at a party, Kira remembers fleeing a war-torn country with her mother, speaking a language she can't identify. A few days later her mother disappears, and a woman who calls herself Kira's aunt Memory takes Kira to Crythe, a country that doesn't officially exist, in order to rescue her -- or so she says.

Kira soon learns that Aunt Memory is not what she seems, and Kira and her mother are both in terrible danger. There are memories locked in Kira's mind that could get her and her mother killed. But those memories are the only things that might save them...

Escape from Memory Details

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From Reader Review Escape from Memory for online ebook

Jessica says

It has an interesting premise, but I found myself a little bored at times. Definitely not her best work, but I'm glad I read it. It puts things in perspective, whether building and storing memories is more important than living. Like all things, I think there is a balance. This book does have a thread of mystery running through it that kept me guessing until the end.

Willow W says

Escape From Memory is full of mystery and adventure. It starts out telling about Kira and her friends. This story is all about Kira wondering where she came from after she was playing with hypnotism. She remembers a war torn country, cobble stone streets, and her mother or who ever she was. Strange things were about to happen to fourteen year old Kira

Kira is a fourteen year old who has lighter skin than her friends. Her hair is dark and cut as her friends. Her eyes are dark and ever so slightly slanted. She looked different from her friends. At the beginning of the book she isn't as curious as she is at the end she didn't want to believe that she was from a different place and the one she had called mom for thirteen years might not be her mom. She wasn't that different she liked the same thing as other people and she did well in school.

I liked the book because you never knew what was next. It's a fun sit down and read book. Half of the time I was off the edge of my seat. The rising point in this book is when her mother got kidnapped. But toward the end everything comes together. It's a great book and I highly suggest it.

Evan Stursma says

The book I read is a fiction book by Margaret Peterson Haddix. The theme of this book is people can be fake. In the beginning of the story, it starts out with Kira being at a party with her friends and they try to hypnotize her and it works, she talks about how her and her mom ran from somewhere, and she talks in a different language and all of her friends are confused. It then continues and Kira comes home from her friends house and she sees her Aunt, who goes by the name of Memory and she tells her that her mom has gone somewhere and she needs to go with her right away. Aunt Memory tells her that she has a special power and can remember everything, from any time period. After that, Kira gets locked in her room and she opens her suitcase to find out her friend is there. And that she tried to call the cops and get the license plate of the car and finds out she didn't have time.

One of the main characters in this book is Kira. Kira is nice, caring, and she also respected. I can relate her to someone like Oprah, or Ellen. If she saw someone that needed help she would help them and wouldn't think twice about who it was.

I think that this book was kind of boring because it doesn't start to get good until about halfway through the book and she starts to learn more about her past, and what her "power" is. Some issues the book suggests is people can be manipulated easily.

Some emotions that this book made me feel are tired. I felt like this because the book was pretty boring because most of the book is just her talking, and it doesn't really have much action or anything. I wouldn't recommend this book to people because I personally didn't enjoy it because it was boring, and it just wasn't a book that I would read again. It had no action and it was just her talking the whole time and it didn't really have much suspense or anything.

Ruth says

Very interesting book, as are all of the Margaret Haddix books that I've read. Fast-paced and keeps you on your toes.

Jalyn Ely says

I've read a lot of Margaret Peterson Haddix's books. And I noticed that no matter what the plot is or who the main character is, there's one common theme – the main character is a kid, and the adults won't tell him or her anything.

Not that it's a bad thing, mind you. The "what the heck is going on?" element is half of what makes her books so interesting. But the thing is, when I picked up this book, I expected that Kira's mother wouldn't tell her anything. And so I didn't find that nearly as frustrating as I would have if I didn't expect it.

This book is a pretty average length, but it seemed really short. I don't know why. Maybe it's because I just flew through it.

Kira, as best as I can figure, was your normal girl with a strange mother who had no idea her past wasn't quite normal. And strangely enough, she was pretty much a normal girl throughout the book. A few hidden reserves of resourcefulness, sure, but a pretty average girl. And she was still pretty much the same girl at the end. Which I'm not sure I liked so much.

Lynne was a fun character. She's the smart, always does her homework, A-plus student kind. But I enjoyed her willingness to hide in a suitcase and her attempts to help Kira. Because in the beginning, I didn't think she was going to play a bigger part than any of the other girls. It was a pleasant surprise to find her along for the ride.

Sophia, Kira's mother, was a little strange. But it makes sense, considering... never mind, that's a spoiler.

Hmm...I feel like I can't comment on the plot without giving too much away.

The premise – or, more accurately, where Kira really came from – was highly interesting. Even though I wouldn't really want to live there. Okay, scratch that. Living there would be kind of cool. But I'm not really sure I'd want to be one of them.

The plot was well-done and held my attention (especially once I found out who kidnapped Kira's mother). But I'm not a big fan of the ending. I won't give any spoilers, but let's just say it's not exactly happily-ever-after.

This is one of those books that are hard to review. I didn't love it. I didn't hate it. It was more of a "meh" book – I could take it or leave it and not really care either way. I think it's the fact that the characters weren't really remarkable. But either way, it's hard to put my feelings about this book into words – because I don't really have any, except "meh."

Violet says

Good, good, good. Margaret Peterson Haddix is a really good author. It was very interesting and different. I loved it.

At first what made me interested, was the mystery aspect. It starts right at the first words. The mystery of Kira's true past. Just that was interesting enough for me to want to read it. But then after the mystery is gone, the suspense kicks in. Guns and treats galore! That's what really got me. I just couldn't put it down! I was always wondering what was going to happen next; were they going to die or not? The action goes on until the very last chapter. It was really good.

This book was different than anything I've read or heard of. It dived into something that usually isn't even thought about: Memory. Yes, there's some books that have memory in it but it's not the main thing; it's not the thing that drives some characters to do what they did, like it does in this book. The community of Crythe is based on that one thing. Memory is what drives everything that they do and what happens to them, everything. And since Crythe is so important to the story and memory is so important to Crythe, then memory is really important to the story. Plus that's what puts them all in danger in the first place. The fact that Kira has her parents' memory in her mind and that's what Rona (first called Aunt Memory) wants so much that she will kill them all to get it. So memory, this thing that is rarely set on center stage in a book, is what drives the whole story and that's original!

Margaret Peterson Haddix is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. I love the two books that I've read from her so far. I can't wait to read more!

Madison says

I read this over the summer for a school project and it was so good and intense and really interesting. When I finished it I was sad it was over :(The beginning is a little slow, but once you get to reading it, it captures your interest. :) Love it!

Shazza Maddog says

Kira is your average teenage girl, living in a small town with her somewhat distant mother. She has her friends, she attends her classes, she knows everyone and everyone knows her.

At least, that's what she thinks.

At a sleepover, her friends hypnotize her, asking her to tell them something they don't know. Kira recites her mother carrying her through the streets in a war-torn city, trying to keep her from crying. When Kira is snapped out of the trance, she doesn't remember any of it - but realizes that the mother who'd been carrying

her was not the mother she's lived with all these years.

This starts a creepy story about a lost country where the people have a peculiar ability - the ability to remember everything. The reader finds out about this in bits and pieces along with Kira (very nicely handled - you feel Kira's frustration building along with your own). The mystery twists a little more with each chapter - first, Kira tries to find clues about her past, then her mother disappears, then a stranger claiming to be her aunt shows up to take her 'home' and to her kidnapped mother - and to the country of Crythe, where forgetting anything just doesn't happen.

Kira is in turns furious, bewildered and strong. She presents an engaging young heroine, despite going through various heartbreaks throughout the story. The ending is less happy and more bittersweet. The story combines the elements of "near to us" science fiction along with the idea of a "fantasy kingdom" and the returning royalty - but it isn't really any of that but a sort of mish-mash, turn it on its ear sort of story.

I very much enjoyed the characters - the bad guys were quite creepy; the good guys were not perfect. It's a quick read - not too much bigger than a chapbook - but so well done, I considered rereading it.

I'd rank this novel at an 'A' and recommend it highly.

Azalea says

This was my third Haddix book. I had enjoyed the tenth 39 Clues book, so I figured this one would be good as well. I was wrong.

For me, the character is the biggest part of the story. I mean, Alice in Wonderland doesn't have too much of a plot, but we love it anyway because of Alice and Carroll's other characters. I did not, however, love this story's characters. All of them seemed to be kind of flat and cliché. I couldn't stand how unrelatable and predictable the characters were.

I was already disappointed on the first page. It should have given us a little bit more-it seemed to start in the middle of the first scene. That began the pacing that I grew to hate. The pacing drove me nuts. If the book had fifty pages, forty seven would be rising action, one and a half would be climax, and the other one and a half would be falling action. There needs to be more!

And then the ending...let's just say that it was extremely disappointing and not what you want. This book was a time waster for me.

Abigail says

Never ending and suspenseful!

Shelli says

This book was just o.k. for me. While normally I enjoy reading M.P. Haddix, this one was choppy, overly rushed, and lacked character development. Felt more like a first attempt at writing from an inexperienced budding author.

Eukaryote says

Urgh.

What happened with this book? Margaret Peterson Haddix was one of my favorite authors as a tween, second only to JK Rowling. Normally, her books are really good. I picked up this book out of curiosity, flipped to a random page, and found that this book had a connection to Chernobyl. That got me really excited, because the thought of this being connected to Chernobyl and written by one of my favorite authors was a sure win. This book, however, was just...

First off, I never got into it. The characters were simple and shallow. I could only read it for short intervals. I even considered just returning it to the library before finishing it, but I decided since it's a short read, I might as well just see it through, and maybe I'd like it by the time it was over.

That wasn't the case.

There were so many plot holes, and the whole premise of the story was unbelievable. The characters were unbelievable and dull, their actions didn't really make sense all the time, and logic had to be suspended dozens of times. The characters were unbelievably stupid at times. Then the whole brain thing, just... no. It's not believable and weird.

And then the ending! What the heck?! That's not even an ending! This book was completely NOT realistic. Haddix usually can create something realistic. Among the Hidden, overpopulation laws, possible (and has already happened in a different capacity). Running out of Time, yeah, those communities exist. THIS? WTF!!

Lyn says

Fifteen-year-old Kira Landon allows a friend to hypnotize her during a sleepover. They get more than they expected when Kira remembers being carried through the streets of a strange city at twilight as guns sound in the distance.

This memory - if that is what it was - triggers questions for Kira that she never thought of before. Why is the only relative she has ever known her mother? Did she at one time speak another language? Was she kidnapped or saved from a war-torn country? Her mother refuses to answer any of her questions, but doesn't deny that the memory is real. Kira sets out to find answers without her mother's help. Before she gets any farther than a bank safety deposit box that she can't open because it is not in her name, her mother disappears. Soon after, Kira herself is kidnapped.

Haddix has written a sci-fi mystery that asks interesting questions about memory. Why do we remember some things and forget others? How does our mind decide which memory is important and which is not? Can we really access hidden memories?

The story is fast moving, full of plot twists, and features a brave protagonist who must decide whether it is better to remember or leave her memories buried. Will her memories help save her and her mother, or will they make them more vulnerable? Though the plot is somewhat unconvincing in places, overall *Escape from Memory* offers a creative approach to a future where memories can be catalogued and used by all, or captured and used just by the elite.

Annie says

Secrets. This is what Kira's friends discover when they hypnotize her for fun at a sleepover. They were just playing around, and they didn't know that the secrets they would discover would be so dark and mysterious. Kira, during her hypnotization, speaks of escaping from a war, clinging to her mom. But once Kira wakes up and is told the secrets she spoke about, Kira is confused. She doesn't remember that event from her childhood at all.

Then, one day, her mother disappears. Kira gets a little worried, but thinks everything will be okay until she finds a note telling her to go to her friend Lynne's house. Then she turns around and finds a woman staring at her. This person claims to be her Aunt Memory.

Aunt Memory takes her to Crythe to "save her mother". She trusts Aunt Memory and goes along with her. Aunt Memory teaches her about Crythe and about how everyone there remembers everything because "a person is what they remember". With memories, they can relive moments. But Aunt Memory also tells lies. That's when Kira discovers she's in trouble. Aunt Memory is taking advantage of her and basically kidnaps her. Can Kira truly save her mom, while Kira herself is confused because of her hidden secrets and hidden memories?

This book was incredible and suspenseful. It tells the story of an ordinary girl with an unknown extraordinary history and childhood. It teaches an important lesson...Should we dwell on our memories, and be what we remember? Or should we also look to the future and follow our dreams?

However, sometimes I wonder if Margaret Peterson Haddix books are ethical. This book talks about humans implanting computer chips into brains and messing with people's memory. This is definitely not what was intended for humans, and although this book is science fiction, it makes me start thinking about things like that. Also, in a different Haddix book, she speaks of cloning, which, although some may disagree, is not something humans should be doing. I still love, love, love Haddix's books, otherwise I wouldn't be reading them! Although these books contain some methods of science I do not agree with, I put these at the top of my list of favorite books because they are well-written and are some of the best books that I have ever read. This book definitely kept me reading, and would be a great choice for a reluctant reader. I would recommend this book to everyone who wants a great read.

Kiara Parks says

In this book *Escape from memory*, it was so unpredictable. I think this book was great because I enjoyed it, but- I wanted to hear more like an second book because it kind of left me hanging a little. Kira was a great character, but she was kind of to gullible which means she believes almost every single thing. That kind of relates to the characteristics that I have kind of..But the thing that was so crazy was that her "mother" may not be her actually mother and that her "mother" may be her aunt or a crazy person who needed help at the time. I would rate it 3-5 though, only because it was good but it could have been better and the book should've explained more in some of the problems that had been going on. It was sad to hear that Kira's father had died earlier in her life. But Kira's friend Lynne is a friend that I would always want later in life because she hid in Kira's suitcase just to make sure that her friend was going to be safe. Other than that the events that happened was crazy and you should read it.

10-12 Jaycie says

I just finished this at home it is not as good as I suspected but it is full of suspense! One of my friends read this and recommended it TRY IT!

A. says

I really enjoyed the few twists this book managed to sneak in. I also really enjoyed it because it made me feel young again, it was exactly the kind of adventure I used to dream about having, (until the end when it got scary. I was never that brave) and it had a best friend that was exactly the kind of friend I always dreamed would accompany me on wild adventures. As a mature adult (am I?) I am glad I never had these kinds of adventures (obviously) but they are exciting to read.

This one also had some interesting philosophical questions, although I don't think they were quite as fully explored as in Double Identity.

Tanya Foulk says

Margaret Peterson Haddix is an author that I see many of my students reading. I had never read any of her many books, so I was happy when our 6th grade book club voted to read Escape from Memory. Well, my experience with this book was not good. Haddix did an excellent job grabbing me in the first few chapters; however, it was all downhill from there. I found the heroine Kira less than heroic and much of the storyline unbelievable. Science fiction is not one of my favorite genres and this book had a science fiction element added to the mystery. The science fiction elements were not the problem...it was the underwhelming character traits of Kira and the cliché representation of Roma the villain that left me disappointed. Perhaps I should have read one of Haddix's more notable books in the Missing series or the Shadow Children series as my first introduction to this author.

Haddix is an Ohio native, so I found myself rooting for the book to get better. But, that never happened. I can't wait to hear what my students thought of it. For me...it was a bust.

Becca says

At first, I couldn't get into this book. I thought I would just put this book down and stop reading it but I decided to keep going. I'm glad I did, because this book just kept getting better as it went along.

I thought Kira's mom was a little bit weird, being so detached from her daughter and all. But later in the story I realized why, and it made a lot more sense. Reading this story further made it make more sense, because the whole storyline eventually gets put into place and makes it easier to understand.

Lynne the ultimate best friend, always looking out for you. She had to make sure that Kira was okay, even if it meant putting herself in danger to save someone else. She was smart, loyal, and brave.

I didn't really like Rona because even though money really meant nothing to the Crythians she still wanted the idea that wasn't hers to get money. There was no way that she was Kira's Aunt Memory even though she said she was. She acted kind of funny, but it wasn't too noticeable.

I hope you enjoy Escape from Memory by Margaret Peterson Haddix!

Caroline says

Margaret Peterson Haddix is an amazing author, and, having read her other books, I was actually kind of disappointed by this read. It was a very good book, but didn't keep me "wanting more," like her books usually do. I think I would've enjoyed this book more if I hadn't known that it was by her.

The book was very suspenseful, but it was hard to understand the plot sometimes. It is definitely not a fast read, even though it is a pretty short book. You have to pay attention to everything that is revealed, otherwise, you will find yourself confused at some points, and will have to reread. I found it hard to read this book in public places, or in places that were distracting, because I found it kind of hard to concentrate on the book sometimes. Like all books, it had it's up and down chapters.

I actually loved the main character in this book. I think that Kira was very easy to relate to, and she seemed like a real person. This always happens to me when reading Haddix's books, which is why I love them so much. I do think that Kira's physical appearance could've been described better, because even at the end of the book, I was having trouble picturing her.

The big "reveal" in the book (that Kira's mom is indeed her real mom) was kind of predictable. I guess I would've enjoyed that part more if I hadn't suspected this.

All in all, this is a very good book, and I would recommend it to someone who has read and liked Haddix's other books. But don't be discouraged if you read this and not her others.
