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Escape from Memory

By Margaret Peterson Haddix



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Some things are *not* best forgotten. A redesigned edition of a science fiction thriller that *Booklist* calls “an exciting, fantastical adventure story.”

When Kira lets her friends hypnotize her at a slumber party, she unearths a memory that just doesn’t make sense: She recalls that she and her mother fled to their small town from a country that doesn’t exist, speaking a language she can’t identify. But after she and her mother are kidnapped by the mysterious Aunt Memory and brought back to Crythe, Kira discovers her recollection was real. Dangerous secrets are locked in her mind—and her memories are the only thing that might save her family.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8--At a sleepover, Kira, 15, agrees to let her friends hypnotize her for the fun of it. Instead of the expected revelation of a secret crush, her friends hear a child's buried memory of fleeing from danger with her mother and speaking in a language none of them understands. Kira's assumptions about her life in their small Ohio town are challenged, and her reticent, eccentric mother is frightened rather than reassuring when confronted with her daughter's questions. Then she disappears, and a woman shows up claiming to be Kira's benevolent Aunt Memory from a community called Crythe, where memories are valued above all else. Aunt Memory claims that the woman Kira thinks of as her mother is being held hostage and that only Kira can save her. Thus ensues a race across the continent involving Crythian political intrigue, deception, kidnapping, and blackmail. Of course, nothing is as it seems, and there are enough plot twists to satisfy Haddix's loyal readers. The plot-driven narrative moves at such a brisk pace that only by the end of the story do readers have time to ponder the unresolved questions concerning the power and role of memory in our lives.--*Farida S. Dowler, formerly at Bellevue Regional Library, WA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. While under hypnosis at a sleepover, Kira remembers a strange tidbit from her past--her eccentric mother has been lying about how she and Kira ended up in small-town Ohio. It turns out that Kira comes from Crythe, a community that, legend has it, descended from the Ancient Romans. The Crythains believe that people are what they remember, so they forget nothing--remembering every word, thought, and action they've ever experienced. Having escaped the strange world of Crythe as a toddler, Kira returns, hoping to discover her past and perhaps save her people. But soon she finds herself imprisoned with her best friend and the woman she always believed was her mother; if Kira has any chance of escaping, she'll have to unlock the memories hidden inside her. Tightly plotted and *Matrix*-esque in its thought-provoking complexity, this will have special appeal for the computer cognoscenti. Haddix nimbly balances a fascinating examination of the significance of memory with an exciting, fantastical adventure story. *John Green*

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About the Author

Margaret Peterson Haddix is the author of many critically and popularly acclaimed YA and middle grade novels, including the Children of Exile series, The Missing series, the Under Their Skin series, and the Shadow Children series. A graduate of Miami University (of Ohio), she worked for several years as a reporter for *The Indianapolis News*. She also taught at the Danville (Illinois) Area Community College. She lives with her family in Columbus, Ohio. Visit her at HaddixBooks.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Galen Dent:

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