

Children of Refuge

Margaret Peterson Haddix

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After Edwy is smuggled off to Refuge City to stay with his brother and sister, Rosi, Bobo, and Cana are stuck alone—and in danger—in Cursed Town in the thrilling follow-up to *Children of Exile* from *New York Times* bestselling author, Margaret Peterson Haddix.

It's been barely a day since Edwy left Fredtown to be with his parents and, already, he is being sent away. He's smuggled off to boarding school in Refuge City, where he will be with his brother and sister, who don't even like him very much. The boarding school is nothing like the school that he knew, there's no one around looking up to him now, and he's still not allowed to ask questions!

Alone and confused, Edwy seeks out other children brought back from Fredtown and soon discovers that Rosi and the others—still stuck in the Cursed Town—might be in danger. Can Edwy find his way back to his friends before it's too late?

Children of Refuge Details

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Author: Margaret Peterson Haddix Format: Kindle Edition 272 pages

Genre: Science Fiction, Young Adult, Dystopia, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fantasy, Teen, Adventure,

Action, Fiction

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From Reader Review Children of Refuge for online ebook

Becky says

First sentence: The man lunged out of the darkness to grab me as I ran by.

Premise/plot: Children of Refuge is a companion novel to Margaret Peterson Haddix's Children of Exile. The narrator of this second novel is Edwy, Rosi's skeptic friend. Edwy hasn't been in Cursed Town long before he disappears--is kidnapped. Rosi hasn't a clue where he's disappeared to, if he's dead or alive. Readers aren't kept in the dark long; Edwy's father has "kidnapped" him and sent him away to Refuge City, to be with his older brother (Enu) and sister (Kiandra). Refuge City is nothing like Cursed Town. Most of the book is about Edwy discovering--uncovering--secrets and searching for the truth.

My thoughts: I liked this one. I'm not sure I loved, loved, loved it. But it had plenty of action, especially towards the end. (Earlier action is more like Edwy playing basketball, video games, talking to his sister, and going to a soup kitchen.) If you enjoy your science fiction with aliens, this is a solid read.

Dorine White says

This story focuses on Edwy, Rosi's friend from the first book. Edwy is sent by his birth father, in the dead of night, to Refuge City. He is told that once there he will be living with his older brother and sister. This is a shock to Edwy for he is used to being the oldest kid from Fredtown and he didn't know he had siblings.

Once there life is strange. Even though he has always been a rule breaker, he can't seem to understand why people live the way they do in the city. Why they aren't kinder or more helpful? He begins to fit in with his brother's friends, but only by cheating. His guilt leads him to seek out other children from Fredtowns. He is also desperate to find out what happened to Rosi, whether she was captured or not?

His findings lead to some shocking discoveries, and soon it is up to him to convince his selfish brother and sister to risk their lives for someone they don't know, and take him back to rescue Rosi.

My Thoughts-

It was very interesting to read this book from Edwy's point of view. Up until now it had all been Rosi, and Edwy was just the rule breaker that challenged the Fred's. Now, we see inside his thoughts and actions. Though still a rule breaker, we see that he truly is not cruel in his ideas and that like a small child, he likes to protest and stir the pot. As soon as he sees injustice in Refuge City, it bugs him and he begins remembering all the things the Fred's taught him.

As he realizes that he is beginning to sound just like Rosi, his thoughts turn toward his lost friend and he begins to seek out the truth about the aliens and what had happen to all the children in Fredtowns. As readers, we are able to dive more into the inner politics of what happened during the war and see how the Enforcer aliens are trouble for one and all. The question is raised, should all of the children have been taken away or just those who had parents that would not have raised them as humanitarians?

Though engaging this book wasn't as fun as the first, probably because the mystery of Fredtowns and aliens was so huge in the first book. However, I did enjoy diving into the characters in this book, seeing how people on Earth treated each other, what had caused the war in the first place, and how the planet coped with their children being taken away for twelve years. It is a good read full of depth and I'm giving it 4.5 stars!

Kora Hay says

The man lunged out of the darkness to grab me as I ran by. In this book, Children of Refuge, by Margaret Peterson it shows action, and at the end of each chapter it leaves you with cliffhangers. This book is personally my favorite book, out of all of the books I have read by Margaret Peterson. A young 12 year old boy(Edwy) is sent away to Refuge City by his father, who he has known for 24 hours, and he has a older brother (Enu) and an older sister (Kiandra). Back in Fredtown Edwy has a friend named Rosi, who he realizes is in trouble, and needs help finding her, after he finds out a shocking secret about who has been raising him for all 12 years of his life. I personally like this book because it is very detailed and tells that book from Edwy's point of view. I read this book without reading the first book, and I was able to catch on quite fast just from the first chapter. If you are looking for a plot twisted, fast paced action book, then this is the book for you.

Michael Chen says

This is the second book in the Children of Exile series.

This was an amazing read. Unlike her critically acclaimed *The Missing* series (which is one of my all-time favorites), the books in this upcoming series are very short and definitely more simplistic, partly due to the fact that they are told from the perspective of a 12-year-old. Each book contains only a sliver of the full plot. Book 1 revolved around Rosi's perspective while Book 2 revolved around Edwy's perspective. At the end of Book 2, the two characters reunite and meet.

The series urgently focuses on emphasizing the bleak futurity of the human race. Aspects of poverty, corruption, moral degradation, physical deterioration, warfare, greed and innate violence are all highlighted. Essentially, an advanced race of aliens takes away all the children on earth after the humans have become too scrupulous and unethical. The children are moved to a different planet and taken care of by disguised aliens with seemingly ethereal manners and platitudes concerning moral behavior and the general comportment of social intercourse between persons. The story takes place when the character is moved back to Earth to find that all the humans are corrupted and evil. It mirrors today's society in some aspects and offers a gleaming warning to the human race, in that we should proceed with caution as we venture into the future.

Haddix utilizes a young protagonist as a conduit which permits her to express certain intrinsically cynical and empirical viewpoints on society; the character that she uses allows her to get away with her criticism in an understandable manner. I found it remarkable, however, how Haddix, a middle-aged author, is able to craft so much raw emotion and accuracy in her depiction of a young narrator. Because despite the narrator's age, he still tells the story through a certain, very subtle lens that conveys shades of much greater sagacity than one would naturally maintain within a person of such maturity. On a larger note, all the characters that she fabricates have with them a latent air of personality that cannot be easily traced, but infinitely add to the color and richness of the novel.

It is interesting because it wasn't until the very end of Book 1 that I realized the true genre of the novel- it shifted dramatically from realistic fiction to science fiction, with the reveal that their stepparents were really aliens. It is clear that the series is a long way from ending after finishing the first 2 books. There is still much more the author needs to cover about her story.

This is not a detailed review, just a short, genuinely underdeveloped passage on how I felt about the book, I do not yet know what book to choose for my second book review.

Crystal Hill says

Wow! Quite an intense story. Interesting to learn the past of this crazy adventure. Although the end left off quite abruptly and I am eagerly awaiting the next book!

Snazzy Reads says

This might be my new favorite Margaret Peterson Haddix series!

Yapha says

In this second book in the Children of Exile series, we follow Edwy's story. He is separated from Rosi, kidnapped by his own father, and sent to live with an older brother and sister that he never knew he had in Refuge City. The more he learns about Refuge City, the more he realizes how vastly different than anything Fredtown and the Freds prepared him for. When he learns what happened to Rosi (which was in the first book), he sets aside his new life in Refuge City to find her. The non-stop action will keep readers engaged while questioning the lessons they are taught by the well-meaning adults in their lives. It is full of plenty of Haddix's signature twists as well! Please read the series in order. Highly recommended for grades 5 & up.

eARC provided by publisher via Edelweiss

Violet Sinclair says

OH MY GOODNESS THIS BOOK IS JUST AUGGGHHH

I really loved seeing Rosi through Edwy's eyes (it's literally so adorable anytime he mentions her) and just certain things that Edwy would think about...I just freaking loved this book

FEELS TIME

- -EDWY AND ROSI MY BABIES
- -KIANDRA'S RESENTMENT AT THE FREDS
- **-UDANS**
- -ZEBA
- -EDWY WATCHING ROSI GET BEAT
- -EDWY TALKING ABOUT FRED-TOWN
- -EDWY'S GOODBYES
- -EDWY THINKING ROSI LOOKS BEAUTIFUL EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS ALL THIS DIRT ON HER AND HER HAIR IS ALL MESSED UP
- -JUST EDWY IN GENERAL

Tonja Drecker says

With thrilling moments, unexpected surprises and cleverly placed words for thought, this is a science fiction must read for kids.

Edwy has just met his parents and, less than twenty-four hours later, is already being smuggled off to live in Refuge City to attend a boarding school with the two siblings he's never met. But nothing is as he thought it'd be. Learning that his friend, Rosi and the other children who are still in Cursed Town are in trouble, he needs to find a way to help them before it's too late.

This book takes off where the first one in the series left off. Since the background information is needed before diving into this second book, the series should be read in order.

From the very first page, the action grabs and pulls in. Edwy is immediately snatched up and taken down a mysterious tunnel—and not in a gentle manner. He has no clue what's happening, only that his hopes of family and stability are again blown away. The reader feels for him and the tension shoots high even before the adventure really begins. And this pacing holds the whole way through.

Every page introduces something new, not only from the action side but also in other aspects. Edwy finds himself constantly comparing his past life with that from his time with the Freds. Refuge City is not only different in the scenery, people and politics , but even basic attitudes about life and relationships clash with what he's known so far. He claims to hate the Freds, but he often compares their ideals to those found in the more self-centered life of Refuge City. This offers a lot of food for thought, especially when the history behind the cities and his parents are revealed.

This is a great continuation to an exciting series, and I can't wait to see where it will go next.

I received a complimentary copy and was so intrigued by the world and characters that I wanted to leave my honest thoughts.

Taylor Manrique says

This is the heart-wrenching story of young Edwy, a boy that has just been reunited with his parents after being ripped away from them years prior. Just when he thought he had his old life back, Edwy is shocked when is taken from them once again and placed in Refugee City with tons of other kids around his age. Edwy is curious and eaager to discover why him and all of these other kids are here and when they will, or if they will be returned to their families. Edwy and his new friends bound together as a unit in order to get out of this strange place. I enjoyed the pacing of this book, the author kept the story interesting and did not drag the story on, but got to the point in a timely manner. The author pinpoints many concepts in this book that are relevant to today's society. For example, the concept of children being ripped away from their families and being placed in a strange and unwelcoming place, relates to the realism of the foster care system, and how children are emotionally and eve physically affected by it. This is a concept that can be relatable to young readers if they have experienced the foster care system for themselves, or know someone who has. The author also shows a young adult in a very high leadership role, which is not a concept that is addresses much in graphic novels. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and was never wanting to put it down, just like the previous Haddix book I have read. I believe this author does the genre of science fiction the most justice. I would use this story in my classroom to show the different types of ways to write in the science fiction genre. I would use this book and a book such as Star Hatchling, as a compare and contrast assignment. By doing this, students will be able to understand that when writing in science fiction, authors can approach it in so many different ways, and there is not just one way to write in science fiction.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

After just 24 hours with the Watanabonesets in Cursed Town, Edwy is ordered taken to Refuge City to attend a prestigious boarding school while living with the older brother and sister he has never met. In true Edwy fashion, he fights Udans, his father's employer, every step of the way, especially since he doesn't want to be separated from Rosi. Once he gets to the city, his siblings Enu and Kiandra are not pleased to see him, and tell him that the "boarding school" is just an online school where they can check that they did their homework but not actually do it. When Edwy finds out what really happened to him and the other children in Fredtown with their Fred parents, he wants to find out more and also try to get to Rosi. He meets another girl, Zeba, who is from a Fredtown and willing to help him. When he finds that Enforcers are taking over Cursed Town, he feels even more compelled to find her, especially when she turns out to be with young Cana. How can the fate of the whole earth rest on the shoulders of the children so recently returned? Strengths: There's no contesting that Haddix is a great writer, and she convincingly writes interesting worlds. Weaknesses: Edwy might well be the biggest brat in all of middle grade literature, and this made the book very hard for me to read. He doesn't like the Freds, he doesn't like the Watanabonesets, although he admires his father's haircut. He's obnoxious to everyone. Also, I'm still not understanding the reason the aliens are called Freds, and it's such a weird term that it needs some explanation.

What I really think: Haddix is a local author, so I buy everything she writes, but her series are getting to be weirder and weirder.

Becky B says

It is Edwy's turn to take the spotlight. In book one readers got Rosi's perspective of events as the kids in Fredtown were returned to their real parents. In this one we follow Edwy around after he arrives to meet the parents he's never known. After less than a day of being back, Edwy is smuggled out of the town where his parents live and told he's being shipped off to boarding school with his two older siblings in the City of Refuge. Edwy is blown away for a vast number of reasons, but chief among them is he knows nothing about this place that is now his home. He always balked against the Freds training of how to be a good person, but that was the only world he ever knew and this one is starkly different. Can Edwy figure out how to fit in in a strange world with stranger older siblings who aren't exactly welcoming him with open arms. And what will he do when he learns things about this place and the dangers he most likely left Rosi in?

Haddix has built an interesting dystopian futuristic world here for kids with the main character suffering culture shock coming from a completely sheltered first twelve years of life plunged into a world that is recovering from a war and is still not stable. Edwy has to decide what kind of person he wants to be and must wrestle with some moral dilemmas both light and deep. He's dumped into what could potentially be a tween's dream situation, left with two older siblings who will let you trash the house, stay up to all hours, and while away your time with games. But though Edwy pretends not to care, he is concerned with Rosi and he does have many burning questions about what lies beneath the surface in his family and world. It continues to be a good series to stimulate a lot of thought and would make for a great book club book thanks to all the potential discussion points. I expected the series to wrap up with this book but there's quite a huge issue left hanging at the end of this book. There's gotta be at least another book. I got a couple of students hooked on Haddix's Shadow Children series last year and they've quickly spread their mania to others to the extent all of Haddix's books are now in high demand. They will eagerly snatch this one up.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content. Violence is threatened, war is mentioned, but on page just some people getting knocked out.

Sarah Monsma says

In Fredtown, where he lived for the first twelve years of his life, Edwy was the rebel, the one who wanted to turn the rules on their heads, the one who thought the Freds weren't giving the kids of Fredtown the whole story. But in his real home with his true parents, there are just as many secrets, and things are so different, it's even hard to figure out how to rebel. What's clear is that something big and very, very bad happened before Edwy was born. Edwy decides to find out what it was and enlists the help of Rosi, the other oldest kid from Fredtown, but before he knows it, Edwy is whisked away to the city of Refuge, leaving his promise of watching out for Rosi unfulfilled.

In Refuge the rules have changed once again, and no one seems to have answers for Edwy. At first, life in Refuge seems easy, but over time Edwy's promise to watch over Rosi weighs on him – she's still back in the town with her parents. When Edwy gets news of what is happening to Rosi, he knows he will have to use his wits and enlist the help of strangers to save her and to solve the mysteries of his new home.

The second book in the series, Children of Refuge continues the story of the return of the children from Fredtown through Edwy's point of view. The compelling questions and characters keep coming as readers journey with Edwy and learn even more about his world.

Margaret Patterson Haddix continues the series masterfully, switching viewpoints for this second novel from Rosi to Edwy and enlarging our knowledge of the world. Haddix's characters are fully developed and engaging. Edwy's growth through the novel as he solves problems and adjusts to his new life is satisfying and real. I read through books one and two very quickly, engrossed in the story. I will be waiting on pins and needles for the next book in the series.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Melanie Dulaney says

Book 2 in Haddix's Children of Exile series is all about Edwy. Whisked off to the more "civilized" and technologically advanced Refuge City by his biological father's strong arm, Edwy tries to fit in and get to know his newly discovered and spoiled brother and sister. But worry about Rosi crowds his mind and with computer savvy sis' help, he discovers that she, Bobo and Cana are on the run with Enforcers closing in. Former Fred town twelve year old Zeba joins in the chase and helps bring the book to its cliff-hanger conclusion. That ending was the strongest part of this one as Edwy's time in Ref City was fairly slow until the group sets off to rescue Rosi and the 2 younger children. Book 3 should conclude the series and will hopefully bring satisfying resolution to all of the unanswered questions.

Scott Fillner says

In the next thrilling chapter in the Children of Exile series, Children of Refuge, Edwy finds himself in challenging decisions where he has to find answers to his own questions. Normally armed with numerous questions and seeking answers, Edwy is forced to take matters in his own hands to save his friends.

The story was a page turner that did not disappoint. When it comes to a close, it leaves you in an all to familiar palace with Haddix novels, many more questions than answers.

I highly recommend this story. It will be important to read the first book as this story will not act as a stand alone for readers.