

(Mobile book) Takeoffs and landings

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Margaret Peterson Haddix

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Margaret Peterson Haddix : Takeoffs and landings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Takeoffs and landings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice BookBy RJG4Kid didn't think much of the book because it was summer reading requirement from school.I looked it and especially liked the fact I could download this instead of tracking down at the library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent story of how people can find themselves even when they've been trapped by a long-ago tragedyBy Debra W. HerterI started this book assuming it would be about Lori. Surprisingly, I don't think it was. It was much more Chuck's story. And of course it was a story of Lori, her mom, and Chuck as a family as well. If you can get them into reading it I think that tween and teen boys would really like this one.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Lori needs to grow upBy geckomomThis book was a far cry from Margaret P. Haddix's usually action-packed novels. I found Lori to be annoying, whiny, and a downright spoiled brat. Most of the time, I wished Lori's mother would stop "angrily biting her lip" and just tell bratty Lori to be quiet. Chuck needed to stand up for himself, and Lori needed to learn that the world doesn't revolve around her. Not that great a book.

A journey to the center of their hearts Ever since their father's sudden death eight years ago, Chuck and Lori's mom has spent most of her time on the road as a motivational speaker, leaving them and their younger siblings in the care of their grandparents. But this trip is different; this time, their mother has invited Chuck and Lori along in an attempt to reconnect with her eldest -- and now most distant -- children. Lori is so angry with her mother for her constant absence

she can barely look at her, and Chuck, as usual, tries to make himself invisible. From the start the trip seems doomed. But slowly, walls built up over the years begin to show cracks. Laser-sharp glares are finally and painfully turned inward. And in the end secrets are finally revealed -- secrets that will change all of their lives forever....

From Publishers Weekly Despite an intriguing premise and format, Haddix's (Among the Imposters, reviewed June 11) novel may well stretch readers' credibility when years of problems are resolved in one brief summer trip. Siblings 15-year-old Chuck and 14-year-old Lori Lawson go on their first plane ride to join their motivational-speaker mother on a two-week five-city tour, and the teens end up learning about a lot more than fancy hotels and airports. Through Lori and Chuck's alternating perspectives (their mom breaks in occasionally to offer her point of view), readers discover just how angry the seemingly perfect Lori is towards her almost always absent mother and about overweight and clumsy Chuck's self-loathing they even learn why their mother won't talk about their father's death eight years ago. Haddix credibly maps out the Lawsons' dynamics and fills in some interesting details about growing up in agricultural Pickford County (in their chapters, Lori and Chuck discuss 4-H club and taking pigs to slaughter) but the three characters' chapters rotate so quickly that readers rarely get to settle into any one story line. The characters experience dramatic breakthroughs at the conclusion, each unearthing buried secrets from within themselves. But the revelations come too quickly and undermine the authenticity of the previous chapters. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal Gr 5-8-A family struggling with guilt and loss learns that repressing feelings can be harmful. Fourteen-year-old Lori Lawson is popular, deeply fearful of appearing "different," and has a narrow view of the world; in short, she's a fairly typical teen. Her 15-year-old brother Chuck is overweight, insecure, and the object of derision in their rural home town. Their mother is a successful motivational speaker who tries to repair her failing relationship with her oldest children by taking them on a lecture tour. Finally, they talk to one another about their feelings and misplaced guilt about the death of the teens' father many years earlier. Lori ultimately learns to be kinder to those she loves while Chuck finds salvation in art, gaining self-confidence and purpose. Their mother realizes she needs to share information about their father with her children. The novel's structure is interesting, alternating between third-person perspectives of Lori and Chuck interspersed with their mother's motivational speeches and her true feelings of powerlessness. The narrative voices are individually distinct and ring true for all three characters, none of whom is entirely blameless in the degeneration of their relationships. Haddix employs some effective imagery (Lori describes the three of them as "an island of silence"). Young teens will enjoy the generally melodramatic tone, finding satisfaction in the revelations that occur at the end. B. Allison Gray, South Country Library, Bellport, NY Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist Gr. 6-10. Teen siblings Chuck and Lori are polar opposites. On their grandparent's farm, where they have lived since their father, Tom, died years before, Chuck is dreamy, overweight, and insecure; Lori is a capable golden girl who resents her mother, a frequently absent motivational speaker. When the teens join their mother on a multicity tour, the family confronts long-standing rifts and uncovers the secrets and anguish that still surround Tom's death. Chapters that alternate between the siblings' perspectives nicely capture Chuck's growth during the trip. Lori's transformation--from sullen to accepting--is a little too neat, however; and there are a few contrived plot twists, such as a link between Chuck's love of art and guilt over his father's death. But Haddix adeptly shows the trauma of family tension and sibling rivalry in subtle passages rich in detail, creating an absorbing, realistic novel that challenges readers to grow, like Lori and Chuck, by exploring the unfamiliar. Gillian Engberg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved