

Running Out of Time

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

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Run For Your Life
Jessie lives with her family in the frontier village of Clifton, Indiana, in 1840 -- or so she believes. When diphtheria strikes the village and the children of Clifton start dying, Jessie's mother reveals a shocking secret -- it's actually 1996, and they are living in a reconstructed village that serves as a tourist site. In the world outside, medicine exists that can cure the dread disease, and Jessie's mother is sending her on a dangerous mission to bring back help.
But beyond the walls of Clifton, Jessie discovers a world even more alien and threatening than she could have imagined, and soon she finds her own life in jeopardy. Can she get help before the children of Clifton, and Jessie herself, run out of time?

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Running Out of Time By Margaret Peterson Haddix Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #58798 in Books
- Brand: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
- Published on: 1997-02-01
- Released on: 1997-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .60" w x 5.13" l, .29 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 5-8?This absorbing novel develops an unusual premise into the gripping story of a young girl's efforts to save her family and friends from a deadly disease. Jessie Keyser, 13, believes that the year is 1840. In truth, she and her family, along with a small group of others, live in a reconstructed village viewed by unseen modern tourists and used as an experimental site by unethical scientists. Jessie discovers the truth when her mother asks her to leave the village and seek medical help for the diptheria epidemic that has struck the children of the community. Jessie must cope with the shock of her discovery; her unfamiliarity with everyday phenomena such as cars, telephones, and television; and the unscrupulous men who are manipulating the villagers. The action moves swiftly, with plenty of suspense, and readers will be eager to discover how Jessie overcomes the obstacles that stand in her way. While she is ultimately successful, the ending is not entirely a happy one, for several children have died and others are placed in foster care to await resolution of the complex situation. This realistically ambiguous ending reflects the author's overall success in making her story, however far-fetched, convincing and compelling. Haddix also handles characterization well; even secondary characters who are somewhat sketchily drawn never descend into stereotype. This book will appeal to fans of time-travel or historical novels as well as those who prefer realistic contemporary fiction, all of whom will look forward to more stories from this intriguing new author.?Lisa Dennis, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
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From Booklist
Gr. 4^-7. What if the costumed workers at historical sites really lived there, and tourists watched them through hidden cameras rather than from pathways? What if those workers and families were not allowed to leave, ever? Jessie lives in the 1840s, or so she believes until her mother sends her on an escape mission outside the fence, where it's 1996. The suspense and the cataloging of differences as they appear to Jessie are the best parts here. The resolution of the plot, which includes the revelation that the inhabitants have been used for scientific experimentation, comes too fast, but the quirky twist on time-travel fiction will keep the attention of readers. *Mary Harris Veeder*

Review
Joan Lowery Nixon *Running Out of Time* is a highly imaginative, absolutely terrific first novel.

School Library Journal (starred review) Absorbing...gripping...convincing and compelling. Fans of time-travel or historical novels...will look forward to more stories from this intriguing new author.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Manuel Rodriguez:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading any book, we give you this kind of Running Out of Time book

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Staci Eager:

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