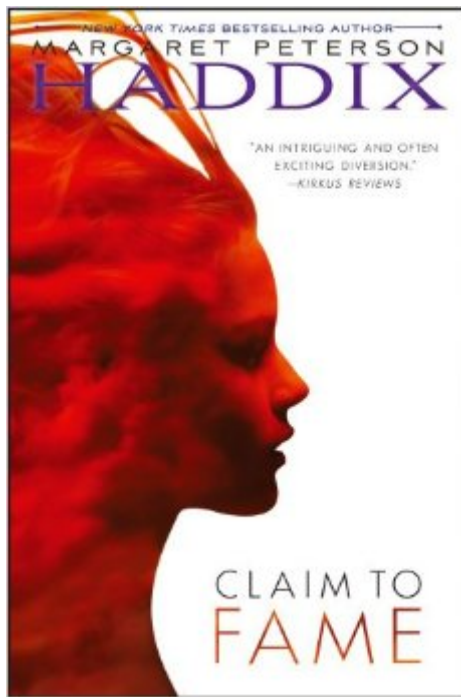


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# Claim To Fame



## Synopsis

Lindsay Scott hit the big time at age five, when she became the star of the television show "Just Me and the Kids." It seemed like she was set for life--until she had a nervous breakdown when she was eleven, because Lindsay had suddenly developed a very dangerous sense of ESP--the ability to hear what anyone was thinking about here, at any time, anywhere in the world. Lindsay's father whisked her away to her long-gone mother's house in small town Springdale, and Lindsay was amazed to discover that within the four walls of the house, she can't hear anything out of the ordinary. And so Lindsay has stayed hidden in the house, safe from other people's thoughts, doing her best to stay out of sight and let the world forget her. When the tabloids print a "where are they now" story about her, claiming that Lindsay's maniacal father has kept her imprisoned in her house for the past five years, a couple of well-meaning teens attempt to "rescue" Lindsay. For the first time in five years, Lindsay is outside the protective quiet of her house. And that's when she hears the one voice she never expected to hear: her mother's. When she discovers that perhaps her mother didn't leave voluntarily, she has a choice to make: will she risk everything to find the truth about her past--and the source of her ability?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (46 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #578,432 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Television & Radio](#) #1425 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts](#) #2260 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Unlike most of her books I've read, this one reminded me much of Double Identity. I loved that book and I loved this one as well. The analogy behind what Lindsey is going through and the past behind her. What I loved about this book is really how teenagers feel right now, obsessed about what they look like and wanting to know what others think about them. Well Lindsey does know from all around the world of every second of every day if she isn't inside her house. Another thing is that this kind of gives a glimpse of how teens feel about just wanting to hole up and not come out of their home. Also about losing parents, in Lindsey's case both, one through death, the other through misunderstandings. I truly love this book and know that many of the teens in our library will truly enjoy it, especially our young teenage girls.

Like her other books, this one plays with reality for a book with just a hint of sci fi/fantasy. Watching Lindsay deal with her talent provides the momentum for the plot and the dramatic tension. Because I came to care for Lindsay I wanted to see how she would cope, and the main question of the narrative is whether she will become a crazy recluse or be able to handle normal society. Maybe not a question of riveting interest to young people (especially boys) but I was hooked. The book was clean, although rape and child molestation are mentioned in mostly veiled references among Lindsay's fears. There is a slightly disturbing scene near the end where a prisoner who, it has been suggested, plans to violate Lindsay is released from prison and is coming closer and closer to get her. (They can keep tabs on his progress through Lindsay's talent). The scene works out in a happy manner without any violence but a sensitive child might have trouble with the innuendo throughout the book involving the prisoner. The take-home message was not to care too much about what other people think of you, which is appropriate for the main audience of the book. Lindsay is a strong main character and a good role model. Recommended.

First line: "I was suppose to be doing my algebra homework that night." Lindsay can hear...everything. That is the premise of the book. I didn't find out until quite a ways into the book what that meant. While I enjoyed the writing, I felt I was left hanging. This book could have been double in length with all the character arcs that weren't developed or a plot line suddenly closing. Lindsay had no motivations, no danger, no goals to propel her forward. Unless you count a brief talk with an old lady neighbor or at the very end where a creepy man comes into town and Lindsay's afraid he's a stalker but he turn out to be someone totally different. Lindsay does come to realize she has kept her 'talent' pushed down and away from her when all the time she had the ability to expand it and use it for good. Quick, intriguing read. Rating: PGV: NoL: NoS: NoLiked: Being able to hear

everythingSafe housesThe writingDisliked:Ended too quickly without resolutionsNeeded more plot?

Claim to Fame is a book with a pretty interesting concept but ultimately questionable execution. Everything is wrapped up a little too neatly, a little too hastily. With Haddix's popular Shadow Children series, the length of the story gave us the opportunity to really delve into the depths of her created world. Here, she created a world but didn't seem to have enough time to fully explore it. Some of the characters and plot points ultimately seemed entirely unnecessary upon the book's conclusion, and it just seemed like the story was trying to do too much. It had some pretty cool plot twists, but fell flat overall. Rating: 3/5

Introduction:Former child star Lindsey Scott had a meltdown then basically disappeared from the public eye. Five years later, two well-meaning but misguided young men briefly kidnap her in the hopes of freeing her from what the tabloids reported as her prisonlike home. That starts a series of events wherein our young heroine attempts to discover more about her peculiar gift. Margaret Peterson Haddix is usually great for a new, intriguing concept. This one featuring Lindsey's ability to hear comments about herself doesn't disappoint in that department. That said, some people are likely going to be bothered by a marked lack of action. It's more of a psychological journey. While I like that Haddix keeps it somewhat realistic in terms of what a real 16-year-old could do and would be thinking in a similar situation, it's a bit of a letdown that Lindsey's not even a smidge heroic. She's very normal. The slow moving plot didn't bother me because of the nature of the way I read it. I finished the book over the course of a few weeks on breaks at work. Small Tangent: If you want more action from Haddix, go check out the Shadow Children Series. (Most of those had decent action, though again there was some hit and miss in terms of how well I liked the stories.) Back to Claim to Fame: The author managed to slip in a few plottwists that are hard to see coming. That's always nice. Most of the characters, Lindsey, Mrs. Mullin, Roz, etc have unique voices in terms of dialogue and general attitude. Conclusion: If you're a huge Haddix fan, you're probably used to the fact that she writes a wide range of topics. It's worth trying. I enjoyed it, just be warned, it's much slower than some of her other series. If you're just getting used to Haddix and/or are a bigger fan of action based stories, try Shadow Children or even that time traveling one. Running out of Time was very good as an audio CD. If you're a completionist, definitely buy the book to support the author.

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