

*The Unadoptables* is a delightful book. It follows the adventures of Milou and her friends as they search for their families. To find out the truth they must escape the clutches of an evil matron, a menacing child-slaver, and the order of the kinderbureau, the agency that handles adoptions.

Hana Tooke weaves in all the elements of a classic children's story: orphans, evil villains, and a gang of friends. Yet she somehow changes it up, bringing in a twist of suspense and passion while still keeping to the classic themes.

I enjoyed reading about the contrasting personalities of the different characters and seeing them rise to the challenges that come their way. I loved the cover and the artwork - each chapter starts off with a charming sketch done by Ayesha Rubio. Every now and then, there is an excerpt from Milou's book of theories where she writes down her thoughts and hopes for why her parents left her at the orphanage. She tests the viability of the 'werewolf theory' and the 'secret spy theory'. Her small notes provide a refreshing change of pace and an insight into her character, making them one of the highlights of the book.

I would recommend this book to younger readers, specifically ages 7-10.

By Eleanor, age 12, Wellington