



2010

### I Am Number Four

Debbie Barr

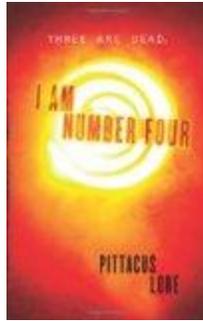
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Lore, Pittacus. *I Am Number Four*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061969553. \$17.99. 420 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Science Fiction;

Subject: Extraterrestrial beings--Juvenile fiction; High schools--Juvenile fiction; Love--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

John Smith has to move—again. He and his guardian, Henri, rarely stay anywhere for long. That’s because John is the fourth of nine aliens sent to Earth from the planet Lorien. Three have been killed, and he’s next. In their new home in Ohio, John falls in love with a human, Sarah, and gets entangled in a rivalry with her ex-boyfriend, Mark. Outside of school he works with Henry to develop his legacies (or superpowers) to help fight off the Mogadorians that are hunting him. Though he tries to stay unnoticed he ends up using his powers to save Sarah from a house fire, focusing unwelcome attention on himself. The Mogadorians come after him and John, along with alien number six, defeat the those who were sent after them. He has to leave town again, but hopes to return for Sarah in the future after all the Mogadorians have been defeated.

*I Am Number Four* does an excellent job of creating a realistic main character that teens can understand—even if he is an alien. The science fiction part of the story remains intriguing without overwhelming the contemporary feel of the novel, which helps the book appeal to a wide range of readers. *I Am Number Four* would be a great fit for teenage boys since John is a character they can relate to, and the plot is exciting. Because there is quite a bit of casual swearing, this book would be best for older teen readers.

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