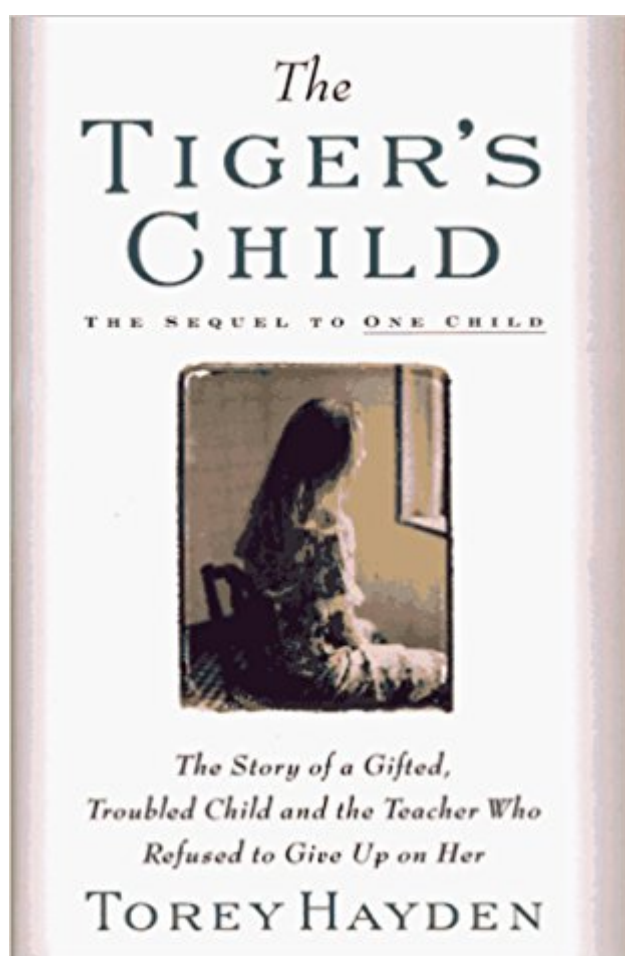


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# The Tiger's Child: The Story Of A Gifted, Troubled Child And The Teacher Who Refused To Give Up On (One Child)



## Synopsis

Special-education teacher Torey Hayden's first book, *One Child*, was an international bestseller, thrilling readers on every continent. Their hearts were captured by Sheila, a silent, troubled girl who had been abandoned on a highway by her mother and abused by her alcoholic father, and who refused to speak. As Hayden writes in the prologue to this book, "This little girl had a profound effect on me. Her courage, her resilience, and her inadvertent ability to express that great, gaping need to be loved that we all feel -- in short, her humanness -- brought me into contact with my own." Since then Hayden has gone on to write books about many of her students, but her fans continue to ask her, "What happened to Sheila?" *The Tiger's Child* is her response. Here Hayden tells how Sheila, now a young woman, finally came to terms with her nightmare childhood. When Hayden was working on *One Child*, she showed the manuscript to Sheila, then a teenager, and was astonished to find that Sheila remembered almost nothing of her troubled younger years. She had no recollection of her many clashes with her teacher as Hayden tried to break through her emotional pain. And although Hayden had managed to get Sheila to communicate and become an active and lively child, Sheila's home life was still very troubled. Her father had been sent to prison when she was eight and Sheila had run away from a series of foster homes until finally she was placed in a children's home. But as Hayden continued to renew her relationship with the teenage Sheila, the memories slowly came back, bringing with them feelings of abandonment and hostility. Overwhelmed by the intensity of her awakening emotions, Sheila was driven to suicidal despair. *The Tiger's Child* is the touching, inspiring story of how a maturing Sheila came to perceive her mother not as a monster who willfully cast off her eldest child, but as a weak, forlorn, ordinary human being. Able to appreciate her own strength and resilience, Sheila at last is free to overcome the haunting legacy of child abuse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Abandoned by her mother on a highway at age four, abused by her drug-addict father between his prison stints, autistic, electively mute Sheila Renstad at age six broke through her silent rage to communicate, aided by her five-month relationship with special-education teacher Hayden. That experience, recorded in Hayden's *One Child*, which became a TV movie, is updated in this deeply moving sequel. It picks up with Sheila as a sullen 13-year-old bouncing between juvenile facilities and her father's "care." As Hayden renews her ties to Sheila—first at a clinic, then through informal contacts—the girl's outbursts and foul-mouthed sexual preoccupations betray a desperate craving for a sense of belonging. An inspirational testament to the healing power of love, this authentic tearjerker resonates with drama. There is no storybook ending: Sheila, with an IQ over 180, forgoes college to work for McDonald's; an epilogue finds her 10 years later as a branch manager at McDonald's and an articulate, stable woman. Paperback rights to Avon; Literary Guild alternate; Readers Digest Condensed Book selection. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is Hayden's sequel to her best-selling *One Child* (1981), the story of an abandoned autistic child. Here, Hayden describes in detail what happened to Sheila from the age of six to 16, a decade filled with tension, a search for understanding, and profound moments of love. During the course of this fast-paced narrative, Hayden's career develops from classroom teacher to practicing psychologist in a private clinic. Throughout this time, she keeps track of Sheila, torn between her professional knowledge of what constitutes appropriate treatment for the young woman and her instinct to be the good mother. This book is not only interesting as a biography of a seriously disturbed child but as a portrayal of a working psychologist. Anyone involved with children will find it enlightening. Nancy E. Zuwiyya, Binghamton City Sch. Dist., N.Y. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Love all of Torey's books! Was worried I would be disappointed since this is a sequel to *One Child*. Torey didn't let me down.

Unputdownable! I read it aloud to my father and we enjoyed it together. Great sequel to the author's book "One Child."

Good

When I first heard about TIGER'S CHILD, I knew that I had to read it to find out what had happened to Sheila. I was not disappointed. I found that Sheila had carried a great deal of anger around with her all these years toward Torey for "showing her the good life and then deserting her just like her mother had." This rather dumb-founded Torey, because she was just doing what all teachers do at the end of a school year--saying good-bye to her students and moving on. Torey had to work very hard in this book to build up a trust level again. Sheila was not going to make this easy. However, the ending was satisfying; and we are left knowing that Sheila will be all right. I don't know how Torey makes her writing such compelling reading. I could not put the book down--even when I needed to look at scenery on a vacation. I recommend this book to anyone who needs a heart-warming read.

Well written

Placed in Torrey Hayden's class for the most disturbed children, Sheila was just waiting for a bed in the children's psychiatric hospital after tying up a 3year old boy and setting him on fire, though he was rescued, injured but surviving. Torrey found in Sheila a brilliant mind in the body of a 6 year old who had been abandoned by her mother, neglected by her substance abusing father, who brought men home who abused her terribly. Torrey had such hope for Sheila's future she was able to keep her out of the mental institution. Shortly after that, the program Torrey was working for closed. Torrey arranged for Sheila to skip a grade and go into a teacher friends class for the next year. Torrey expected Sheila to continue to thrive. She moved away to graduate school , then joined a private practice clinic. Torrey lost touch with Sheila until she was 14. Things were not as Torrey hoped. Follow Sheila as she moves in and out of Torey's life.

My most favorite author in the entire world. Her book is captivating. I could not put it down until I had finished reading it. What an inspiration this woman is to me both in my personal life and in my professional life working with children. I highly highly recommend this book and ANY book written by

Torey Hayden.

I read this book years ago and lent it out so many times that I lost track of it. I finally gave in and got it on my kindle. Torey Hayden's book *One Child* was a life-changing read; this is the follow-up to that book. The true story of a teacher's relationship with her student is not always pretty, but it's real and it's compelling. Love and compassion can change the course of a person's life, and Hayden proves this once again.

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