

Book Title: The Tiger's Child

Author: Torey Hayden

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The Tiger's Child is a true story and a sequel to *One Child*, another book by Torey Hayden. In *The Tiger's Child*, Hayden reconnects with Sheila, one of her former special education students brought to her at age 6. Sheila was an abused little girl with many behavior problems who grew up in poverty and was abandoned by her mother at age 4. Her father is an alcoholic and drug addict. In *The Tiger's Child*, 7 years have passed since Hayden has seen Sheila.

In this book, Hayden comes to the rescue once again for this troubled young teenager and is finally able to reach the girl who touched her life so many years ago. As I read the book, I understood the depths of Sheila's unhappiness. She moves in and out of foster homes as her father moves in and out of prison. She still thinks her mother is trying to find her and is bound and determined to get to her. Sheila needs Hayden more than ever. Hayden was able to help Sheila understand that it is okay to cry and show others that you love them. Hayden made her feel that she could succeed in life.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. I think that if I had read *One Child* before reading *The Tiger's Child* I would have felt an even stronger bond for Sheila. This book made me realize how important teachers can be in the life of a child. Teachers who are unsure of their job choice need to read this. Without this teacher's love for this child, who knows what could have happened to her. The only thing I did not like about this book is that I felt the author spent too much time focusing on the clinic scene. The ending was a complete surprise to me. That is, it was a real-life ending, not a fairy tale ending.