

Book Title: Beautiful Child

Author: Torey Hayden

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Beautiful Child is an account of a teacher's struggle to save a young girl and the monumental efforts it took to maneuver through the bureaucracy to find the help she needed. Venus, a 7-year-old mute child was in obvious pain but unable to voice that pain. She was described as a "hopeless" girl. In this story, Torey Hayden was the dedicated teacher who followed her gut instincts to advocate for Venus. This story also revealed how a child can remain loyal to the abusive world of her past and how difficult it is to escape from it and eventually recover.

This story will touch the heart of any teacher who has battled to overcome obstacles when working with children who are maltreated and have special needs. Hayden's writing reveals how a classroom of students with special needs almost becomes a family, learning and growing from each other's struggles and successes. This story reveals a child's viewpoint of what it was like to be given up on and evaluated as "beyond help." Most importantly, Hayden communicates the significance of advocating for children who endure ill treatment.