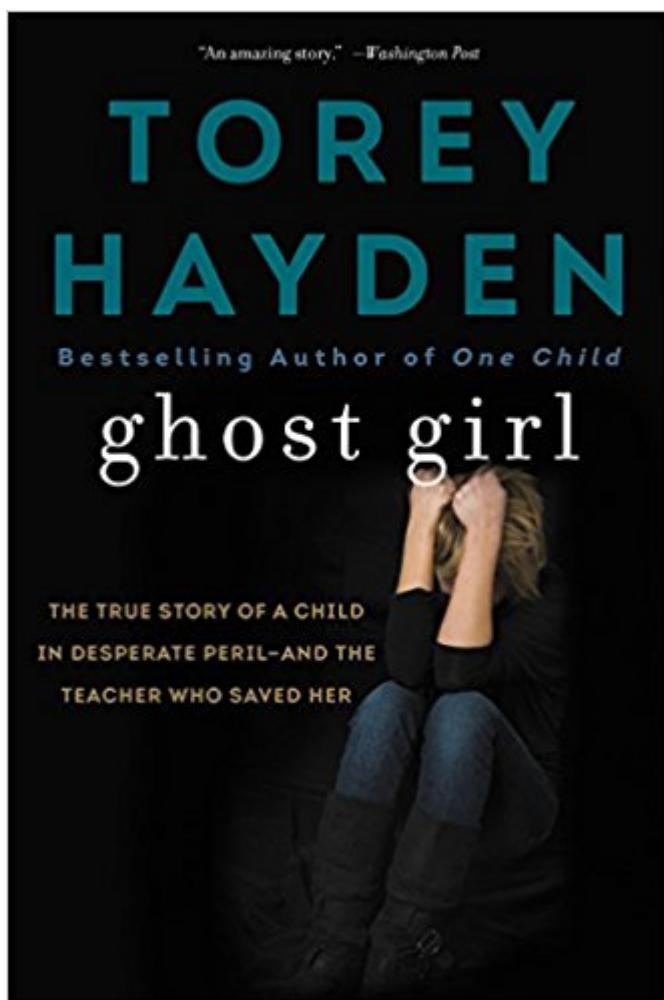


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# Ghost Girl: The True Story Of A Child In Desperate Peril-and A Teacher Who Saved Her



## Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *One Child* comes this compelling, true story of a child in desperate peril and the teacher who saved her despite the odds. *Jadie* never spoke. She never laughed, or cried, or uttered any sound. Despite efforts to reach her, *Jadie* remained locked in her own troubled world—until one remarkable teacher persuaded her to break her self-imposed silence. Nothing in all of *Torey Hayden*'s experience could have prepared her for the shock of what *Jadie* told her—a story too horrendous for *Torey*'s professional colleagues to acknowledge. Yet a little girl was living in a nightmare, and *Torey Hayden* responded in the only way she knew how—with courage, compassion, and dedication—demonstrating once again the tremendous power of love and the resilience of the human spirit. *An amazing story.* • *Washington Post*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ultimately a testament to the powers of caring and commitment, this is the story of an traumatized eight-year-old who refused to speak due to sexual abuse and possible exposure to satanic rituals. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-- *Hayden*'s classroom of emotionally disturbed children consists of *Reuben*, a boy suffering from autism; *Philip*, born to an addict mother and now in foster care; *Jeremiah*, a foul-mouthed fighter;

and Jadie, a girl who never speaks and walks with such hunched posture that she appears to be doubled over. Through patience and determination, Hayden gains Jadie's confidence and gets her to speak, but with her conversation come tales of sexual abuse and ritual acts too horrifying to believe. When Hayden goes to the authorities, the community is reluctant to accept the possibility that Jadie is telling the truth. There are three explanations for her macabre and graphic disclosures: she is either a psychotic child beyond help, a victim of satanic rituals, or she has been used, along with her sisters, to make pornographic films. The conclusion is frustrating because readers never learn which of the three speculations is the truth. Hayden does tell us that today Jadie is a happy and functioning adult and that is some comfort. --Katherine Fitch, Thomas Jefferson Sci-Tech, Fairfax County, VA  
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I find this true Torey Hayden book to be darker than all the rest. It has an air of mystery. We never find out what exactly is going on, all we do know is that there is a very hurt girl, Jadie who is in desperate need of help. The book takes us through events while presenting different possibilities to what could be behind them. Even though the ending isn't settled like a story book, I don't think it should have been. Real life rarely ties up all neatly like a story, but I think Torey Hayden did a wonderful job of explaining each of her theories. This book may be unsettling and hard to read at times, but I did develop care for the main characters, and had no trouble seeing it through. The other students portrayed in the book are interesting and at times funny, you will enjoy most of the classroom scenes! Give it a chance! This story is what hooked me into all of the others. Its the one that has stayed with me the most.

As a long time fan of Torey Hayden and her work, I am drawn again and again to re-read her books, including Ghost Girl. I've taught school, worked with special needs kids in a couple group homes, and have mothered seven myself. Torey's ability to find joy and humor in the often nearly hopeless lives of her students really helped me to find perspective as an educator and a parent. Her insistence that the loud, obnoxious, and (seemingly) unloveable are often an inspiration (because there's a little person fighting to be seen behind the attitude) really helped me to view my challenges as a teacher and mother differently. Quiet, compliant children are sometimes just already convinced they don't matter much, and being reminded of that helped me too. There is not necessarily a nice, story book ending to the story of Jadie, a severely traumatized child who was either psychotic or was being ritually abused by members of an occult group. Life is like that; messy, chaotic, dynamic,

unpredictable. Also, Torey Hayden was a youngish professional at the time, who was often made to feel inadequate or off base by 'seasoned' professionals who knew better, and who were not open to new ideas about special education. Again, like the rest of real life, hindsight is 20/20, and we all can look back later in life and wish we'd seen more clearly, acted more decisively, or swam more forcefully upstream. Torey's honesty in writing about her own second thoughts made the story more compelling, in my opinion. The lack of a nice tidy ending is frustrating in exactly the way real life is frustrating. So often, we don't get the happy ending payoff we all wish for. However, for those stating that Torey's other books had better endings, I bet to differ. Sheila, the abused and neglected little six year old in "One Child" did great in third grade, then was thrown back into foster care, abused, neglected, and worst of all, was never even told she was gifted, and was never tracked for academics. The system forgot her. Torey found her and reconnected, in "The Tiger's Child", but by then Sheila, a hostile teen in a juvenile detention facility, thought Torey, not her mother, had dumped her on a freeway. Torey's story of reconnecting with her, her horror at discovering that no one in social services had tracked Sheila or advocated for her, and her efforts to put some of the pieces back together for this 'one child' are marinated in the sad twists of real life. In another of Torey's books, "Just Another Kid", Geraldine, a little girl from Belfast, Ireland, is so severely damaged by the violence in the community and in her family that she pretty much ends up institutionalized for life. No happy ending there either. Frustrating when there's not a perfect ending? Yes. But the resilience of every teacher and social worker who slogs away, trying to make a difference one child at a time, in spite of messy lives, disappointing odds, and unpredictable results, is to be celebrated all the more for the guts it takes to stick it out rather than finding a happier fiction book to escape into. Real life is hard work! Torey Hayden and the stories of "her" kids challenge me over and over again to find joy in the journey, and to remember that living with heart is, in the end, better than living perfectly.

This is an amazing book one that really touches your heart. She is someone I would love to meet! If you have not read any of her books I would say start with this book. You will see how she works with this child and how much her understanding helps her.

Torey is great at bringing the reader into the class room with her. You feel like you are there watching the story unfold. My heart aches for these kids.

Wow!!! I just got this in the mail from and I can't put it down. I have read 3 books by Torey Hayden, this

is my 4th.... and it is phenomenal! I absolutely love her descriptions, they really bring the book to life. I'm hooked on Torey Hayden books!!!!

I had to read this book for a class in college and I wasn't disappointed. Since I am going into the teaching field I thought it was great that Jade or Jadie was helped by a teacher. The book however is a little disturbing. It is an easy read but be warned is a book that will keep you wanting to know more but is also about a subject most people don't want to hear about. It is a good book though if you are looking to read it.

I have read another book by this author. This was a very good book . I read it in one day. I love the relationships she builds with her students. Her style of writing is easy to read and comprehend.

love this book fast shipping

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