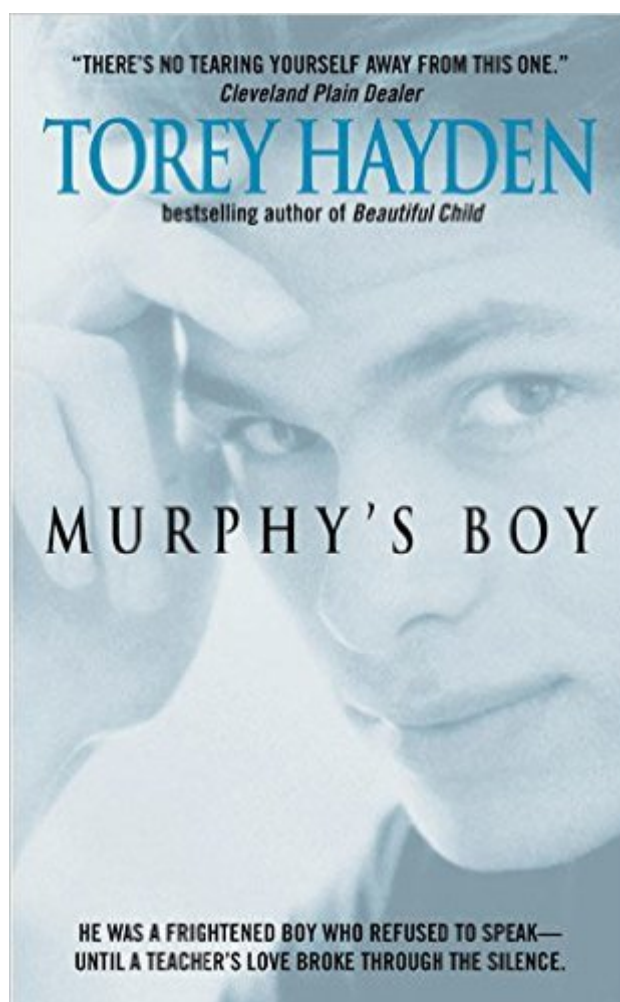# The book was found

Murphy's Boy

Synopsis

His name was Kevin but his keepers called him Zoo Boy. He didn't talk. He hid under tables and surrounded himself with a cage of chairs. He hadn't been out of the building in the four years since he'd come in. He was afraid of water and wouldn't take a shower. He was afraid to be naked, to change his clothes. He was nearly 16. Desperate to see change in the boy, the staff of Kevin's adolescent treatment center hired Hayden. As Hayden read to him and encouraged him to read, crawling down into his cage of chairs with him, Kevin talked. Then he started to draw and paint and showed himself to have a quick wit and a rolling, seething, murderous hatred for his stepfather.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #241,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #66 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Abuse   #234 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Special Needs   #646 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology

Customer Reviews

When readers are first introduced to Kevin, then 15, he is a ward of the state in a psychiatric facility. He has barricaded himself under a table and his voice had been unheard since his admission to the place when he was seven.In time, Kevin is drawn out from under the table and begins using materials provided during therapy sessions to free himself from his internal torment. Kevin, described as a skilled artist, used drawing to present events that took place early in his life. In time, Kevin begins to speak and he discloses an early life replete with brutality and horror; he and his sisters were sexually abused and beaten by their stepfather and one younger sister was beaten to death. Kevin and this sister were especially close and it is through dogged determination that the child's school, death and social services records are unearthed. The girl had been "buried" twice: the first time when she was killed and the second time when the social services bureaucratic agencies involved in Kevin's case felt that disclosure of the child's murder would preclude him from

being viewed objectively. This reasoning seems bizarre and is never explained.Kevin's natural expression was often poignant; in one passage, he talks of "mirror-ghosts;" people who have, in his words died of "heart rot" because they have never been loved. The song "Where is Love" from "Oliver!" would be the song to underscore a good portion of this book.Kevin's progress accelerates; he learns to swim over the summer after some setbacks; he works with another child who is part of the Big Sister/Big Brother program and the pair appear to work well together; by fall of that year, Kevin was given a clean bill of health and promoted to a group home.

I read this book in high school & recently re-read it. Torey is to be commended for her undying idealism & hope with severely disturbed kids. Also excellent was the vivid description of elective mutism...a little known psychological re-action to trauma & fear where a person, usually a child goes MUTE & doesn't speak at all. (If you read Ann Martin's Baby-Sitters' Club #131, Mary Anne Spier goes through something similar when her house burns to the ground-she goes nearly mute in fear). Torey gets Kevin to speak with patience & understanding. I love how she probes into the human mind & not only with Kevin, but with other people in her life, she has a fascination for why people behave the way they do. When Kevin finally gets the courage to speak, he reveals horrifying abuse in his background & one awful incident where he watched his sister get beaten to death! The way the sister's death was described was really shocking & chilling & even more scary was that Torey discovers that this abusive stepfather was allowed to return home after only four years in prison! Boy, Kevin's mother was APPALLING in that she chose to keep her awful husband at home & put Kevin in an institition! Poor Kevin! I could see why he had a lot of hate & anger toward both of them. It was good that Torey got angry at that piece of information. I'm a writer & some people consider me a bit peculiar myself & once someone asked me if I identified with the kids Torey worked with & I said no, I identify with Torey because Torey is idealistic, liberal & open-minded like me. I'm also interested in what makes people act they way they do.

Professor Murphy's Juggling Balls (Professor Murphy's Emporium of Entertainment) Murphy's Boy Murphy Meets the Treadmill The Search for Bridey Murphy The Coldest Fear (A Jack Murphy Thriller) Razor: A Bad Boy Stepbrother Romance (Bad Boy Stepbrothers Book 2) Boy Meets Girl (The Boy Series) Bad Boy Billionaire: The Complete Series (A Bad Boy Alpha Billionaire Romance) Bad Boy Daddy (Naughty Boy Book 1) Going Through Puberty: A Boy’s Manual for Body, Mind, and Health (What Now?) A Boy and His Baseball (The Dave Dravecky Story) My Potty Reward Stickers for Boys: 126 Boy Potty Training Stickers and Chart to Motivate Toilet Training

Once Upon a Potty -- Boy Boy Meets Girl: Say Hello to Courtship Bakertowne's Price Guide To Goebel's Co-Boy Gnomes The Best of Boys' Life: For All Boys- Celebrating the Centenary of the Founding of the Boy Scouts of America BRAIN BOY A NEW KIND OF SUPERHERO FOR THE 1960s: THIS AIN'T NO KIDS BOOK! ALL 6 ISSUES FROM 1962-3 - OVER 200 PAGES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA AND MIND-BENDING ACTION Boy reading to elephant Mexico City exhibition (standard poster) (Ashes and Snow Posters) Counted Cross Stitch Pattern: "Flash Boy Superhero" Comic Book Hero For Kids With 9 Alphabets To Personalize Your Hero (Kids Are Heroes Series) The Southern Po' Boy Cookbook: Mouthwatering Sandwich Recipes from the Heart of New Orleans