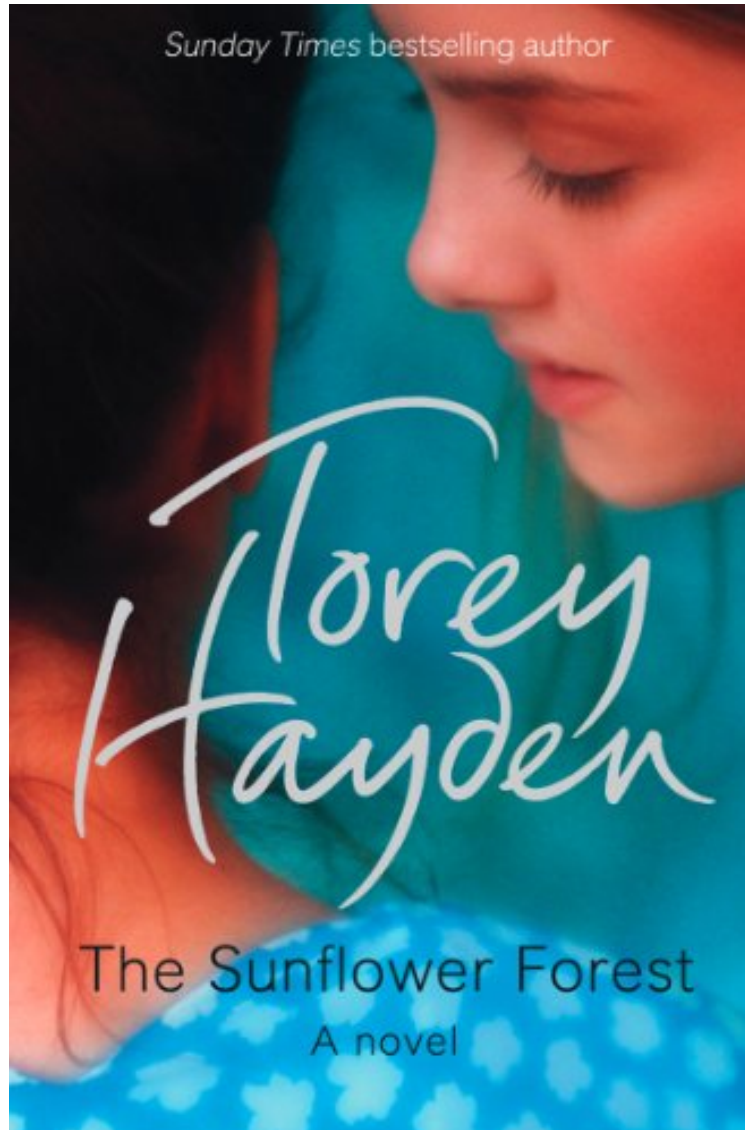


[Ebook free] The Sunflower Forest

The Sunflower Forest

Von *Torey Hayden*

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Von Torey Hayden : The Sunflower Forest before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sunflower Forest:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beauty ExpandsVon Ein KundeThis story is set in Kansas in 1978. The protagonist, Lesley is at the opening of the story a 12th grader who has an unusually high level of maturity. In fact, she seems more believable as someone upward of age 25 than a minor still in high school!Lesley has plenty of issues to mature her. Her mother, Mara, a Hungarian WWII

Holocaust survivor slips into a hazy state between delusions and reality; her sister Megan, then 9 whom I found spoiled and obnoxious. Megan is an added major challenge. I found Megan extremely irritating, most insufferable and unpleasant and just could not like her. The girls' father, O'Malley, is a gentle, loving man who tries to smooth things over for his family. Mara, always a tad unstable, relives the atrocities she survived during the war years. Captured by the Nazis and imprisoned in a breeding farm, Mara loses the two sons she bears while in captivity. Her second son dies shortly after birth and her first son, Klaus, is whisked away never to be seen again. Mara never accepts losing this first child; once released, she spends the remainder of her life searching for him. Matters reach a critical head when Mara spies a neighbor's child and insists that he is Klaus. He goes along with her because he enjoys the attention and gifts he receives. Lesley tries to monitor Mara and balancing Mara and Megan (I thought Megan was just plain loathsome) is a juggling act that proves daunting. Mara is never able to accept the reality of her life and is ultimately consumed by her fantasies. The family sadly picks up the pieces after her death and Lesley decides to visit Wales, the place her parents talked about so fondly. Shortly after graduation, Lesley travels to Wales and is taken in by a young Welsh family. She learns that the place Mara spoke about so longingly, The Sunflower Forest was yet a distorted form of beauty. Although the Sunflower Forest is nothing like Mara's accounts, Lesley is still able to see beauty in the most daunting of conditions. It is in Wales that she accepts Mara, warts and all and even forgives her. It is in Wales that she learns about a side of her parents that had previously been undisclosed. It is in Wales that Lesley redefines beauty. It seems from the reading that Lesley learns that beauty can be wishes or feelings as opposed to what traditionally appeals to the eye. Her response to the mountains is similarly symbolic; the mountains, solid, grounded, seemingly insurmountable are naturally beautiful. Lesley metaphorically scaled many a mountain in the face of daunting odds and appears to identify with them. The mountains can be interpreted as a contrast to Mara; whereas they are fixed and grounded, Mara was sadly far from stability. Armed with this added wisdom, Lesley is able to feel more acceptance of others and share what she has learned. Despite Mara's mental fragility and the havoc she has caused, she unwittingly helped Lesley develop a more inclusive sense of "beauty."

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
aanrijpend
Von Stiefel
Het boek is zeer indrukwekkend, weer een heel pakkend boek van Torey Hayden. Zie de beschrijving van mijn voorganger. Ik heb het boek in een adem uitgelezen en was daarna nog dagenlang in de ban van het verhaal.

Kurzbeschreibung
Bestselling author Torey Haydens novel poignantly tells of a daughters attempt to grow up in the shadow of her mothers haunted past. Warm, melancholy and evocatively rendered this book captures the essence of a family touched by sadness. A haunting tale of a family who can't escape the consequences of their mother's tormented childhood. Hayden, a master storyteller, again turns her talent to fiction in this novel that combines a psychological thriller with a nuanced family drama. Lesleys Hungarian mother Mara charming, childlike, lovable is traumatized by her adolescent Holocaust experiences. Though her American husband and daughters try to live a normal life, Mara holds them thrall to her moods and quirks. Lesley struggles to understand, but dealing with Mara is a severe strain which sets her apart from her peers. But when Maras psychosis results in tragedy, Lesley goes to Wales in search of her mothers remembered joy.

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"Torey Hayden deserves the kind of respect I can't give many people. She isn't just valuable, she's incredible. The world needs more like Torey Hayden." Boston Globe

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