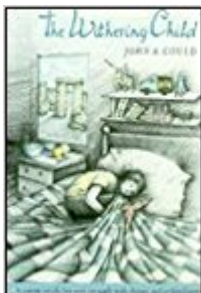


The book was found

The Withering Child



Synopsis

When his parents moved to England from the United States, five-year-old Gardner developed anorexia and lost a third of his body weight. Told from a father's perspective, "The Withering Child" is the story of a young boy's profound reaction to the disruptive forces of change.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Univ of Georgia Pr; No Edition Stated edition (November 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0820315605

ISBN-13: 978-0820315607

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #4,342,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Eating Disorders](#) #2918 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Eating Disorders](#) #34387 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments](#)

Customer Reviews

In August of 1990, Gould (*The Greenleaf Fires*), a secondary school English teacher, his wife Jane, an Episcopal priest, and their two young children left their Boston home for a year's sabbatical in England. By November they had returned, hoping to save their five-year-old son's life. Shortly after their arrival in Oxford, the sensitive, stubborn and active Gardner complained of leg and stomach cramps. He was given to vomiting, stopped eating and often screamed from pain. His increasingly desperate parents sought help with little success. Gardner lost nearly a third of his body weight and one night, seemingly resigned to death, he told his father to give his favorite toy to a friend. Gould chronicles the horror of parents watching their child deteriorate. He reports on Gardner's restored health back home: the diagnosis of borderline attention deficit disorder, therapy and his return to school. With this unsentimental, unsensationalized profile, Gould makes an eloquent plea that guardians should see children as individuals with their own rhythms and developmental timetables, and that they understand that children can have problems that are not due to faulty parenting. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A family drama and a literary guidebook uneasily cohabiting within the same covers--the former riveting, the latter frustratingly beside the point. In the fall of 1990, John and Jane Gould, an English teacher and Episcopal priest, respectively, move to Oxford for a year's sabbatical, bringing with them their two young sons. Sam, two, adjusts fine, but five-year-old Gardner, always an inflexible and rather difficult child, stops eating. At first his parents chalk it up to the strangeness of the new English environment (where the hot dogs taste like boiled suet) but, as the weeks pass, Gardner gets no better. He wakes up most nights vomiting and writhing with leg cramps, and grows so weak and listless that, finally, the head of the school he's attending can't cope with him. Adding to the distress, the Goulds are provoked into behavior they swore they would never engage in: There are some harrowing scenes of this idealistic English teacher and his priestly wife lapsing into verbal abuse of their suffering, intractable child for ruining the year both have looked forward to for so long and have invested so many scarce resources to bring about. As if to demonstrate that some good came out of this blighted journey, Gould includes accounts of visits he managed to make to literary landmarks--but these belong in another book. At last, after four months in England, when Gardner has dropped one third of his body weight, the Goulds face the inevitable and head home. Stateside, the boy quickly recovers and, through counseling, his parents begin to understand the limitations and quirks of his nature that made him almost fatally unable to adapt to the move. The Goulds also begin to forgive themselves, and to consider the loss of their dream a small price to pay for the restoration of their son's--and their entire family's--health. Except for the extraneous travelogue: an unusually powerful story of a family in crisis. -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Withering Child The Tiger's Child: The Story of a Gifted, Troubled Child and the Teacher Who Refused to Give Up On (One Child) Fire Child, Water Child: How Understanding the Five Types of ADHD Can Help You Improve Your Child's Self-Esteem and Attention LEE CHILD: SERIES READING ORDER: MY READING CHECKLIST: JACK REACHER SERIES, JACK REACHER SHORT STORIES, HAROLD MIDDLETON SERIES, SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS BY LEE CHILD, LEE CHILD ANTHOLOGIES The Out-of-Sync Child: Recognizing and Coping with Sensory Processing Disorder (The Out-of-Sync Child Series) War Child: A Child Soldier's Story Natural Relief for Your Child's Asthma: A Guide to Controlling Symptoms & Reducing Your Child's Dependence on Drugs Parenting Your Complex Child: Become a Powerful Advocate for the Autistic, Down Syndrome, PDD, Bipolar, or Other Special-Needs Child Laying Community Foundations for Your Child with a Disability: How to Establish Relationships That Will Support Your Child After

You're Gone The Myth of the A.D.D. Child: 50 Ways Improve your Child's Behavior attn Span w/o
Drugs Labels or Coercion Your Child in Pictures: The Parents' Guide to Photographing Your
Toddler and Child from Age One to Ten A Child Called It: One Child's Courage to Survive Beautiful
Child: The True Story of a Child Trapped in Silence and the Teacher Who Refused to Give Up on
Her I Speak For This Child: True Stories of a Child Advocate Colors & Shapes (Brighter Child
Workbooks Brighter Child Preschool Workbooks) The Whole-Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary
Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind, Survive Everyday Parenting Struggles, and
Help Your Family Thrive This Child, Every Child: A Book about the World's Children (CitizenKid)
Grieving the Child I Never Knew: A Devotional for Comfort in the Loss of Your Unborn or Newly
Born Child Caring for Your School Age Child: Ages 5-12 (Child Care S) Nolo's Essential Guide to
Child Custody and Support (Nolo's Essential Guide to Child Custody & Support)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)