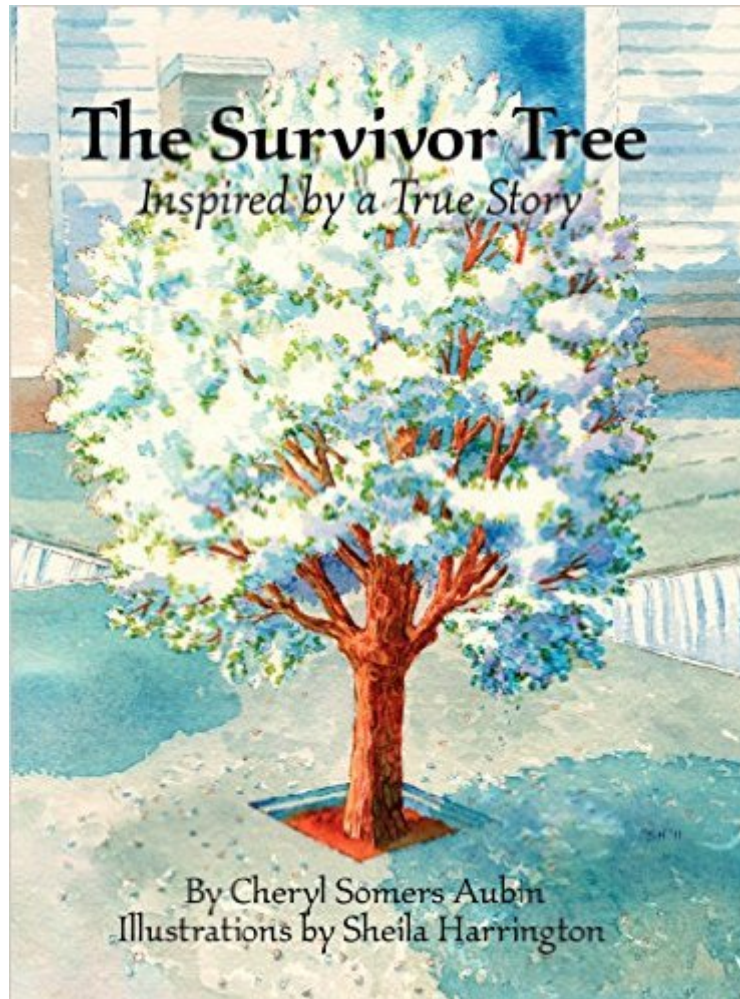


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# The Survivor Tree: Inspired By A True Story



## Synopsis

Through evocative prose and watercolor illustrations, *The Survivor Tree: Inspired by a True Story* takes the reader on a journey of hope and healing that parallels our nation's own journey following the events of September 11, 2001. A month after the collapse of the Twin Towers, workers on the site discovered a few green leaves showing through the gray concrete and ash. Clearing the debris, they found a badly injured Callery Pear Tree. She was rescued, taken to a nursery outside the city, and put in the care of Richie, a City Parks Worker. No one was sure if she would live. But the following spring, a dove built a nest in her branches and new green buds appeared. Over the years, the tree, although still bearing scars, grew tall and strong. She is planted in a place of honor on the 9/11 Memorial Plaza and now known as "The 9/11 Survivor Tree." This story imaginatively describes the experience, memories, and feelings of the tree throughout her healing and her eventual return home. All profits from the sale of this book go to charity.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 44 pages

Publisher: Callery Press (July 29, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0983833400

ISBN-13: 978-0983833406

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #25,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States](#) #3254 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Beautifully written true story of loss, healing, and recovery of the survivor tree at the World Trade Center after 9/11. The message is helpful for all ages and especially for those dealing with setbacks in life. The lovely illustrations enhance the story. A heart warming and healing gift for anyone suffering loss.

"The Survivor Tree," by Cheryl Somers Aubin, and beautifully illustrated by Sheila Harrington, has

warmed, melted, and deeply touched my heart. The core message of this book is that "survivors can heal" - and that even though those of us who survive any kind of life-ordeal may be scarred and damaged, we can still be beautiful. The illustrations are exquisite, and touch me deeply - they perfectly complement the story. A delightful You Tube video interview with Cheryl shares how she was inspired to write this book, succinctly captures the story line, and shows several of the deeply moving illustrations. This is a book that I will give to friends who have undergone any kind of challenging life-ordeal, from which they emerge as "survivors." It has a reach well beyond those impacted by 9/11, to the broader community of those who "survive" harrowing experiences. It will deeply help their healing process.

This book is remarkable for being perhaps the very first 9-11 tale written with children in mind. It deftly acknowledges that a terrible thing happened that day, without dwelling on the awful details. Instead, the author has chosen to write a story of survival, resurrection, hope, caring, and optimism. She has chosen the device of giving feelings, thoughts and emotions -- even vision -- to the plucky little pear tree that miraculously survived under the smoldering mountain of 9-11 debris. And it works, giving the story a touching poignancy as the reader truly feels the tree's pain and fears -- and the joy of recovery. All readers, both children and adults, will be moved by this beautifully told and illustrated story of rebirth.

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book that has cross-over appeal to both children and adults. It's about the pear tree that grew on the World Trade Center Plaza until 9/11/2001 when it was covered in rubble. Later workers noticed its leaves poking through the ash and began the tree's recovery process. The story is one of hope that out of the ashes like the phoenix we can rise. I loved the light water color drawings as well as the lovely accompanying prose. Its underlying message reminds me of Whitman's LEAVES OF GRASS; the way the shoot finds its way to the light every spring reminds us nothing and no one ever really dies. This is also the lovely message of this book.

I first found out about the Survivor Tree from a former student. I did a little investigating on YouTube and then found out there was a book out about the tree. I had to have it! I can only tell you that I am inspired again and again by the living symbol of hope that the tree brings to my heart as I read each beautifully illustrated page. The book is told from the perspective of the tree and I am often moved to tears by the feelings that the story triggers. I love the seasonal flashbacks of the entire plaza before and after 9/11. I am an avid gardener and one of my greatest joys is to nurse a plant back to

health and watch it flourish. This book brings me new joy as I share it with others. Beauty out of ashes!

A great story to read at the 10th anniversary of 9/11. While the story is a beautiful one that is specific to a tree that barely survived the horror that was 9/11 at the twin towers, this story will definitely inspire and give strength and be comforting to anyone (child or adult) who has survived a trying time in their lives.

Those of us who hold vivid memories of 9/11 will read this book for its healing message of hope and redemption, but the book will be even more important for the generation who did not live through this terrible time. As history processes this event, I am so glad that this story will endure, and that, through it, children will be able to internalize this horrible event in such a beautiful way. A tree, as this story tells, is much more than just a tree!

I have read and reread this book. There is something new to discover each time. I have given this book to several children fighting cancer. It is a story of hope and survival and appropriate for kids, teens and adults. It is a great book to talk about feelings of sadness, anger, hope without the horrific details of 9-11. I plan to visit the actual tree in NY after reading this book.

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The Boxer: The True Story of Holocaust Survivor Harry Haft  
Children's book: The Magical Mango Tree: The blooming secret of the mango tree in Venezuela, a success story for Early-level readers ages 6-8  
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