

# The Orchid and the Dandelion

Why Some Children  
Struggle and How  
All Can Thrive

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# The Orchid and the Dandelion: Why Some Children Struggle and How All Can Thrive



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In one of the world's foremost researchers and pioneers of pediatric health--a book that provides hope and a pathway to achievement for parents, teachers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and child development experts coping with "difficult" children, fully exploring the author's groundbreaking discovery about childhood development, parenting, and the key to helping all children look for happiness and achievement. In Tom Boyce's extraordinary new reserve, he explores the "dandelion" child (hardy, resilient, healthful), able to survive and flourish under most conditions, and the "orchid" kid (delicate, susceptible, fragile), who, provided the proper support, can thrive as much as, if not more than, other children."--Susan Cain, author of *Quiet: THE ENERGY of Introverts*. they are a different group of child, with special sensitivities and strengths, and need to be nurtured and taught in special ways. But rather than viewing this "risk" gene as a liability, Boyce, through his daring research, has recast just how we think about human frailty, and shows that while these "poor" genes can create problems, they are able to also, in the right setting and the proper environment, bring about producing children who not merely do much better than before but far go beyond their peers. "Predicated on groundbreaking research which has the power to change the lives of countless children--and the adults who love them. And in *The Orchid and the Dandelion*, Boyce displays us how exactly to understand these children because of their unique sensibilities, their significant challenges, their remarkable presents. Boyce writes of his pathfinding study as a developmental pediatrician working with troubled kids in child-development research for almost four years, and explores his main discovery that reveals how genetic make-up and environment form behavior. He writes that certain variant genes can boost someone's susceptibility to depression, anxiety, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and antisocial, sociopathic, or violent behaviors. Orchid children, Boyce makes clear, are not failed dandelions;



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