



0. THEY DID NOT TAKE MY SOUL - Story Preface

1. A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

2. CHILD OF THE SILENT NIGHT

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On the 8th of April, 1961, Helen Keller and her personal secretary, Evelyn Seide, met with President Kennedy. Abbie Rowe, a White-House photographer, took the picture from which this image is cropped. The [photo is online](#) via the JFK Presidential Library and Museum. Click on the image to see more closely how Ms. Keller communicated via finger-spelling.

After [Polly Thomson](#) died, Helen Keller continued to [make appearances](#) until she suffered her first stroke, in October of 1961. The next year, a film version of *The Miracle Worker* (with [Anne Bancroft](#) and Patty Duke) was released. It won Oscars for both stars.

Although retired from public life, Helen received America's highest civilian honor - the Presidential Medal of Freedom - in 1964. A year later, she received another honor when she was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame.

Helen's long and [eventful life](#) closed on June 1, 1968, when she died in her sleep. The ashes of this remarkable 88-year-old pioneer were interred [at America's National Cathedral](#) where they now rest (in the [Chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea](#)) between those of two other special people - Annie Sullivan and Polly Thomson.



Although she has been gone for more than four decades, Helen Keller's words still resonate. Among the most poignant, are these from "Mine to Keep" (found on the back cover of her book *The Faith of Helen Keller*):

*They took away what should have been my eyes
(But I remembered Milton's Paradise).*

*They took away what should have been my ears,
(Beethoven came and wiped away my tears).*

*They took away what should have been my tongue,
(But I had talked with God when I was young).*

*He would not let them take away my soul -
Possessing that, I still possess the whole.*

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THEY-DID-NOT-TAKE-MY-SOUL-Helen-Keller>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THEY-DID-NOT-TAKE-MY-SOUL-Helen-Keller>

Media Stream



Helen Keller Crypt

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Helen Keller - With Polly Thomson

Image online, courtesy Helen Keller Foundation.

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Helen Keller - Ashes Interred at National Cathedral

Plaque in the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

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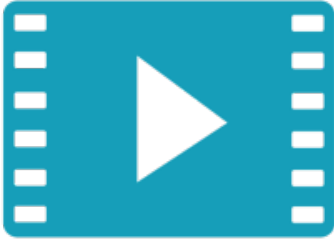
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Helen-Keller-Ashes-Interred-at-National-Cathedral>



THEY DID NOT TAKE MY SOUL

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Helen Keller - Documentary Feature

Clip from *Legends, Icons and Superstars of the 20th Century*.

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