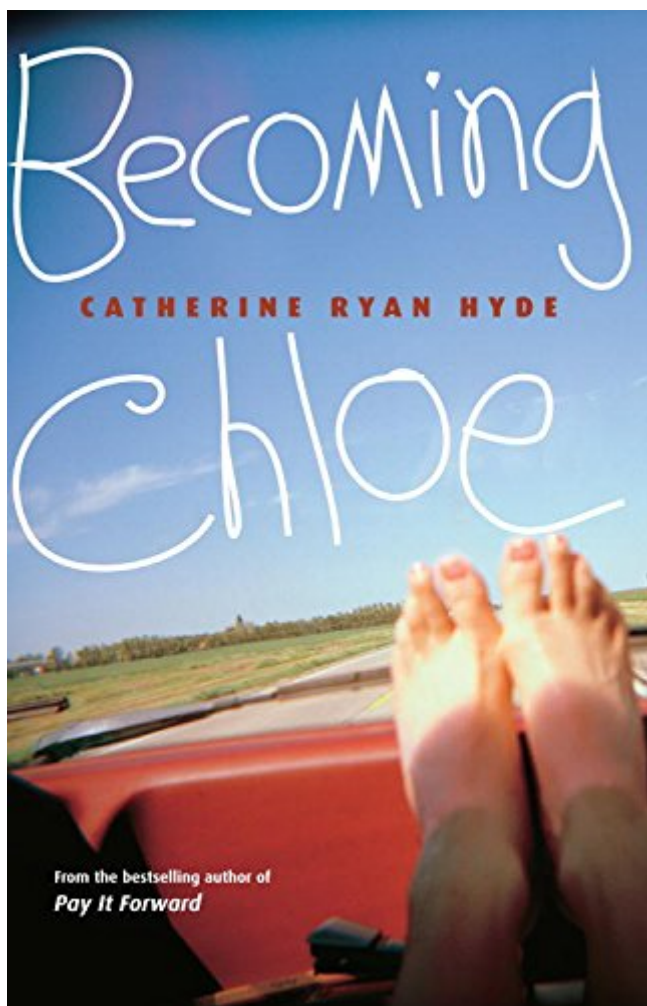


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Becoming Chloe



Synopsis

Meet Jordy. He's on his own in New York City. Nobody to depend on; nobody depending on him. And it's been working fine. Until this girl comes along. She's 18 and blond and pretty. Her world should be perfect. But she's seen things no one should ever see in their whole life. The kind of things that break a person. She doesn't seem broken, though. She seems . . . innocent. Like she doesn't know a whole lot. Only sometimes she does. The one thing she knows for sure is that the world is an ugly place. Now her life may depend on Jordy proving her wrong. So they hit the road to discover the truth and there's no going back from what they find out. This deeply felt, redemptive novel reveals both the dark corners and hidden joys of life and the remarkable resilience of the human soul. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse

Customer Reviews

Nobody creates characters better than this amazing author. And this book is FILLED with such a

variety of totally believable and relatable people I feel as though I have met them all in person! Chloe is a very damaged young teenager - physically and mentally. She meets Jerome (Jody) who has been disowned and thrown out of his family's home as a teenager, when his parents learn that he is Gay. FATE brings the two young people together when Jody witnesses Chloe being gang-raped in an alley and fights off the group. Chloe, living on the streets, is so accustomed to such attacks, she has just accepted them. They become like a brother and sister team and Jody tries to convince her that there is GOOD AND BEAUTY in the world. And he ultimately sets out to show Chloe the places of beauty across the country! Everything from Niagara Falls to the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, etc and to their final destination: Big Sur on the Pacific Ocean. They do all this with practically no money and against all odds. They meet wonderful and terrible people along the way. As always it is the characters that this author so vividly creates that drive the story! And it is a wonderful, heart-wrenching and heart-warming tale! Do not miss this one!

The characters were pretty deep individuals. I liked how the author let you figure that out without going into too much details about their bad experiences in life. You just know what they have been through by how they respond to what's going on in their lives at the moment. Jordan has an old man's spirit in him because he is mature and feels responsibility from the moment he meets Chloe. I loved the details of the sights they visited and experiencing their awe with them. I needed this book to let me remember the beauty in the world. Remind me that it is still there waiting for me to see it and marvel at its greatness. Now I have to go plan a trip from NC to NY and I'm going to see it with different eyes this time.

I have to admit that this is not the type of book I regularly read. If you've followed any of my reviews you will discover that I tend to love assassins and Navy Seals and homicidal maniacs and private eyes and not sweet girls who can hug slobbering Doberman pinchers. But I loved this book. It was a thrill to read but not a thriller. A great story about two young people looking to see if beauty really exists as they travel across the country.

Jordy and Chloe form a friendship out of need and protection and find that they need each other despite their trials and differences. Chloe, a damaged young woman and Jordy a man not accepted by his family because he's gay make the best of friends in their adventure across America. The trip they take helps them heal from a life of despair and they become stronger because of their friendship and their trip.

That is my mantra for every book by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Although i have read most of this author's books, it is worth reading them again. This book is a keeper - when you think there is nothing good in the world, when you listen to the daily news and forget that there are beautiful sites and wonderful people, just read this book and try start a journey of your own.

I really enjoyed this book. It was hard to put down. I want to know what happened to Chloe and Jordy before this journey!

I have read several of Catherine Ryan Hyde's books and have loved many of them. This was not a good one for me. I couldn't relate to the characters. It was all pretty unrealistic how things fell in place for them (how far did they ride the bikes??). There was no real ending. Someone else described it as a dark story, and I would have to agree. The honest truth -- the only reason I gave it 2 stars instead of 1 was because I have liked her other books...

Never Let Me Go had been my favorite Catherine Ryan Hyde book for a while now, but Becoming Chloe swept right in and stole it's place in my heart. I didn't think that would happen, but Becoming Chloe just grabs ahold of you the in the first paragraph and doesn't let go. Not even when the book ends, as I woke up the next day still thinking about Jordy and Chloe. Jordy happens upon Chloe at the worse time in his life. Alone and injured in New York City he comes across Chloe being raped in an alley, and does what he can to stop it. Chloe seems simple minded to say the least, but it could just be a way for her to deal with the trauma's of her past and present. The two forge a bond of friendship that sees them through events I'm sure neither of them could have ever imagined. Jordy, at times, is forced to turn to theft and prostitution just to keep the two of them fed, and a life changing altercation has them leaving New York City to set out on their own. After the death of a man and dog that they both came to care about, Jordy makes it his mission to show Chloe that there is beauty in the world, so they set off cross country to find it."I remember her saying...maybe you could show me. Maybe she didn't mean just take her to the beautiful places. Maybe she meant show her that they were beautiful. Help her see them through my eyes."From New York to California, Jordy points out the beautiful to Chloe. Whether it's Niagara Falls, planting a sign on top of a mountain for a stranger who helped them, the Painted Desert, or horse back riding on the beach in Big Sur, Jordy shows Chloe that there is good in the world, you just have to look for it. It's not always easy, and at times it seems easier to just give up, but we weren't promised a pretty life.

We have to find that on our own. Definitely a 5 star read! Some of my favorite lines: "I find it touching, almost enviable, that a person with so little feels she has all she needs." "...if we go all over everywhere and I'm on the lookout for good, I'll find it." "Total strangers saying hello. If that's not it, where is it? If you can't see it there, you're not trying." "Even if this was the only thing I ever did in my whole life, it would be worth having a life just to do this." "Well, the closer you get to heaven, the less air there is, because when you get to heaven for real you don't need to breathe anymore." "Without her, I might have seen all this and still not known what a beautiful world it is. The saddest fate of all." "Nobody said it was a beautiful world with no scars." "It's like once you get that sense that there's no real security, that anything at all can happen to you, then every minute you're okay is a joy. Part of the joy is feeling like you can make your way in a world that isn't always easy."

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