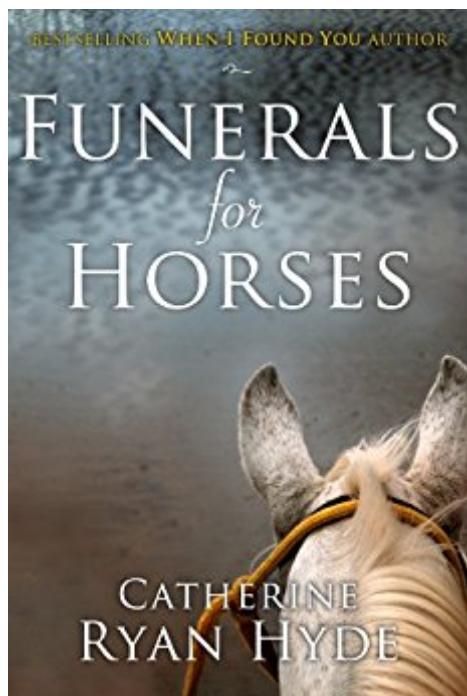


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# Funerals For Horses



## Synopsis

FUNERALS FOR HORSES, Catherine Ryan Hyde's critically acclaimed first novel (initially published in 1997) is a deeply felt and heartrending story of redemption and love, disappearance and faithfulness by the author who would go on to be known for the bestselling DON'T LET ME GO and PAY IT FORWARD. Ella Ginsberg's brother Simon has disappeared. His clothing, shoes and watch were found abandoned near a freight line track in Central California. His jockey shorts and wallet were never found. The police have no clue, and Simon's wife had no warning that anything was wrong. Ella takes off on foot across much of California and Arizona, thinking she can find Simon using nothing but her knowledge of the way he might think. Her search leads her to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, where she is helped and befriended by three Native Americans and an aged paint horse named Yozzie. Ella has serious mental health issues, and Simon, who raised her, is still the most important person in her shaky world. Only maybe it's not as unstable as it looks from the outside. Maybe inside Ella a core of unexpected strength is emerging. Maybe Ella is even stronger than the brother who held her family's lives together for so long. "A tale of sibling loyalty, madness, pain and redemption. In this restrained but compelling narrative, Hyde movingly conveys the toll of years of emotional damage." -Publishers Weekly This "Classic Catherine" Anniversary Edition includes a new Author's Note by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book was a bit off the genre I was looking for when I first discovered CR Hyde, but boy I'm glad I did! In general, I have empathy, but I have never searched for "Extremely dysfunctional" family stories, coupled with mental illness, as topics. Romance, Thrillers, and Historical Fiction, are my usual go to categories. In Catherine's Funeral for Horses you see siblings not only struggling with dysfunction, but the trials and tribulation of someone with mental illness. It sets getting help in a positive light because the protagonist, with the help of her big brother, gets help when she's young. I could not help wishing society would except mental illness as a disease, like any other; especially since the ones in need of help usually have difficulty grasping the idea. As she works through dealing with her disease, it was enlightening to discover there are many ways to read every situation, and the mental ill have something to contribute. It is a heart tug, with spiritual and emotional rollercoasters of switches and turns. It keeps you on the edge wondering if there will be a happy ending, or an ending at all; which means you just can't put this one down! After reading Funeral for Horses I was compelled to read more! I don't think you can go wrong reading any of her work! Kudos Catherine!

...with this book through the first half of the story. I have found that, through all the books I've read by this author, the beginnings of her stories are a set-up for the rest of the book, so I stayed with it. I know better than to put one of Hyde's books down and not pick it up again. I haven't ever done that and can't imagine that I would. Each of her books is a treasure. That said, it was a struggle to get to where I was sympathetic to Ella, her psychoses and such. Once I did, it was smooth sailing. About half way through, there was a change in the roles between Ella and Simon, which was gratifying and scary at the same time. As others here have said, I'm glad I stayed with this story. The end was satisfying, I'm glad to say.

Not an easy read - but a wonderful one. This is her first published novel, and will be one of my favorites (working my way through all her books now). Told through an unreliable narrator POV, the main character is mentally ill throughout the book, and yet her insights regarding people and the way the world works are childlike and true. Her journey, though hard and downward spiraling, is

uplifting. I sobbed at the end. Pick this one up if you don't mind hard hitting novels with truth as a base. I so enjoyed it.

I'm a big fan of Hyde but this book is not her best. It's disjointed and pretty unbelievable, and the characters seem to have been pulled out of thin air to fill a space that fit a strange need, when needed. I purchased it because the protagonist is supposed to be "the crazy one" in her family and I've always stepped to a different drummer. But this is beyond the realm of believable.

wow!! having had a sister that was mentally ill I think this book is amazing. The author so truly portrays Ellas madness that it could be true. I love Catherine Ryan Hyde she has to be a wonderful person to write with such warmth compassion and range of emotions that make you believe everyone in the book is real. Her way of showing how judgemental and cruel people can be and also how accepting and fair others can be and the affect it can have on a person is so right on!! I also loved when I found you. please don't ever change your wonderfully thought provoking stories I couldn't bear it if you started churning out shallow numb books! The book I just finished was so real so real I was therewith Ella from start to finish! keep up the great work!!

....and you know what? i loved each of her books. each book was just so touching, so lyrically written, with characters that are unforgettable, stories that are heartbreaking, but hopeful- at the same time. no spoilers here, but of all of her books that i have read so far, this is one of my very favorites. it is her first novel. i just loved it; i found myself thinking about the characters when i wasn't reading it (which was any chance i got). now, when i see one of this author's books on a kindle sale, i no longer look for how many stars it has, or how many reviews, or what the book is about- i just buy it.....and so should you. i normally read sci-fi, but will read anything that is beautifully written. here is that author- i will read anything she writes. she joins a small cast of (living) authors that i will read everything by: neil gaiman, anne rice, kim stanley robinson, stephen king, and now: catherine ryan hyde. very highly recommended.

Again, a book's subject made me think that some women should not have children. Ella, the main character, has mental problems; her big brother Simon protects her. This makes Ella think as she grows up that Simon is the stronger, but then in their early adulthood Simon disappears. The rest of the book is Ella's quest to find and save Simon. Time and again what you fear happening to her doesn't, but so many intriguing surprises do. What Simon became... Oh, yes, and then there's

Yozzy.

This book was a pleasure tp read. Ecen though at first it twists and strains one's mind. Ar first I almost tossed it to the side, but am very glad I didn't. The book is about connections, with caring, with finding oneself. Our heroine is perusing her brother, who's wife calls and says he has disappeared. and after that, it is like a carousel ride of feelings. f you are just an ordinary human you can never really be these two people and you say Amen about that. There were originally three siblings, the mother is beyond crazy and the father an ugly pervert. Our heroine is the youngest and she has always gone towards horses, a stable being near the place she and this brother lived and so when a old horse comes into her life you feel a great joy of it. I won't go on saying any more would ruin it for those who have not read it yet. Just know if you persist you are in for a great read!!!!!!

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