



The Day I Killed James

By Catherine Ryan Hyde

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IT WASN'T SUPPOSED to end up like this. But it did.

When Theresa brings James to a party as her date, it's just for the night . . . and he knows that. But when everything goes horribly wrong, James drives his motorcycle off a cliff—and Theresa knows she's responsible for his death. Theresa tries to run away from the pain, becoming a new young woman with a whole new life. She meets people, of course, but she never really makes connections—she's too scared she'll hurt them, too. But what Theresa discovers is that you can try to run away from the pain—but you can never really run away from yourself. The only way out is through.

This compelling tale of love and loss is about broken hearts—and how to begin to repair your own.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Theresa's neighbor James has a huge, unrequited crush on her. Theresa loves Randy, who keeps breaking up with her. At a party, she uses James, with his permission, to make Randy jealous. It works: he takes her back, but James leaves the party and drives off a cliff. Convinced she is responsible for his death, Theresa runs away from home, takes on a new identity, and becomes involved in the troubled life of the young girl next door. Her involvement with this child runs deep enough to entwine their lives, and myriad difficulties ensue. When Theresa takes on her new identity, the perspective shifts (first person to third person). This is a bit gimmicky, but it does convey the teen's emotions in trying to escape herself. The author is ambitious and attempts to cover a lot of ground. Theresa has a lot on her plate just trying to deal with her own issues, but by adding abused children, Hyde complicates the protagonist's healing process immensely. Although the teen does grow and has a major turning point, it feels rather forced. The book is filled with snappy, sarcastic, sitcom dialogue and stock characters—the confused teen, the user boyfriend, the tough kid with the soft center. Still, the pacing is brisk, and the story is edgy and bold, with drinking, smoking, runaways, sexual banter, flirting, and murder. Older teens will be captivated, and the cover does a terrific job of selling the book.—*Geri Diorio, The Ridgefield Library, CT*

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Review

"Starkly told" and "Emotionally honest." --VOYA

"Both raw and witty." --Kliatt

"Journal entries and brief chapters keep readers engaged...the quiet, powerful admonition permeates this novel: Be careful with other people's hearts...[an] original, gripping story." --Kirkus

About the Author

CATHERINE RYAN HYDE is the author of four other young adult novels: *Becoming Chloe*, *The Year of My Miraculous Reappearance*, *Jumpstart the World*, and *Diary of a Witness*. She is the best-selling and award-winning author of 20 published and forthcoming books, including the acclaimed *WHEN YOU WERE OLDER*, *DON'T LET ME GO*, *SECOND HAND HEART*, *WHEN I FOUND YOU*. New Kindle editions of her backlist titles *FUNERALS FOR HORSES*, *EARTHQUAKE WEATHER AND OTHER STORIES*, *ELECTRIC GOD*, and *WALTER'S PURPLE HEART* are now available. Forthcoming frontlist titles are *WALK ME HOME* and *WHERE WE BELONG*. Her bestselling novel *PAY IT FORWARD* inspired the movie of the same name. The Richard and Judy Book Club, the UK's equivalent of the Oprah book club, launched *LOVE IN THE PRESENT TENSE* and subsequent novels onto the bestseller list in the UK. Learn much more about the author, maybe even more than you wanted to know, at catherineryanhyde.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry Jensen:

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