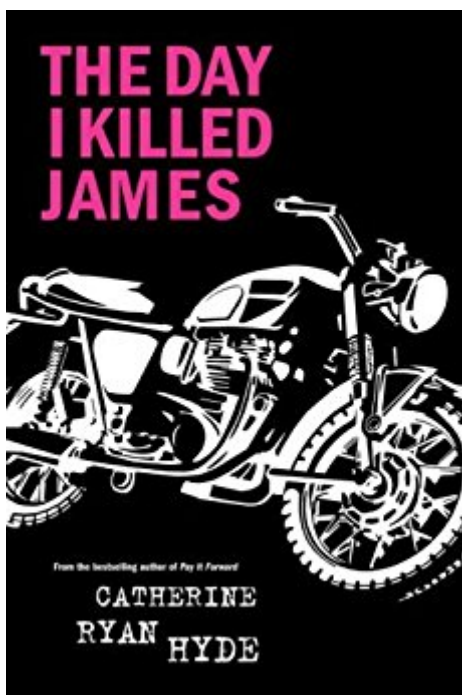


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The Day I Killed James



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read most of her books and this was very entertaining as well. This was different from the standpoint of the narration told more like a story or movie, jumping back and forth from past to

present. That, to me, was the best part of the book. I also liked the bits of humor intertwined with the narrative. This story teaches a valuable lesson to young people and I highly recommend it to women, especially, under 25, to remind them not to blame themselves whenever something turns out badly. The only reason I didn't give this 5 stars is because it is more for younger people.

To be honest, I never read the reviews, so I was part way into the book before I realized that this was a novel for young adults. And knowing that, I think it is a good story of love, fear, guilt and redemption. The characters are lovely, and I am especially fond of James's mother. If I had a class with students of the appropriate age level, I would like to use this book for a study. There are sections I would question, for example, glossing over the death of the young girl's brother and a father who does not even try to interact. But in all, it was a very interesting story, and from what I have known about young adults, I think the catalyst which causes the death of James is probably more common than we would care to admit. Especially liked the journal style of telling the reader where we are in the story.

Started out not liking it much as her other novels (all of which I've read - I'm a fan!), but it quickly engaged me with its unexpected twists and turns. Ultimately her novels showcase human resilience, and this is no different. Great read on a summer camping trip!

This story is written in the form of a girl journaling about how she played the major part in someone's death. It starts backwards from parts of the ending which gets confusing, and it doesn't help either that she talks mostly to herself. However, keep plugging away because as it ends, she really does ring loud and clear with some awesome insights as to how we come to blame ourselves for what at the time might have seemed like innocent or indifferent actions. An eye opener for sure.

I would almost go so far as to recommend any of Catherine Ryan Hyde's books before I have read them. There is always "the moral to the story is" in each of her books that really touch me. Although this is a book for teenagers and young adults as are several of her books, I find it doesn't make any difference, it is still suitable for all ages. I have experienced all the emotions attributed to Annie in the story as I lost an adult son to suicide four years ago. I know guilt, it was my best friend for the first two years. I now know about depression but didn't recognize it soon enough. And forgiveness figures into all of her stories. I definitely think teenagers should read this book, it will give them insight and understanding if they ever have to deal with losing a classmate or friend to suicide. It will

surely make them more conscience of what they say or do that could have a lasting effect on others. In the whole scheme of things, we are responsible for others and their wellbeing. "The Day I Kill James" will explain it very well and I believe if it is Hyde's first book you read, you will seek out all her books quickly.

The story took f o r e v e r to get to the heart of the subject. To be perfectly honest, I would have to say I only kept reading to the end because I wanted to know how it would end. If I really hated it, I wouldn't have bothered to read to the end. Of course I am no one to talk, having never written a book myself.

I really like Catherine Ryan Hyde's books, so I decided to buy yet another one, The Day I Killed James. I did enjoy it, but it was really short compared to her other books I've read. I felt like there could've been more detail and depth in certain places. But overall, it was a really good story, and a good look at how we often blame ourselves for things that are not our fault.

The heart, the first thing God looks at. How precious is a heart? If we are careless with a person's heart, it can have lasting effect on lots of hearts. This story is about life's effects on our heart. How we handle our own heart and how we handle others hearts make a huge difference in how we live our lives! You can't miss reading this book!!!

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