



# Funerals for Horses

*By Catherine Ryan Hyde*

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## Funerals for Horses By Catherine Ryan Hyde

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.

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## **Funerals for Horses** By Catherine Ryan Hyde Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Ella Ginsberg, the narrator of this debut novel, comes from a dysfunctional home: her sister commits suicide, her mother descends into psychosis, and her father is imprisoned. Ella, who feels she was "born the wrong species," escapes into her own private world and is protected by her brother, Simon, who takes over the parental reins in their dissolving family. As a growing adult, Ella discovers the tragedy of her abnormal behavior through the help of a therapist. Simon, on the other hand, who never dealt with the horrors in their family, disappears one day without warning from what appears to be a happy family and a successful career. Ella embarks on a journey to recover her brother and, in a series of dramatic episodes, learns to accept her past and move on with her life. Hyde, a noted short story writer, successfully offers a rich blend of metaphors and genuine characters that will touch the hearts of readers. Highly recommended for all collections. David A. Berona, Univ. of New England, Biddeford, Me.  
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Review

"Brutally lyrical . . . Compelling." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"Hypnotizing." -- *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*

Every true work of art creates a world subject to its own laws. San Luis Obispo writer Catherine Ryan Hyde's enchanting first novel, "Funerals for Horses," adroitly illustrates that point. The book blends the narrator's realistic bout of mental illness with a quixotic search through the desert for her missing brother. Far from raising skepticism, this juxtaposition--of the stuff of reality with that of fable and epic journey--results in a compelling evocation of a world in which hidden purposes abound and all creatures of goodwill are linked by subterranean currents of understanding and sympathy. [A] moving novel of mourning, celebration and salvation. -- *Evelin Sullivan, The San Francisco Chronicle, July 27, 1997*

In her brilliantly wrought, finely plotted first novel, Hyde sends Ella into the Sonoran desert to find her missing brother whom she adopted many years before as her interim God. Ella's red rock journey detours through a parallel hell as we flash back to her terrorized childhood and explore the depths of her mental illness. An established academic author, Catherine Ryan Hyde is a masterful craftswoman with a writing professor's precise draftsmanship. Every scene is sketched with beautiful brevity, to keep the yarn spinning and to detail only that which hones the tale and enthralls the reader. Every vista takes your breath away, but a satisfying sense of clarity and order prevails even through the worst of the craziness. -- *Small Press July/August 1997*

About the Author

Catherine Ryan Hyde is the best-selling and award-winning author of 24 published and forthcoming books, including the acclaimed WHEN YOU WERE OLDER, DON'T LET ME GO, SECOND HAND HEART, WHEN I FOUND YOU, and the creative nonfiction collection THE LONG, STEEP PATH: EVERYDAY INSPIRATION FROM THE AUTHOR OF PAY IT FORWARD. 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](http://catherineryanhyde.com).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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#### **Carlton Little:**

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