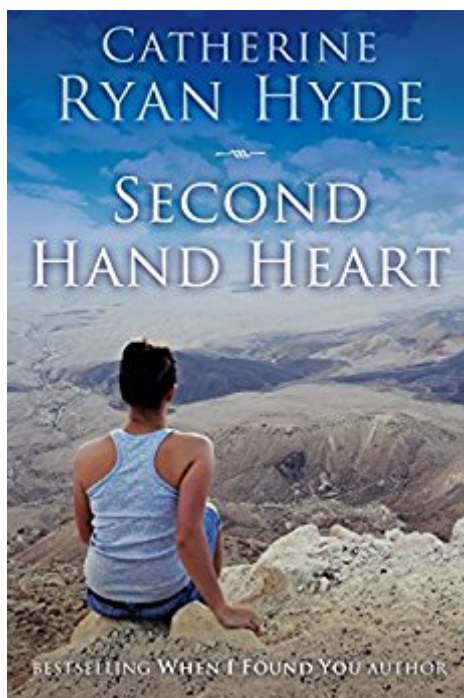


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# Second Hand Heart



## Synopsis

“A fascinating premise and a lovely book. Highly recommended.”

“A compelling, thoughtful read.” • Choice Magazine

By the bestselling author of DON'T LET ME GO and PAY IT FORWARD, *SECOND HAND HEART* is a devastating and unexpected story of love and loss of learning to live for the first time, and learning to live all over again. Vida is only 19, but she knows a lot about dying. Her weak heart has kept her on the edge of death her whole life. It hasn't been much of a life. Thanks to her overprotective mother, Vida's only friend is Esther, an elderly Holocaust survivor who lives upstairs. Vida's heart is finally about to give out, unless she can get a donor heart in time. Richard is 36 and blissfully married, until he gets the call that his beloved wife has died in a car accident. His world falls to pieces. When Richard is invited to the hospital to meet the young woman who received his wife's donor heart, he goes, even though he's entirely not ready for it. Vida takes one look at Richard and feels she's known and loved him all her life. Richard is horrified by her reaction and thinks Vida is just a sheltered and confused young woman. As Vida and Richard struggle to define themselves in circumstances neither ever thought they'd face, both begin to wonder if it's possible that cellular memory, the idea that memories can be stored in individual cells, might actually be real. Could Vida's heart retain some of the love Richard's wife felt? Can a heart remember, at least for a time, on its own? “A first-rate read! ... *Second Hand Heart* is a great book about surviving despite the odds.” • Leah Graham, Chick Lit Reviews and News

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love Catherine Ryan Hyde & I am so glad to have discovered a writer who reaches me so deeply. This is the story of Vida, a young woman whose entire life has been lived in a protective cocoon due to her defective heart. She undergoes a heart transplant and discovers she can now begin to live rather than expecting to die any day. Richard is the grieving husband of the donor of the heart that now resides in Vida's chest. Does Vida really feel memories belonging to her new heart's original owner? Will Richard find his way back from his devastating grief? It seems simplistic to say it all comes right in the end but Ms. Hyde's storytelling and simple understanding of human emotions creates a very realistic picture with characters who become alive.

This book was unexpectedly easy to read, considering the subject matter. The author doesn't bore you with mindless medical facts and figures. The story is simply not about the process of the heart transplant as much as the journey the character Vida takes after having the heart gifted to her. Whether or not you have ever had an experience with organ transplants, this story will move you. There was nothing predictable about this book, and I loved the way the author moves you along the character Vida's path of self-discovery, with twists and turns that I just couldn't wait to discover. This story is told through both the donor family's eyes and the recipient's, and has been both thought-provoking and moving to read. I read this book in two days! It was engrossing and lively, and made you want to cheer along the characters as their journeys unfolded. As usual, this author's characters are complete and inviting to get to know, even with the flaws and uncertainties that make us all very human. I highly expect this book to disrupt your schedule, as it is hard to put down, and satisfyingly rich in both character development and storyline. Enjoy!

Bravo to Catherine Ryan Hyde! This novel follows a heart transplant patient and the grieving husband of the donor. The patient, a young girl named "Vida," receives a heart and perhaps a little more than that. The grieving husband Richard has suffered a great loss and continues to struggle

with holding on to part of his wife. Great characters all around, including an insightful Holocaust survivor, add to the richness of the story. Is your heart the heart of the matter??? Hyde takes us on an amazing journey to find out. I recommend this book wholeHEARTedly!

I have never read any of Catherine Ryan Hyde's books but I have seen the movie "Pay It Forward" so I thought I'd give the book a try. It is a great easy read. It moves smoothly along and doesn't stall out. It is about a young (19 year old) that receives a heart transplant and cellular memory of the heart. Old medical research believes the brain controls the heart. But current medical research shows heart recipients that have new taste buds, memory of things that happened to the donor, etc. So now, there is belief that the heart controls the brain. Not only does the medical questions make you wonder but the story plot with the characters and how they intertwine is a very good read. Not too medical stuffy but enjoyable for all. I give it a 10!

This book is recommended for all ages from teens on up. As usual, she takes difficulty and grief and works a way through it that holds beauty and wonder.

If you have a soft place in your heart, you must read this. You will really enjoy warming of your own heart.

Might love truly live in our heart, not just in our head? Novelist Catherine Ryan Hyde (of Pay it Forward fame), in her new book Second Hand Heart, draws readers into a compelling drama exploring the mysteries and hypotheses of cellular memory. Might a transplanted heart carry specific memories of love to its new owner? Plan to read Second Hand Heart when you're ready to stay awake all night (with a box of Kleenex) - you'll want to read it straight through to the end. I was instantly captivated by this compelling story of a dying wife, her soon widowed husband - and the lucky girl who receives the beloved wife's strong and loving heart. This is a book you will embrace and never forget. Congrats to an author who continues to make the world a better place with each new book she pens.

Great premise, poor execution. I have read so many of this author's novels, each one getting worse than the one before. Except that I am a "completer" I am not sure why I continued to read her. This one assured me that I am done.

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