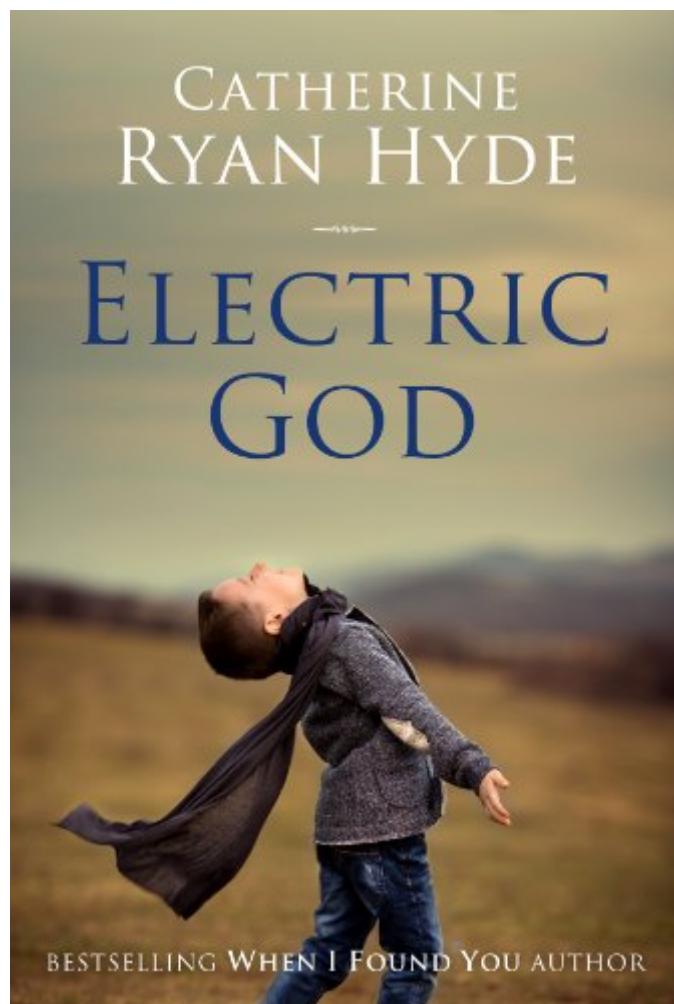


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Electric God



Synopsis

"Ryan Hyde spins her tale so effortlessly that the reader closes the book with a quiet sense of elation, and only later notices that 'Electric God' is still there etched on the psyche, like the imprint of a lightning bolt upon the eye." -THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLEFrom the bestselling author of DON'T LET ME GO and TAKE ME WITH YOU: First published in 2000 on the heels of the successfulÂ PAY IT FORWARD,Â ELECTRIC GOD is the heartbreakin and inspiring story of a man who must travel through incredible darkness to make peace with his past and begin to build himself a future.Hayden Reese has a bad habit of breaking people's jaws. Granted, he only breaks jaws that deserved some breaking, but he's starting a whole new feud, with the husband of his lover--and this time, it may cost him his life.Hayden's life has never been easy. His father tormented him, his kid brother got all the approval, and he made a fatal mistake that he's never been able to forgive himself for making. But when Hayden's future is shattered by his bad choices, he has to redeem himself in the eyes of his long-estranged daughter Allegra. Allegra is getting married and wants her father to walk her down the aisle.Hayden is not ready to confront the wife and daughter who exiled him, but the past catches up with him, ready or not."A beautifully crafted story of one man who had to lose everything before he could find forgiveness and redemption. Hyde is inspiring and uplifting without sentimentality." -BOOKLIST"A heroic, superbly crafted novel worth reading again and again and again." -Kelly Milner Halls, THE DENVER POSTThis "Classic Catherine" Anniversary Edition includes a new Author's Note by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is very gripping, for many reasons. It might appeal to the voyeur in all of us, curious about the next calamity that could befall the downtrodden protagonist Hayden and wondering how he will overcome it. More importantly, however, this book succeeds because the author manages to get me to care for the character, to sympathize with him at the same time that I loathe him, to admire him at the same time that I want to distance myself morally and emotionally from him. First of all, Hayden is an angry man. The author Hyde deals so empathetically and compassionately with the theme of destructive masculine anger that one wonders where she gets such intimate knowledge from. Because Hayden is a man haunted by considerable torment, the reader is led, not to judge and condemn such a destructive man, but to sympathise with his motivations and to treat his circumstances compassionately. Hayden is such a tragic hero -- both words "tragic" and "hero" being equally important -- because the finest line separates that anger which so often turned sadistic and an admirable fortitude which refuses to accept unsatisfactory situations. His violent, take-charge approach to various situations -- his daughter's molestation, his lover's daughter's abduction into a brothel etc -- inspire both fear and admiration in the observing reader. He had tapped into a very dark emotional spring in order to harness such anger, but this anger had a ruggedness and power which isn't just terrifying, but also awesome, to behold. Above all, it seems that the spiritual realities are made to override personal convictions in the telling of the tale.

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