

A Review of

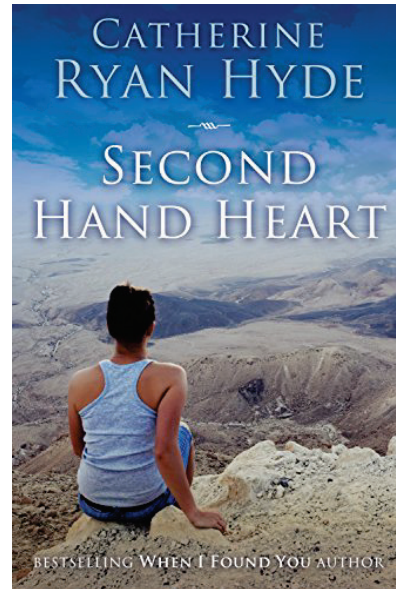
Second Hand Heart

Author: Catherine Ryan Hyde

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

What a ride! Taking this on as a lark, from someone who is fast becoming one of my favorite authors, I found exciting connections in this 'just for fun reading' novel. This is a story of a young girl (well almost an adult) who has been sick with heart issues her whole mother-protected life. When it finally comes down to getting a heart transplant or dying, the story really gets going with adventures, romance.

psychic readings that even connect donor spouse with the unscientific concept of a heart donor's memories being transferred with the transplanted heart, something called 'cellular memory'.



What is so unique for this reader is that I am a heart transplant recipient out now 28 years with a 'gifted' heart! On my own journey, I too have sat with a psychic to connect with deceased family and my own heart donor, Roberto! While I haven't personally experienced 'cellular memories' from my donor, I have been fascinated with the concept and know other patients' stories that suggest there really is such a thing. In an acknowledgments final chapter, I was surprised to find mention of the author's research sources that parallel my own, adding deeper respect for the depth to which this author has gone to correctly get her facts straight in this fictional story, even to the point of her sitting in on an actual heart surgery! Now that's what I call research! Being very familiar with the complexity of the organ donation and organ transplant processes, as well as the emotions that a heart transplant patient experiences, I can attest that the author got them pretty damn close to being perfect in her telling.

While in honesty I found a little too much trivial detail in the overall story, but I guess that is how authors draw us into that feeling of reality as we read a story that isn't real. In the epilogue, she shares the basis for the

overall storyline some of which does come from her personal life experience, so I willingly overlook those trivial details and come away recommending this fine book for anyone who may be tired of too many storylines that seem to be just repeats of overly wornout story templates. No, in this book, there is much creativity and enough connection to our real world (or at least to my own) to make for fun and engaging reading.

Ok, I'm off to find any of her other books now that I have read at least three in recent months, all very enjoyable well-written reads. I hope you find this to be your experience with this book too. And once finished, consider registering to be an organ donor with a local DMV.

Note: **Second Hand Heart** is available in Kindle format and soft cover as well as an audio book on [Amazon](#) and her [personal website](#), and many other outlets.

Brief bio:

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant now 28 years ago in Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free online in thanks to his donor family and can be read on-line at <https://www.rjwitte.com/changeofheart/GiftFromTheHeart/>.