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# Jumpstart The World



catherine  
ryan hyde  
**jumpstart  
the world**



## Synopsis

Elle is a loner. She doesn't need people. Which is a good thing, because she's on her own: she had to move into her own apartment so her mother's boyfriend won't have to deal with her. Then she meets Frank, the guy who lives next door. He's older and has a girlfriend, but Elle can't stop thinking about him. Frank isn't like anyone Elle has ever met. He listens to her. He's gentle. And Elle is falling for him, hard. But Frank is different in a way that Elle was never prepared for: he's transgender. And when Elle learns the truth, her world is turned upside down. Now she'll have to search inside herself to find not only the true meaning of friendship but her own role in jumpstarting the world. Tender, honest, and compassionate, *Jumpstart the World* is a stunning story to make you laugh, cry, and honor the power of love. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Jumpstart the World* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. This book has been nominated for a couple of Lambda Literary Awards, among other awards, and it's just a lovely story, a tender tale of a young

girl's crush on an older transman, and her confusion and discomfort about what it means about herself. It's more of a coming of age story than a romance, but the author deftly handled so many difficult issues - I'm still being a little bit blown away, to be honest. This one I recommend for teenagers and adults. I'm sort of winding my way through some books featuring trans characters, just to get an idea of what's out there and how writers are portraying transgender people and situations. *Jumpstart the World* did a phenomenal job of having a non-activist trans character, who was not the protagonist, be present to demonstrate that trans people are just people, like the rest of us - but also the author managed to show in simple but clear ways some of the frightening things about being trans. The fear of friends leaving, the fear of being helpless. And all of this without direct trans character POV, all of this without the sense of the reader being taught to or lectured. Honestly? Everyone should read this book.

Elle is a girl who doesn't belong anywhere--not even in her own home, after her mother sends her packing to accommodate her latest boyfriend. Elle finds herself thrust into a new apartment, facing the prospect of a new school, and she's alone. But she's used to being alone. Then she meets Frank and Molly, and a gang of friends at school, who are Different. Or are they? Elle's friendship and interactions with them deftly changes what it means to be beautiful, what it means to be special, and what it means to be true to the person that resides inside. Catherine Ryan Hyde's style reads as if we have been given someone's diary and for just a few hours, we are allowed entrance into their secret world. We sit alongside Elle as she rides through the bumps, bruises and highs of her journey. More than that, Ms. Ryan Hyde captures silence like very few writers can. She takes the moments where everything is still, and she lets them just hold. Because we read a diary, the exposition does not preach like it might in someone else's hands. With Ms. Ryan Hyde, the events, feelings and conclusions simply are. The way everything plays out is the only way it ever could; the way we would expect it to if this indeed was a journal capturing a snapshot of someone else's life. "*Jumpstart the World*" is the story you read in a Saturday afternoon, so you can spend all day Sunday mulling over the imagery and the moments that rang true. Then the people and their lives creep into your heart and get absorbed into your lifeblood and stay with you in ways you can't begin to imagine a few thousand words possibly can. Catherine Ryan Hyde delivers yet another deeply honest and raw rendition of what it means to be alive in our current times; somehow she can pull this off for eighteen books straight and it is always haunting and exquisite to see how the lives intertwine, and how the characters find their own kind of happy ending. Not the fairy tale kind, but the kinds that are around us, waiting to be realized, in the world we can reach out and make our

own.-Joanna Celeste

I did not know this was a YA book when I bought it. I knew that I liked the author's other books. I did enjoy it and am planning to donate it to my local high school. I think the topics are pertinent and the thoughts and feelings of a teen are described really well.

I have read seven books now by this author, and each one seems to get better. This book was purchased and read all in one afternoon and evening, not unlike the rest of Hyde's books I have read. This book is about friendship and acceptance - of people for who they are, not what they appear to be on the outside. It was a very good book, and should be read by every high school student taking an English Literature class. There is a story behind every person in this book- Elle, her Mother, Frank, Molly, Elle ' s friends at school, even the man who lives across the street. And every character matters - as we all should.

Catherine Ryan Hyde has a way of looking at a social issue as deep and complex as LGTB relationships and acceptance and reminding us that in the end that people matter. Our main character Elle is put into a complex situation. She is abandoned emotionally by her mother and befriended by Frank. Elle also is befriended by several gay and lesbian friends who are outcasts in their own worlds. Ryan Hyde is a master of meaningful and realistic dialogue. She puts us in the room with Elle and these characters, reminding us that while the world looks at exterior, God looks at the heart. So should we. Great read!

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