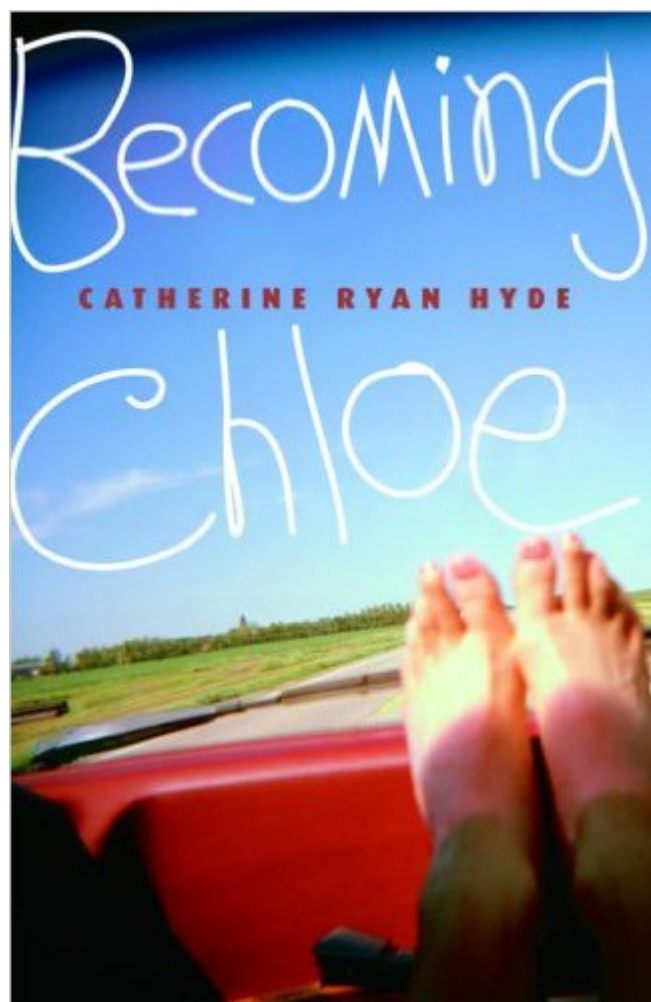


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# Becoming Chloe



## Synopsis

Meet Jordy. He's on his own in New York City. Nobody to depend on; nobody depending on him. And it's been working fine. Until this girl comes along. She's 18 and blond and pretty "her world should be perfect. But she's seen things no one should ever see in their whole life "the kind of things that break a person. She doesn't seem broken, though. She seems . . . innocent. Like she doesn't know a whole lot. Only sometimes she does. The one thing she knows for sure is that the world is an ugly place. Now her life may depend on Jordy proving her wrong. So they hit the road to discover the truth "and there's no going back from what they find out. This deeply felt, redemptive novel reveals both the dark corners and hidden joys of life's journey "and the remarkable resilience of the human soul.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers; 1st edition (March 28, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375832580

ISBN-13: 978-0375832581

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (160 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #852,944 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #167 in Â Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #167 in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #1679 in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

## Customer Reviews

In *Becoming Chloe*, Catherine Ryan Hyde's second novel, we meet Jordan and Chloe--two of society's broken and castaway children trying to survive on the streets of New York City. Jordy is 17, gay, runaway, part-time prostitute and occasional thief. One night, while sleeping in the cellar of an anonymous city building, he overhears a gang rape happening in the alley outside his window. By shouting out and scaring off the attackers, he manages to rescue Chloe. Chloe, 18 yet childlike, is hiding behind a facade of innocence, but occasionally the traumas she has faced in her past loom to the surface. Jordy and Chloe quickly find in each other a comfort and security that they both are lacking, and become firm friends. The simple and naive Chloe views Jordy as a safety net, and

Jordy faces this responsibility with a maturity and wisdom beyond his years. Together they endure illness, violence, and the grinding horrors of life on the streets. Although their situation begins to improve, thanks to Jordy's perseverance and hard work, Chloe is unable to cope and suffers a breakdown that alters their plans. When Chloe decides that life has nothing beautiful to offer her, Jordy begins a one-man campaign to show her otherwise...and it is here that the true power of the story lies. Jordy becomes beauty personified as he races to bring the world to Chloe before it's too late, and they set out on a journey that will challenge them like nothing before. To Jordy, mountains, deserts and even the Grand Canyon are no obstacles when it means saving someone you love.

Without question *Becoming Chloe* is an excellent book for today's sophisticated teen. I hope they bother to read it. What is particularly interesting about this expertly crafted work of fiction, however, is its cross-over appeal to those of us who are well beyond the sticky years of adolescence. It would be shameful if today's jaded adults didn't pick up a copy, themselves, simply because of its "genre." In other words, don't let the "Young Adult" classification fool you. Especially you cynical types who think nothing can escape your discerning eye and endearing bitterness. (I think you know who you are). You, more than any other group, need to be exposed to this book's optimism. Its gritty-softness will have a curious effect on you; perhaps leaving some baffled. You will get the confirmation you need (about how rotten the world is) during the first one hundred pages. But then watch what happens. A softness will creep in, like an unexpected, unwanted attraction. Slowly it will gnaw on your dulled sensitivities. This will most likely result in the book being hurled across the living room with one mean-spirited flick of your wrist. You may even consider revenge against the author by ripping out page after page (of what should be recognized as mastery of description and characterization) and then designating such craftsmanship and good will as kindling. Stubborn as you are you'll probably try to ditch Chloe for good, and get back to what you're far more comfortable reading...Bush bashing blogs, global warming studies and all the wonderful things occurring overseas. While reconfirming your worst suspicions of the human condition you'll eventually find yourself glancing over your shoulder, wondering how Jordy and Chloe are doing on your coffee table.

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