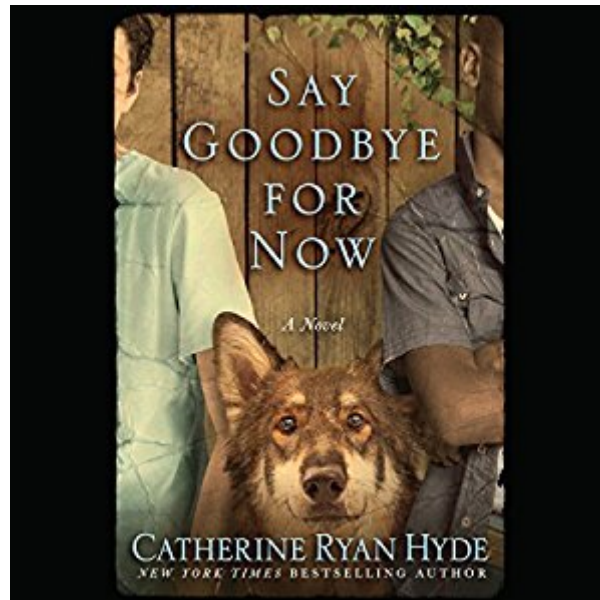




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Say Goodbye For Now



Synopsis

On an isolated Texas ranch, Dr. Lucy cares for abandoned animals. The solitude allows her to avoid the people and places that remind her of the past. Not that any of the townsfolk care. In 1959, no one is interested in a woman doctor. Nor are they welcoming Calvin and Justin Bell, a newly arrived African American father and son. When Pete Solomon, a neglected twelve-year-old boy, and Justin bring a wounded wolf-dog hybrid to Dr. Lucy, the outcasts soon find refuge in one another. Lucy never thought she'd make connections again, never mind fall in love. Pete never imagined he'd find friends as loyal as Justin and the dog. But these four people aren't allowed to be friends, much less a family, when the whole town turns violently against them. With heavy hearts, Dr. Lucy and Pete say goodbye to Calvin and Justin. But through the years they keep hope alive...waiting for the world to catch up with them.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 41 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: December 13, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01KBMK5Y2

Best Sellers Rank: #19 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Historical #32

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Cultural Heritage #50

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction

Customer Reviews

I got this book last evening when it dropped into my Kindle. I read it in less than a day. I couldn't not. It's the kind of story that, while you're reading it and the dogs have to go out or you have to eat dinner, it's an annoyance to have to stop to attend to those everyday events that you normally look forward to. It's the kind of book that, when you know you're getting to the end, you read a couple of pages and stop, and then go back to it and read a couple of more pages. You know the end of the story is coming, but you don't want it to get here. Catherine Ryan Hyde is a masterful story teller. She has hundreds of stories to tell and will tell them all, I believe, just as excellently as she has told

this one. I have read most of her books, and I have loved them all, but this one is the best one. Full stop. Bravery and courage are two different things, and the difference is drawn so well in this story. Courage is mental. Bravery is physical. Each of the characters in this book have bravery and courage, in different amounts, for different reasons and at different times. Abuse, interracial relationships, fear of the unknown and fear of what you know is out there, are all examined here. Leave-taking and coming together are examined. Patience is examined. Love is at the root of it all. Ryan Hyde's books usually involve animals in their plots. This one is no different, but the involvement of the animals brings out the courage of the characters. With the exception of one brave act by one of the animals, the courage and bravery rests with the humans in this book - to face uncertainty, hatred, bigotry, abuse. Read every word of this book. Every word of this book is important. This book is a masterpiece.

So here's the bad news: Every Catherine Ryan Hyde book has to end and that moment just never stops sucking. But the great thing is that she keeps writing and sharing these amazing soul stories with us. What I love/hate most about this book is how timely the message is, even though it's set in the fifties and sixties. I wish the prejudices from which these characters suffer were as unimaginable as their lack of iPads. Unfortunately, the part that hit me the hardest was how deeply we hold onto these ideas that hurt other people. How hard it is for us to let them go. But here's what Catherine does for us and why she is such an inspiring human to me: Each and every one of her books is a voice for the future. Each time she tells a story, she's doing a lot more than entertaining us. She's asking us to imagine a world that's quite a bit better than the one we have right now. She's asking us to believe in humanity. To find the tiny pinpricks of light in the darkness and actively seek to light more because that's the only way anything ever changes. And it DOES change. Though we have so far to go still, this is no longer the same world that wasn't ready for Calvin and Lucy. The future is with Catherine, in her unshakable faith in humans. And so am I.

When I finished *Say Goodbye* my first thought was what a great book this is. My second thought was surprise. I don't remember ever seeing a book that was rated entirely with five stars. The book deserves this rating. Its themes were interesting and well supported. The characters showed intense feelings that were appropriate to the circumstances. I know I can count on Catherine Ryan Hyde giving me hours of reading pleasure. The basic theme explored in this book is good versus evil. The setting is Texas 1959 and segregation is the norm. Interracial marriage is forbidden. Dr Lucy is a medical doctor who cares for injured and abandoned animals and the occasional criminal

to help pay for the animals she saves. She's a prickly sort of person who prefers the company of animals to people. Pete is young boy on his way to go fishing when he discovers an injured dog off the side of the road. It's a big dog and his back leg looks wrong. The problem is how to transport him to the doc. He remembers an old wagon in his garage that might just work. He feels a bond with this dog and doesn't want to leave him but knows he must. When he returns, Pete is able to maneuver the animal into the wagon and heads out to the doc. Justin, who has just moved into the area, sees Pete and the dog and asks if he can walk along with them. As they walk, they get to know one another. It seems they might be friends. Pete's dad doesn't agree. He tells Pete to keep to his own kind (white people) and whips him so hard with the belt he draws blood. I really like Pete. He has a way about himself that is honest and straightforward. It's amazing that he was able to survive growing up with a father who is so brutal. It gets so bad for him that he winds up living with Miss Lucy when his dad disowns him and tells him to never come back. There is so much going on in this story, I can't really do it justice in a review. If you like a story that is compelling and really grabs you right from the beginning and doesn't let go to the very end, read this book now. It is well worth the time it takes to read

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