

# Inspiration in the Midst of Struggle

*The award-winning author delves into first love, a hidden medical condition, and vulnerability with compassion and wit*

## The Thing with Feathers by McCall Hoyle

Grand Rapids, MI --- September 26, 2017 --- Award-winning author McCall Hoyle tackles illness and YA romance with her captivating novel, *The Thing with Feathers*. As a high school teacher, Hoyle is acutely aware of the struggles young girls face, and her new book takes a candid look into this world of insecurity, young love, disability, and conquering fear.

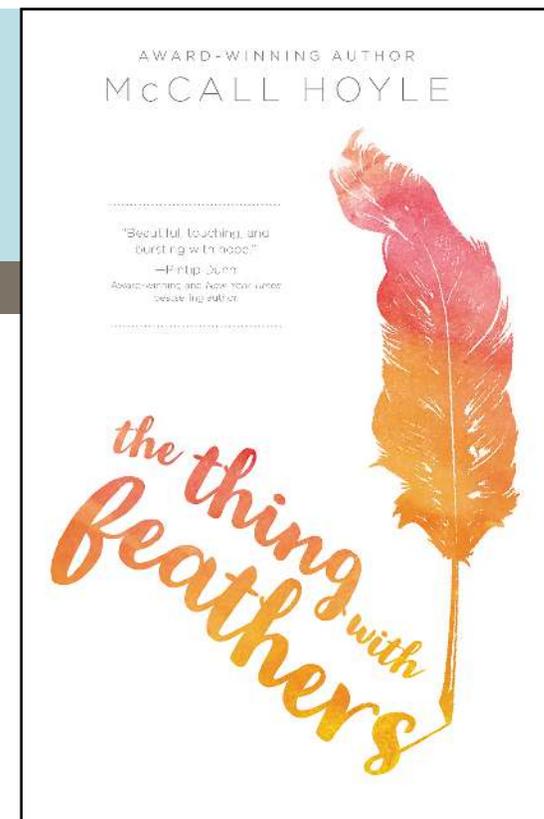
Sixteen-year-old Emilie Day is not like the other girls from her town on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Because of her epilepsy, she's been homeschooled and would rather be reading classic literature than be the center of attention. Ever since her father's death and her diagnosis, risk has not been in Emilie's vocabulary. Unfortunately, all the safety she's built for herself is about to be stripped away when, on her doctor's recommendation, Emilie is sentenced to spend her junior year at North Ridge High School.

Emilie doesn't plan to stay...or tell anyone about her epilepsy. But Emilie isn't banking on meeting new friends or getting to know the handsome and charming Chatham York. And she definitely isn't counting on falling for him. Chatham challenges Emilie to face her fears—but he doesn't know what she dreads most is a public grand mal seizure.

The winds of change are shifting in Emilie's life, and there's nothing she can do to stop them. Emilie must decide whether she will find a way out from her new life or take a risk and accept high school's classes, cliques, and crushes.

## Talking Points

- November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month: Help increase awareness among your readers/ audience of this challenge (and what to do if you observe a seizure).
- September is National Service Dog Month: What it would be like to have a therapy dog as your best friend; a dog who is more human than some humans.
- October is National Mental Health Awareness Month: The effects of epilepsy and other chronic illnesses on mental health and day-to-day living.
- Blog Tour 10/30-11/4/17
- Back to school discussion: Observations about how teens navigate high school acceptance (from a teacher's point of view) & How to talk to teens about facing their fear of opening themselves up to their peers.



## BOOK DETAILS

Blink YA Books

September 5, 2017

Hardcover, \$17.99

288 pages

Young Adult



## About the Author

High school language arts teacher McCall Hoyle writes honest YA novels about friendship, first love, and girls finding the strength to overcome great challenges. Her own less-than-perfect teenage experiences and those of the girls she teaches inspire many of the struggles in her novels. When she's not reading or writing, she's spending time with her family and their odd assortment of pets—a food-obsessed beagle, a grumpy rescue cat, and a three-and-a-half-legged kitten. She has an English degree from Columbia College and a master's degree from Georgia State University. She lives in a cottage in the woods in North Georgia where she reads and writes every day.

## Praise

- Similar to Leanne Lieberman's *The Most Dangerous Thing* (2017), this novel has a lot going for it that plenty of readers will appreciate: emotion, humor, and romance. - Booklist

- This is the kind of strong writing and memorable, empathy-expanding content this reader loves to see in contemporary YA. I would unhesitatingly thrust this book into the hands of my goddaughters. Hoyle is a talented new fiction voice, and an author I'd highly recommend keeping an eye on! - YABooksCentral

- This is a beautifully written and genuine novel. Emilie makes for a very engaging heroine, and her relationship with her mom is healthy and refreshing. While readers are given a glimpse at life with epilepsy, this aspect to Emilie's character never overshadows the heart of the story - Emilie herself. Literary references and a swoon worthy first love provide a perfect balance to the tougher issues that the author tackles with sincerity, sensitivity and good humor. - Romantic Times

- "Filled with poignancy, wit, and Southern charm, *The Thing with Feathers* made my heart absolutely soar!" - Darcy Woods, award-winning author of *Summer of Supernovas*

- You're all going to want to read this beautiful debut novel by McCall Hoyle. - [throwingupwords.com](http://throwingupwords.com)

- One of Tutora's Best Children's Books of 2017

- Romantic Times Top Pick and 4.5 star review

- Golden Heart Award for Best Young Adult Romance



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