



A Heartbeat Away

Harry Kraus

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When a brilliant surgeon undergoes a heart transplant, her life transforms as she begins experiencing memories of a murder she never witnessed. The residents worship her. Nurses step out of her way. Her colleagues respect and sometimes even fear her. But surgeon Tori Taylor never expected to end up on this side of the operating table. Now she has a new heart. This life that was formerly controlled and predictable is now chaotic. Dr. Taylor had famously protected herself from love or commitment, but her walls are beginning to crumble. And strangest of all, memories surface that will take her on a journey out of the operating room and into a murder investigation. Where there once was a heart of stone, there is a heart of flesh. And there is no going back.

A Heartbeat Away Details

Date : Published September 1st 2012 by David C. Cook

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Author : Harry Kraus

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Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Mystery, Christian, Romance, Suspense

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From Reader Review A Heartbeat Away for online ebook

Susan says

I'll start by saying that I will NEVER listen to another book read by Renee Ertl. She reminds me of small town high school theatre try-outs of my youth. Zero talent but trying really hard to get the part of Cinderella.

The book deserves being reviewed only because I cannot believe so many people gave it high marks. The plot is absurd, the characters moronic, the medical stuff ridiculous (I can't believe a surgeon actually wrote this) and the whole experience of even listening to the book while on a long run almost painful (not the run, the book!).

Goes to show you really need to be careful about Some of the Goodread reviews in certain genres.

Lauren says

Loved it!

Kim says

Victoria "Tori" Anne Taylor, MD desperately needs a new heart and as a successful oncology surgeon, she knows what needs to be done but she's never had the surgery performed on her before. As a doctor, she is adored by her residents and hated by her nurses as she demands perfection in every aspect of critical care. When her job security is threatened and she is forced to stop working and go to therapy, she begins a rocky relationship with Phin MacGrath, the transplant team's social worker. Tori begins having memories that are not her own that she believes belonged to her heart donor. She begins her own investigation into the death of the woman who gave her heart and her new lease on life. Tori not only has horrific memories but she also has become more compassionate. She can sense what others are feeling and what they need. She is curious to find out more about whose heart she received.

Woven throughout the story is another story of Christian and his love for Emily. Christian's family is on furlough from the African mission field and is falling in love for the first time.

As Tori and Phin investigate what happened, someone begins to stir up trouble for her and threaten her as she tries to investigate further into the fire that she dreams about but never personally experienced. She senses that her memories are evidence of foul play and has no idea what she is delving into.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book by Dr. Harry Kraus. The medical details greatly enhanced the story and brought an authenticity to the story that I enjoyed. The characters were so believable and their development was natural. My only critique would be that the story starts out a little slow but it was an exciting mystery that I ended up solving along with the heroine. I loved how the message of Christ's grace and redemption was naturally woven into the story.

I would definitely recommend this book and will be looking into more books by this author. I received this

book for free from NetGalley in return for an impartial review.

Nikoleta says

Stuck between one and two stars. The writing got worse as it went along, the main character, who is supposed to be this genius cancer surgeon, was so incredibly stupid and dense. I mean, come on, at some point she was asking simple medical questions that she should've known by heart. As for the Christian part of this novel - it really didn't work for me. It felt unnatural and preach-y. In fact, I felt like that regarding most of the novel. And the romance - oh, please stop. Blergh.

Now that I think about it, I can't think of anything I liked about this novel. One star it is.

What a great beginning of 2016!!!!

Dan Walsh says

Don't usually read medical thrillers, but couldn't stop reading this one once I started. Loved it, and it had a fascinating premise.

Lisa says

I really enjoyed this mystery about a surgeon who not only receives a heart from someone else but also some of their memories and emotions. I liked learning a bit about Transference Memories and cellular memories. This is a great mystery with a murder to be solved by the woman who is remembering thoughts that are not her own. This is a Christian Mystery.

Bonnie says

This was an entertaining book with interesting characters and situations. It's also a very Christian book. It skips between two story lines. That's not something I'm real thrilled with, but it is important to the story and wasn't especially annoying. It gets just a wee bit cheesy at the end, but not unforgivably so.

Linda says

Oncologist, doctor, Tori Taylor feared nothing when she ruled staff in surgery, she was feared for her sharp tongue and anger with incompetence. Now here she was facing a heart transplant with no control over anything and no one to care. Tori never made friends as she didn't want to distract her studies when she was in college. When her mom died of breast cancer when she was a teen, she went to her mom's friend who always spewed about God, where was God when the one time she prayed He didn't answer?

Counselor, Phin McGarth, had no interest in women since his wife had died and he knew that God needed her more, since he laid eyes on Tori Taylor, his patient he needed to remain professional, besides she wasn't a believer. When she said she was having memories of her heart donor, was she insane too?

Harry Kraus does it again as he spins a gripping tale full of intrigue and suspense! Tori is determined to find out her donor as her nightmares torment her and she is determined to get justice for the woman who gave her life so that she would live, but threatening calls to "leave it alone" made her more determined to find justice for Dakota Jones.

Tara says

It was good

Lisa Johnson says

Title: A Heartbeat Away

Author: Harry Kraus

Pages: 370

Year: 2012

Publisher: David C Cook

Fantastic! That is the first word that came to my mind when I finished reading this book by Harry Kraus. This is a story that will capture you from the get-go and not let you go until the very last page. The storytelling is superb, and the ability to get the reader emotionally involved was masterful. There are four main characters in this contemporary medical thriller. The use of flashbacks fills in details and creates mystery and suspense.

Victoria Taylor is a 30-something oncology surgeon. She operates on cancer patients to remove cancer with great success. She revels in the awe and adoration of her med students and patients. Her patients really like her, her med students put her on a pedestal and treat her like a god, but the nursing staff disdains her. She publicly humiliates the staff whenever they make mistakes. Now the table is turned and Victoria is the patient. Her heart is dying due to a very aggressive infection and she needs a heart transplant. She is notified of an available heart and undergoes the operation. In the recovery room, she experiences a frightening dream. Or is it a memory? As her recovery progresses, she continues to have nightmares. She comes to believe that these are actually memories from the person who gave her the new heart. Is this even possible? The memories are of a murder. Did this murder really happen? Is she going crazy? While recovering, she learns that she has been put on administrative leave due to an incident between herself and a janitor in front of several staff members. She is required to do certain tasks or she will lose her job. One of the tasks is to undergo anger management counseling. She sees herself as changed in many ways after the surgery and feels compelled to investigate her memories/nightmares. Her counselor helps her along the way. Does she discover God along with way too? What evil does her investigation uncover? Is there a murderer out there waiting to strike again?

Phin McGrath is a social worker who has agreed to counsel Tori. He listens as she shares her memories and has no doubt they are real. He helps her with her investigation and begins to develop feelings for Tori. However, Tori is not a believer and Phin is a strong believer. He agrees to continue to help her investigate, but pulls back from their developing personal relationship.

Emily Greene is shown via flashback as a pretty girl who longs for love. She falls in love with her neighbor and wants to be with him forever, but he is the son of missionary parents and they are returning to Africa soon. Christian Mitchell is the only son of a surgeon who is also a missionary and works in Africa. He has grown up in Africa. He has a heart of deep compassion and discernment. He loves Emily as well, but doesn't think her method of arranging for them to be together is right. He is a believer and Emily says she is a believer too. Christian walks away that summer when they were 16 and never sees Emily again. He becomes a pediatrician and works in a clinic downtown in a poor area. He sees a patient who brings along a friend. This friend has different hair color and is dressed differently, but he could swear it is Emily. What had happened to put her in these dire circumstances? Why did she act like she didn't know him? What secrets is she hiding?

There is so much more to the story that I just don't have space to tell you, but suffice it to say that it is well worth your time to read this excellent novel. I definitely plan on reading more books by Harry Kraus. Incidentally, the author is also a surgeon and medical missionary who practices in East Africa. There is an interesting segment at the end of the book called "after words" that allows you to learn more about the author.

My rating is 5 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyourheart.blogspot.com>... Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Colleen Kabat says

This was a surprise for me, as I had never ready any of Harry Kraus' books before "A Heartbeat Away." This one grabbed me on the first page and I found it to be a fast paced, suspenseful book with Christian messages thrown into it for good measure. After reading the author's bio, I better understand where he's coming from and applaud his work.

Sabrina says

This book is about a surgeon who receives a heart transplant along with memories that are terrifying, but are not hers. Tori is bent on finding answers to these flashes of memory while dealing with the time off of work for healing and making sure she has a job to go back to.

I was not sure how I would like it. The description on the back did not intrigue me very much. However, I did enjoy reading it as the story progressed.

The author jumps between Tori's story and point of view and a guy named Christian, there is a little bit of frustration when you are getting to some answers and it switches. All in all it was an enjoyable read.

Paula Phillips says

Have you ever read Cecelia Ahern's book "Thanks for the Memories" in which it discussed about a women who had gotten a blood transfusion and then she started to develop memories of the man who had given her

the blood? This is a case called Transference Memories where certain people receive parts of others bodies and with that transference comes memories of the original owner. It is very rare but it has said to occur, how it happens or why it happens - nobody knows. In *A Heartbeat Away*, Harry has taken the idea and created his new novel surrounding it when Dr. Tori Taylor ends up almost dying and getting a new heart - she starts to develop nightmares of sorts - the nightmares though aren't like the monster hiding under your bed or in your closet type, but are vivid - almost like they are repressed memories. How is this possible? Dr. Tori Taylor now with the assistance of her friend Charlotte and newfound friend hospital shrink and counsellor Phin must embark on a journey to discover where her heart came from as the memories are telling Tori, that something bad was the cause of the owner's death and not just a simple electrical fire. This novel is filled with intensity, christian aspects, medical terminology, action, adventure and of course MURDER. This novel also is told in two POV's and set in a Past/Present tense. E.g Before the Operation when the Donor was Young to After the Operation- the current time.

If you love Medical novels and also looking towards a Christian aspect, try any one of Dr. Harry Kraus's novels and you will find yourself impressed.

Clewis53 says

Started out innocuously enough, but turned into a Christianity sales pitch.

Meredith Resce says

An intriguing mystery that includes medical, crime and romance. A well crafted novel that holds the reader's interest right to the end, and beyond. The story of a surgeon who finds herself on the other side of the operating table as a heart transplant patient. But when she begins to recover from the transplant operation, she finds that she has received more than just a physical heart from her donor, she has received memories and a new compassion for people that had been sadly lacking. But it is the memories that spark an investigation. She is sure that her heart donor didn't die because of an accident, but was murdered. I really enjoyed this story.
