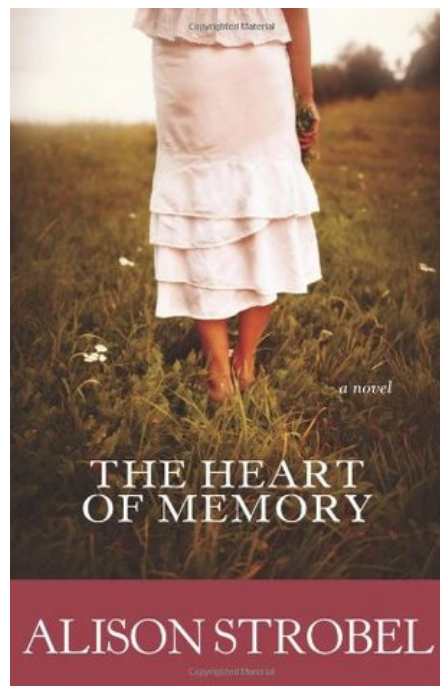




The Heart of Memory: A Novel

Alison Strobel

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Heart of Memory: A Novel

Alison Strobel

The Heart of Memory: A Novel Alison Strobel

When beloved Christian writer and speaker Savannah Trover becomes gravely ill, she has to face the sham that her faith has become. Days before her heart transplant, she vows to change her ways and she renews her relationship with Christ. But when she awakens from the surgery, Savannah discovers that her faith has left her completely.

Savannah's husband, Shaun, is concerned about his wife's odd behavior---and even more concerned about the secret he's keeping from her. If she doesn't bring down their ministry, then he might, losing his family in the process.

A stranger may hold the answer to Savannah's recovery, but is Savannah strong enough to return to her old way of life? Can Shaun right his wrongs before word gets out? And do either one of them remember how to be who they once were---or who they want to be?

In this latest relational drama from Alison Strobel, readers will explore the difference between emotional faith and life-giving truth as Savannah wonders if she can ever trust her heart again.

The Heart of Memory: A Novel Details

Date : Published March 29th 2011 by Zondervan (first published March 4th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Alison Strobel

Format : Kindle Edition 304 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Fiction, Christian

 [Download The Heart of Memory: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Heart of Memory: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Heart of Memory: A Novel Alison Strobel

From Reader Review The Heart of Memory: A Novel for online ebook

Elaine says

Savannah has a secret. What can she do? Who can she tell? So many people rely on her. Her ministry depends on her.

Her husband Shaun has a secret too. One he's desperately trying to cover.

And the bills keep mounting.

How far will the lies carry them?

Then there's their daughter Jessie, a college student who wants to have a close relationship with her mother, especially when her mother was so close to death. Jessie plans on changing the way she responds to her mother but every time she tries to talk with her, Jessie automatically responds the same old ways, and nothing's changing. She feels always criticized by Savannah while Savannah thinks she is encouraging Jessie.

There was a bit of weirdness but other than that, good story.

Monique says

You know, this book was very interesting. Savannah appears to be a person who has it all – a successful Christian ministry as a speaker and author, a good husband who runs her business, a daughter in college with a nice, Christian boyfriend, but things aren't always as they appear.

While touring Savannah becomes ill with what she thinks is the flu, but when she doesn't get better she seeks out the doctor. Ending up in the hospital and needed a heart transplant, Savannah turns to her faith to help her get through these trying times.

Luckily, Savannah receives a heart very quickly, but she doesn't heal as quickly as most recipients. Part of the reason is Savannah, but another part isn't. As a result, Savannah has lost her faith – in a huge way. She's not just lost, she is completely faithless – an atheist.

Though the twists and turns of life, what most people would call coincidences, and what Savannah would no longer term "God's will", she is able to find a lifeline or two to save herself, her marriage, and her relationship with her daughter.

On the other hand, Savannah's husband has a few secrets of his own – including the fact that the ministry is struggling to stay afloat. He's got a few get rich quick schemes up his sleeve, but will they work, and work quickly?

For Savannah's daughter, it's a struggle always feel as if she's in the shadow of her mother – a shadow that can be oppressing, especially when, to the world, her mother is the perfect Christian woman, wife, and mom, but to her she's practically a stranger.

This book is dark. We're watching someone struggle through the life they've chosen, and some illnesses they haven't, and the consequences aren't as pleasant as you'd expect. All 3 family members must come to terms with their perceptions of one another, their roles in their family and in life, and in how they want to move forward. It isn't easy to change, and it isn't easy to watch their struggles.

Lydia says

This book had a very interesting concept. Savannah has strong faith and a successful ministry until she receives a heart transplant from a young man who was an atheist. Her faith disappears and she takes on personality traits of the donor. The idea of it was very interesting to consider.

Unfortunately, I felt the book had some flaws that prevented me from enjoying it as much as I would have otherwise. I tried really hard to like the characters, but I just couldn't. I found them to be overly emotional and reactionary, which made for a convenient plot device to stir up conflict in conversation where there might normally not be any. The ending also left me somewhat unsatisfied. Granted, it was probably realistic, but reality often leaves one unsatisfied. I was happy that Savannah finally found some peace, but what about everyone else? What happens to Shaun - jail time? Does Adam ever come to his senses? Do some of the displaced A&A staff find some closure/peace? The book just seemed like it was wrapped up too quickly.

Overall, it was an okay book, but some frustrations would probably keep me from reading it again.

Casey says

An emotional roller-coaster ride! That is the easiest way to describe "The Heart of Memory". The entire book was a ride through emotional highs and lows.

I was intrigued as I read this book and it grew as the plot developed. The book held my attention quite well, especially since the story was based mainly on what was happening within each of the characters. The story walks through the faith journey of Savannah primarily, but includes the struggles of her husband and daughter. The book had several surprising turns in the plot and several times I was quite shocked at the actions of Savannah (though given her circumstances they made sense.)

The book covered a lot of tough issues. Faith struggles, financial problems that are quickly falling apart, relationships, trust, throw in a heart transplant with miles of baggage and there are layers of tension riveting their way through the story.

I thought the ending was great closure for the book. With so much going on through the story, not every single thread was 100% sealed, but the closure of the story worked the best for the characters and their growth. I was satisfied.

I thought "The Heart of Memory" was a good story filled with many elements, but underlying messages that readers will easily relate to.

Melissa says

Okay, but not great.

Decent read, but the ending leaves you wanting a conclusion. It felt like she got tired of writing and hurried the ending.

Pam says

Christian fiction. Central to the story is that the theory that when an organ is transplanted, there are cellular memories transplanted also.

Judith says

Five stars

This novel is deep and challenging. The characters face spiritual battles that feel authentic and familiar. The emotional aftermath of a heart transplant was something I had never considered. This is a worthwhile read.

Kristy says

Okay story. It's always interesting how heart transplant recipients go through emotional changes after their surgery, so I did enjoy that part of the plot.

Estelle says

Here is a woman who's whole life is centered in Christ. She writes books about it and has speaking engagements about her books. She becomes ill and is in need of a heart donor and receives the heart of an atheist donor. After the operation she becomes skeptical and no longer believes in her writing and losses all faith even regards it as delusional. The book explains that "Personality traits are stored in cells throughout the body, not just the brain." It would seem from this great changeover that the heart stores more personality traits than the brain. Duh! I wonder what part of personality traits are in the foot!

Valerie says

I can see that a lot of people liked this book, but I thought it was truly bad. Trite, superficial... the only character I could generate any feeling for was the daughter, Jessie, and that was not very much. I thought the characters were self-absorbed and the emotionalism was over-the-top and just not believable. I usually find something to like about most books, but not this one. Unfortunately, well-written Christian fiction is just hard to come by.

Maria Love says

I believe many of us on this "faith walk" struggle with what Savannah does in this book. Heartfelt and transparent....this story spoke to my heart and my own walk of faith.

Karen says

When beloved Christian writer and speaker Savannah Trover becomes gravely ill, she has to face the sham that her faith has become. Days before her heart transplant, she vows to change her ways and she renews her relationship with Christ. But when she awakens from the surgery, Savannah discovers that her faith has left her completely.

Savannah's husband, Shaun, is concerned about his wife's odd behavior---and even more concerned about the secret he's keeping from her. If she doesn't bring down their ministry, then he might, losing his family in the process.

A stranger may hold the answer to Savannah's recovery, but is Savannah strong enough to return to her old way of life? Can Shaun right his wrongs before word gets out? And do either one of them remember how to be who they once were---or who they want to be?

Free Kindle download - I enjoyed this book for the most part.

The character has a heart transplant and after the operation, feels like she is a different person than she was pre-surgery. So many people are depending on her that she feels like she has to get back to the person she was.

Melissa says

I'm still trying to figure out how Amazon chooses their free book selections for the Kindle, but I'm guessing there is some underground conspiracy to promote Christian authors and their ideals because this is the fourth or fifth free book where I have encountered a woman grappling with her faith in the face of adversity (no complaints, just a side note). In this particular book, the main character, best selling Christian writer Savannah, undergoes both a literal and spiritual change of heart when she suddenly goes into heart failure and receives an organ donation from a young, self-proclaimed atheist, struggling with his own ideas of God at the time of his death. The novel was propelled along by the suspense of Savannah's husband and his mysterious money problems. It touches upon many levels of relationships (mother/daughter; husband/wife; man/God) and how the everyday aspects of life can weigh one down or distract him so much that the major issues and people are inadvertently neglected.

Sara says

I'm not good at reviewing what happened word for word in a story - many others have done that for you on this site. I just want to comment that this was an enjoyable read. It opened my eyes and my heart. The book is a Christian book, without totally breathing Christian principles down your neck. It illustrates real-life situations where Christians must not only deal with their problems but face them and find God along the way. It does a great job of showing that all people, Christians included, have problems, and that if we seek

God, we can find a way through them. Not all problems are easily overcome and not all problems have the outcome we hope for, but there is a way!

Cafelilybookreviews says

This book was a very interesting read and the subject matter was handled much differently than I expected. Alison wrote about issues related to organ transplants in a way that I had never heard of before and it made me curious enough to go and do some further research. I wasn't prepared for the abrupt ending though; it caught me totally off guard and disappointed me a little. I was so caught up in the story of Savannah and Shaun Trover that I wanted to find out more about their life and how things turn out.

This story is one emotional roller coaster that you won't soon forget. Shaun and Savannah Trover are characters that are very easy to relate to. They are "real" and struggle with a crisis of faith, which many readers will be able to connect with. On the outside, they are a Christian couple who has it all; the perfect marriage, perfect ministry, perfect life.....but behind closed doors things are not as perfect as they seem.

I will definitely be interested to see what author Alison Strobel comes out with next. I found this book to be unique, interesting and a well-written Christian fiction title.
