

Alive

By Chandler Baker

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Alive By Chandler Baker

Stella Cross's heart is poisoned. After years on the transplant waiting list, she's running out of hope that she'll ever see her eighteenth birthday. Then, miraculously, Stella receives the transplant she needs to survive.

Determined to embrace everything she came so close to losing, Stella throws herself into her new life. But her recovery is marred with strange side effects: Nightmares. Hallucinations. A recurring pain that flares every day at the exact same moment. Then Stella meets Levi Zin, the new boy on everyone's radar at her Seattle prep school. Stella has never felt more drawn to anyone in her life, and soon she and Levi can barely stand to be apart.

Stella is convinced that Levi is her soul mate. Why else would she literally ache for him when they are apart?

After all, the heart never lies...does it?

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Alive By Chandler Baker Bibliography

- Rank: #1016321 in Books
- Brand: Chandler Baker
- Published on: 2015-06-09
- Released on: 2015-06-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.25" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 9 Up—"I was fifteen when my heart betrayed me," begins Stella Cross. Diagnosed with acute cardiomyopathy, she's sure that her days are numbered. Then miraculously, two years later, she receives a heart transplant from an anonymous donor. However, not long after her life-saving surgery, Stella begins experiencing strange side effects, which include terrifying hallucinations as well as excruciating pain at the exact same time every day. When a mysterious boy named Levi arrives at her prep school in Seattle, Stella finds herself inexplicably and intensely drawn to him. They quickly become inseparable, which causes a rift between Stella and her family, her best friend, and her "maybe more than a friend" Henry. Strangely, being with Levi literally alleviates her physical pain. Initially, this makes her think that he's The One, but eventually she begins to wonder if there's something more otherworldly at work. Baker effectively uses the damp Seattle weather to create a tense, sinister atmosphere. Stella isn't portrayed as a damsel in distress, which helps make her a more likable and relatable character. Although she often relies on her friends and has a few missteps along the way, Stella takes control of her situation and is determined to fix it. While the mystery behind Levi's identity isn't completely surprising or original, it should still satisfy most readers. VERDICT A tense supernatural thriller with a plethora of teen appeal.—Kimberly Castle-Alberts, Hudson Library & Historical Society, OH

Review
"Plentiful blood-slicked scenes will please horror fans, but the eerie tone surrounding the central mystery is what works best in this supernatural thriller." - ***Kirkus***

"A tense supernatural thriller with a plethora of teen appeal." - ***School Library Journal***
"Baker's narrative vividly engages readers in the deeper world of transplants, the full experience of receiving a part of another being, and, through Stella exposes heightened sensibilities far beyond the vital physical transition." -- ***Booklist***

A young woman's life-saving heart transplant leaves her feeling like an outsider in her own life until she meets a new guy with whom she experiences an undeniable magnetism. Stella is grateful to have survived surgery, but afterward she struggles with her family's and friends' tendency to treat her with kid gloves. Worse, she's plagued by a searing, inexplicable pain that strikes her at exactly the same time each day, making her doubt her sanity. So when gorgeous Levi arrives at her insular private Seattle high school and vigorously pursues her, she's more than ready for the distraction. Being around him seems to produce an actual physical relief that mixes into their steamy attraction. Stella's descent into a haze so unlike her normal behavior that it worries her friends is believable, as are the story's developing chills. Characters are well-developed, including friends Henry (who seems to want more than just friendship) and tough, bawdy Brynn, who has a spot-on sarcastic edge that will be recognizable to many teens: "Okay, lovebird. Stop making me want to vom and don't forget to use protection." In the end, the plotting is largely predictable, but it packs in some authentic scares. Plentiful blood-slicked scenes will please horror fans, but the eerie tone surrounding the central mystery is what works best in this supernatural thriller. (Thriller. 14-18) Kirkus"

About the Author

Chandler Baker got her start ghostwriting novels for teens and tweens before turning to

her own stories. She grew up in Florida, went to college in Pennsylvania, and studied law in Texas where she now lives with her husband. Although she loves spinning tales with a touch of horror, she is a much bigger scaredy-cat than her stories would lead you to believe. You can visit her online at www.chandlerbaker.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Dickens:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled Alive? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

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Carol Wells:

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