



Heartbeat (Harlequin Teen)

By *Elizabeth Scott*

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Does life go on when your heart is broken?

Since her mother's sudden death, Emma has existed in a fog of grief, unable to let go, unable to move forward—because her mother is, in a way, still there. She's being kept alive on machines for the sake of the baby growing inside her.

Estranged from her stepfather and letting go of things that no longer seem important—grades, crushes, college plans—Emma has only her best friend to remind her to breathe. Until she meets a boy with a bad reputation who sparks something in her—Caleb Harrison, whose anger and loss might just match Emma's own. Feeling her own heart beat again wakes Emma from the grief that has grayed her existence. Is there hope for life after death—and maybe, for love?

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Heartbeat (Harlequin Teen) By Elizabeth Scott Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2395241 in Books
- Published on: 2015-01-27
- Released on: 2015-01-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.00" w x 5.75" l, .58 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Seventeen-year-old Emma nearly had it all. Her grades were fantastic. She got along well with her mother, and she loved her stepdad, Dan. She was even excited about her mom's pregnancy. All that changed in the amount of time it took to toast a piece of bread. Now Emma's mom lies in a hospital, brain-dead and being kept physically alive until the baby is able to be born. Dan insists this is what his wife would want, but Emma is sure her mother would never want to be hooked up to machines. Her grades plummet and grief threatens to consume her when she suddenly finds herself drawn to bad boy, Caleb, whose parents still blame him for his little sister's death years before. Scott delivers an intriguing novel with a "straight from the headlines" feel. Unfortunately, a few problems detract from the overall success of the story. Caleb's parents are one-dimensional and seem to exist solely as a backdrop for his bad-boy persona while Emma's change of heart comes so quickly and completely that it lacks emotional punch. Still, the deeper themes explored in this novel offer good fodder for discussion.—Heather Webb, Worthington Libraries, OH

From Booklist

Scott's newest offering demonstrates once again her ability to weave a poignant and thought-provoking tale that expertly blends its dark subject matter with the lighter tones of an optimistic romance story. Seventeen-year-old Emma is seized by paralyzing grief after her pregnant mother suffers a fatal embolism. As if that wasn't enough, she must bear witness to her stepfather's unusual and controversial decision to keep Emma's brain-dead mother alive on machines in order to save the baby. Emma steadfastly opposes her stepfather's decision and is alone in her conflicted sorrow until she meets troubled and misunderstood Caleb. The plot veers into contrivance in a few places, but Emma's voice is consistently strong, and Scott's gripping story provides an authentic representation of the painful path toward acceptance and healing. A haunting, hopeful novel that will leave readers pondering the unusual and complex issues it raises. Grades 9-12. --Kathryn Schleff

Review

"Scott (Miracle) returns with the wrenching story of 17-year-old Emma, whose mother, Lisa, had a sudden stroke while pregnant; although Lisa is brain-dead, she is being kept alive by machines to save the baby growing inside her... Emma's emotional conflict--characterized by moments of irrationality, rage, and confusion--is honest, and her eventual ability to see that tragedies can be blameless results in a powerful transformation." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"An intense examination of a family coping with grief, this absorbing character study easily keeps pages turning." -Kirkus Reviews

"Scott's newest offering demonstrates once again her ability to weave a poignant and thought-provoking tale that expertly blends its dark subject matter with the lighter tones of an optimistic romance story....A haunting, hopeful novel that will leave readers pondering the unusual and complex issues it raises." -Booklist

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Darius Cramer:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Heartbeat (Harlequin Teen). Try to make book Heartbeat (Harlequin Teen) as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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David Rutherford:

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