



## The Impossibility of Tomorrow: An Incarnation Novel

By Avery Williams

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**The Impossibility of Tomorrow: An Incarnation Novel** By Avery Williams

**The immortal Seraphina is forced to face the darkness of her past—and risk losing the love of her life—in this gripping conclusion to the Incarnation series.**

Seraphina has been living for centuries, thanks to a special method of alchemy, but only recently has she really felt alive. She's finally broken free from her controlling boyfriend, Cyrus, and after years of swapping bodies to preserve her immortality, is happily settled into a life worth sticking with. Because in this life, she has Noah.

But Noah might not be as trustworthy as he seems. After he delivers an ominous message that could only come from Cyrus, Sera is worried that her new friends and family will find out her secret. And as her suspicions extend beyond Noah, Sera is forced to wonder about her new friends as well: Could her old coven be disguising themselves right under her nose?

Will Sera have to move to another body—and take another life—or can she find a way to keep what she's got, forever?

The Incarnation series is created by Alloy Entertainment, producer of bestselling teen and middle grade series including *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, *Gossip Girl*, *The Vampire Diaries*, and *Pretty Little Liars*.

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—In this sequel to *The Alchemy of Forever* (S & S, 2012), readers find Seraphina Ames having successfully escaped the smothering clutches of Cyrus for only the second time in her 600-plus years of living as an immortal incarnate. Cyrus has perfected a method of alchemy that allows a soul to swap bodies with any human of choice and is the leader of a coven that Sera has been a part of for the past six centuries. He is also her first love and is insanely jealous, acting out his displeasure in volatile, psychotic ways. Since her escape, she has been living in Berkeley, California, as a member of the Morgan family. By accident she took the body of 16-year-old Kailey Morgan in an unwitting attempt to administer CPR to the real Kailey after a fatal car crash. Living as Kailey has allowed her the opportunity to enjoy the role of a typical teenager for the first time in her life. This idyllic scenario comes to an abrupt end with the appearance of a texted message on Kailey's phone that simply says, "Alchemy." Only one person would send that message—Cyrus—and he must be stopped before he takes away the only people she's ever cared for. As she lures him out of hiding, her paranoia rises and she mistakenly suspects each and every human she encounters as the disguised, revenge-seeking Cyrus. Fans of the first book will enjoy every roller-coaster spin and twist and will not be able to figure out this who-is-it until the screeching conclusion. The menacing aspect of the story's ending leaves enough loose ends for a third installment.—Sabrina Carnesi, Crittenden Middle School, Newport News, VA ©(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

### About the Author

Avery Williams was born the day after Halloween in Los Angeles and has since lived in five different states due to her father's job as a radio disc jockey (though she sometimes claims her parents were in the circus). Now she makes her home in Oakland, California, with her husband and a cat named Vendetta. She enjoys riding her bicycle around town and working on her hundred-year-old house. She is the author of *The Alchemy of Forever* and *The Impossibility of Tomorrow*.

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The Impossibility of Tomorrow

## ONE

In 1812, there was an earthquake in the unlikely location of New Madrid, Missouri. It was so violent and ruptured the ground with such force that the Mississippi River temporarily ran backward. Cyrus and I were living in Manhattan at the time, and I remember what he said to me as we strolled through the market: "It takes an earthquake to alter the course of a river. What does it take to change the course of a life?"

I wish I didn't know how easily it is done. I wish I didn't know that sometimes, a life pivots from its intended path in the wake of the tiniest thing.

Sometimes all it takes is one word.

Alchemy.

It can be uttered by a platinum-haired boy as he pulls out a vial of potion dangling on a silver chain. Or delivered the modern way, electronically, the brightly backlit screen of a cell phone belying the dark message it displays.

I sink to my knees on the musty, stained carpet of Cyrus's motel room. Kailey Morgan's iPhone lies in front of me, unharmed from when I dropped it on the carpet. I want to smash that stupid phone. But I don't. I pick it up, coaxing it back to life with trembling fingers, and stare blankly at the Words with Friends screen, as the last droplets of hope evaporate from my soul.

It's still there. Alchemy. The word was played on Noah Vander's phone. It must have been typed with Noah's fingers. But it couldn't have come from Noah. Only one person in Berkeley knows what that word truly means.

Cyrus.

My longest companion, my greatest enemy, who would cage me like a bird. Who used alchemy to make me what I am now: an Incarnate, a wandering soul who takes up residence in human bodies. When I ran away from the coven several weeks ago, it was with one vow in my heart: that I would never again take another life. I was ready to die. I only took sixteen-year-old Kailey Morgan's body by mistake, when her car crashed right in front of me, a fiery display of gasoline and cracked glass.

I look upward, at the bare bulb that illuminates the motel room, suddenly feeling exposed. I shove the phone in my pocket and dart to the light switch, flipping it off. The room disappears into a velvety, choking darkness. I blink, waiting for my eyes to adjust.

I don't think Cyrus will kill me for leaving him. In his own sick, twisted way, he loves me too much for that. But one way or another, he'll make me pay. He's already made me pay by taking Noah.

A volcano of pain erupts in my heart. A sob rises from deep inside me as I picture Noah's beautiful face, his strong jaw, his smiling lapis-lazuli eyes as he holds up his camera, his hand pushing his reckless crow-colored hair out of the way. The next time I see him, his face will be transformed by Cyrus's soul, a hideous change that will be invisible to everyone except me. The thought of Cyrus inside of Noah's body, of Noah's soul shoved out into an uncaring foggy night, is almost unbearable.

A loud peal of laughter sounds from outside the room, from the direction of the parking lot, followed by a heavy footstep on the stair. My heart starts to thud. Whoever's making those footfalls is big—much bigger than me. And suddenly I realize that the message on Kailey's phone means so much more than Noah's death.

It means Cyrus knows who I am. And even worse, where I am. He's probably right outside, waiting for me to emerge.

The image of the rabbits we dissected in Cyrus's biology class flits through my mind. A rabbit is a prey animal, he'd said while posing as a substitute teacher named Mr. Shaw. And its best chance at survival is to outrun its hunter. Sometimes escape is the best defense, better than any teeth or claws.

But I have been running for way too long. I have lost this game, and it's time to face him. My pulse hammers in my ears as I turn the knob and open the door. A blast of damp air meets me.

But the man on the stairs isn't Cyrus. He's tall and thin, with deep brown skin and a neatly trimmed goatee.

He's carrying a woman, whose head is tipped back. She's giggling softly.

He looks up at me. "Well, hello there," he says, somewhat gallantly, though he's slurring his words. The woman laughs louder.

"Put me down," she demands. "I'm too heavy for you."

"Yeah, right," he answers, shifting her weight. "You're drunk, baby. You'll fall down these stairs." He leans over and kisses her cheek.

"We just got married!" the woman exclaims to me, punctuating her statement with a small hiccup. "We're a family now!"

At the word family, a coldness that has nothing to do with the night's mist settles upon me. A slow realization, an icy chill that hisses as it laps in my veins. It's not just Noah who was in danger. And not just me, either.

Kailey's family, who I've come to love, is utterly defenseless against Cyrus. Her mother, her father. Her brother Bryan, who I think of as my own. Cyrus could be at their house, right now.

I squeeze past the couple on the stairs and sprint to the Dumpster, where I'd stashed Bryan's bike earlier. The woman calls after me. "Hey! Aren't you going to congratulate us?"

"Congratulations!" I call, tears pooling in my eyes as I hoist myself onto the bike. "Hold on tight to each other. While you can," I add under my breath. All my time on Earth has shown me that love is a rare and fleeting thing.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Karen Partain:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled The Impossibility of Tomorrow: An Incarnation Novel can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

#### **Marina Tijerina:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the free time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the actual book you have

read is The Impossibility of Tomorrow: An Incarnation Novel.

**Susan Frame:**

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