

The background features a complex network of white nodes and lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines. The overall color scheme is a gradient from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The text is centered and white, providing a high-contrast look against the background.

The Memory of Us

Written by Camille Di Maio

Published by ninastrattoria

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The Memory of Us

By Camille Di Maio

The Memory Of Light

Julianne Westcott was living the kind of life that other Protestant girls in prewar Liverpool could only dream about: old money, silk ball gowns, and prominent young men lining up to escort her. But when she learns of a blind-and-deaf brother, institutionalized since birth, the illusion of her perfect life and family shatters around her. While visiting her brother in secret, Julianne meets and befriends Kyle McCarthy, an Irish Catholic groundskeeper studying to become a priest. Caught between her family's expectations, Kyle's devotion to the church, and the intense new feelings that the forbidden courtship has awakened in her, Julianne must make a choice: uphold the life she's always known or follow the difficult path toward love. But as war ripples through the world and the Blitz decimates England, a tragic accident forces Julianne to leave everything behind and forge a new life built on lies she's told to protect the ones she loves. Now, after twenty years of hiding from her past, the truth finds her—will she be brave enough to face it?

This is one of the best books that I have read this year! It fills you with a multitude of emotions. I laughed and I cried, I got angry and I was sad. This is what a great book does, it makes you feel. I became immersed in this book. I felt a part of the story. The characters are richly developed and likable. There was one part where I got so angry at Julianne, though, it was a moment of vanity when she makes what I felt was a selfish decision. I don't want to give away the plot though. This story is vividly descriptive. You will feel as if you are there. It flows effortlessly throughout and covers over a 20 year span. It is filled with love and heartache. It was at times heart wrenching and at other times heartwarming. You will love this book and find it hard to put down. You will definitely cry. I was crying like a baby by the end. It is so hard to believe that this is a debut novel. Camille DiMaio is a talented author and I can't wait to read another book by her. This is great historical fiction! Do not miss out on this amazing book. I highly recommend it to those who love historical fiction and to those who don't. This is a great book! It will remain with me for a very long time. I received an ARC of this book for review. Thank you , Camille, for a wonderful read.
...more

The Memory Of Babel

â€• [...] I was meant to be with you. You were my vocation [...]â€•

Julianne Westcott is a beautiful, young socialite, and at eighteen has the world at her feet. Pressured on one side by her father to enter his shipping business and on the other by her mother to marry well into a prominent, upper class family, Julianne wants to determine her own path. She enters nursing school.

When she discovers she has an institutionalised, deaf and blind twin brother, Charles, she begins secretly visiting him without

â€• [...] I was meant to be with you. You were my vocation [...]â€•

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When she discovers she has an institutionalised, deaf and blind twin brother, Charles, she begins secretly visiting him without her parents' knowledge. There she meets Kyle McCarthy, a young man who has befriended her brother. Kyle is kind and attentive. Julianne learns that he's the gardener's son, and training for the Catholic priesthood.

The story told in first person from Julianne's point-of-view, begins in 1961 and told in flashbacks to 1937 when Julianne and Kyle first meet. Any relationship between them is verboten: Kyle is in seminary training for the priesthood; they are from different social classes; Kyle is Catholic in a time when religious denomination mattered.

As I mentioned to one of my friends recently, Iâ€™m not taking chances on new authors too much these days, but Iâ€™m very glad I did with Camille Di Maio and her dÃ©but, *The Memory of Us*. This is such a lovely story. The author writes with real sincerity, and Julianne and Kyle's relationship comes off as emotional and deep. The depiction of life in Britain during the war and the trials and tribulations that the couple goes through because of class distinctions in this era, reads realistically.

The pacing, prose and plot are quality, and certainly higher than expected from a first-time author. My issues with this are all to do with some pivotal decisions Julianne makes (especially at one particular point in the story) that affect not only her life, but Kyle's and others close to her. I understand the traumatic and life-shattering events she went through, and to some degree I understand her decisions. But they seemed to be at odds with her character, and how she was previously portrayed, and I wasn't convinced events would so radically change her personality. Later, she makes another decision and allows years to pass before acting, which I considered far too long, and found frustrating.

The Memory of Us

Many readers will find this quite an emotional read, I think. Even for this stone-hearted reader this little scene made me shed a rare tear. (view spoiler)[

My pulse rushed, as I said the only word that needed to be said: "Kyle."

The silence on the other end was total.

"Kyle," I said again, this time through the tears that would no longer be barricaded. My head fell to the mantle, and my shoulders heaved. (hide spoiler)]

This is one of the better World War 2 romance dramas I've read. And with overtones of *The Thorn Birds* this is well worth reading. This is one I encourage my friends to put on their reading list, as I'm pretty sure many of you will love this as much, if not more than I did. I'll definitely read Camille Di Maio's next title. Recommended for readers who enjoy romantic historical fiction with a love story spanning decades and those who enjoy WW2 settings.

Check out this gorgeous book trailer for *The Memory of Us*
<https://www.goodreads.com/videos/1008...>

Steam: 1.5

ARC courtesy of Lake Union Publishing via NetGalley
...more

It is 1961 in England and we meet a sad lonely woman who is about to give up on her life. She is a midwife, and her life ending action is interrupted by an urgent call from a neighbor to deliver a baby. The mother of the baby is in distress and a priest has been called for last rites. She recognizes the priest's name from the past; a life that she has erased.

Twenty four years earlier, we are presented with the younger version of this woman named Julianne. She is being raised in a wealthy family. It is 1961 in England and we meet a sad lonely woman who is about to give up on her life. She is a midwife, and her life ending action is interrupted by an urgent call from a neighbor to deliver a baby. The mother of the baby is in distress and a priest has been called for last rites. She recognizes the priest's name from the past; a life that she has erased.

Twenty four years earlier, we are presented with the younger version of this woman named Julianne. She is being raised in a wealthy family surrounded by the luxuries of servants, social events, charity commitments and status. At a young age she uncovered a family secret about an unknown brother named Charles who has been institutionalized since his birth. Unknown to her family, she has been visiting her brother since finding out about his existence.

During one of her visits to see Charles, she meets a young gardener at the institution, who in his free

The Memory of Us

time has friended her brother. She is attracted to the gardener whose name is Kyle. Time passes and they both go away to pursue their studies; Julianne for nursing and Kyle to seminary. Julianne has not forgotten what she felt for Kyle but does not want to come between him and his future obligation.

During a break from their schooling they are reunited and a romance develops. Kyle who has fought the attraction towards Julianne, will no longer pursue his intention of becoming a priest. He asks Julianne's parents for her hand in marriage and they strongly oppose. This will be the first of many obstacles Julianne and Kyle will face as the novel progresses.

Julianne's independence and emotions helped me connect to her character. There is an easy flow to this story while it alternates between current and previous years. This debut novel by this author has a nice mix of historical fiction and romance.

Great pricing on Amazon for this book- all formats - <https://www.facebook.com/suzyapproved...#>

Giveaway on my blog until 1/4 - winner picks format! - non us- kindle only
<https://www.facebook.com/suzyapproved...>

...more

The Memory Of Running

The Memory of Us follows a beautiful girl who discovered that she has a twin-brother that was deprived from her by her parents due to his inability to hear and see. Every week, she secretly visits him and there she stumbles upon a handsome man whom she instantly started having feelings to but the thing is, he is studying to be a priest.

1.) plot - To be honest, I am still speechless over this novel for it was such a good one. This is one of those type of books that deserve to get an movie adapta The Memory of Us follows a beautiful girl who discovered that she has a twin-brother that was deprived from her by her parents due to his inability to hear and see. Every week, she secretly visits him and there she stumbles upon a handsome man whom she instantly started having feelings to but the thing is, he is studying to be a priest.

1.) plot - To be honest, I am still speechless over this novel for it was such a good one. This is one of those type of books that deserve to get an movie adaptation. Everything about the book was just so beautiful.

Of course, the fact that this novel tackles a hot issue which includes a male protagonist studying to be a priest and a young and beautiful nurse in the midst of war is enough to love this book. Knowing me, I am sucker for historical-fiction.

Some aspects of the book were truly heartbreaking for some characters did not had their happily ever after because of the war itself.

What a wrong time to be inlove, indeed. To witness your husband be taken away, as you lie still in your tiny apartment, the sound of the sirens and bombs began to feel familiar to you. Not knowing if your love ones are still alive somewhere or perhaps, their corpse are already buried.

As corny as it may sounds, this book somehow made me believe in destiny. That if two people were truly made for each other, then love will surely find a way.

2.) characters -

Julianne - what I admired about her was the fact she was smart, wise, and kind. She did not care about your status in life and will just continue to look at you equally like a decent person should have. She didn't even care whether her brother was blind and deaf, for she still wholeheartedly accepted him.

And despite what her parents kept from her, not a single time did she loathed them for those. And if so, she let the anger go.

The Memory of Us

I like her determination to understand the people around her especially Kyle regarding to his religion. That she will do anything for him. Even gave up her luxurious life.

And there were times where I cringed for what she did but when you'll study the situation and imagine yourself in her shoes, you'll find yourself doing the same thing.

Kyle - Husband material. Faithful, smart, handsome, strong, and family-oriented. Everything a girl can ever wish for.

Everything about him will surely makes you drool. I love how he actually did have a picture of Julianne tucked in his notebook during his stay in the seminary and when the picture accidentally fell, he told his classmate that she was just his cousin. That cracked me out. And how he made these sweet moves to her, asking if she has loads of boys lining up just to get her hands. Looooool!

In fact, he kinda reminds me of the male protagonist in *The Best of Us* and in *The Atonement*. If that makes sense.

Anyways, Kyle is like my new-boyfriend and Julianne is seriously now one of my favorite female characters of all time, I swear.

3.) writing style - it was everything. No boring moments. Seriously! Te moment I first laid my eyes on the words, I can't seem to stop reading until my mama told me to go to sleep.

The romance was super good. Though I must say, I expected more about what they've been through in the war but the war lasted only like three chapters which were fine with me.

I love how what they have was an instant romance because it was love at first sight but it was still slow-burn. You know what I mean? I took me like a year to finally confess to each other.

There were times that made me smile like a maniac because the scenes were just so freaking good. I swear! And the fact that there were no sex-scene was good!

Overall, this is a must read. Highly-recommended. It was heartbreaking yet beautiful. Two words that cannot be separated.

...more

This will be in my top 5 for 2016.

This book was recommended to me by a Goodreads friend who said this book had my name written all over it. Judith, you know me!! She shared the book trailer, a short video, that drew me in immediately.

I loved this romantic historical fiction set just prior to World War 2.

Julianne grows up believing she is the only child of wealthy parents. After stumbling upon some papers in her mother's dresser, she learns she has a brother who is blind and deaf left in an institution. This will be in my top 5 for 2016.

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Julianne grows up believing she is the only child of wealthy parents. After stumbling upon some papers in her mother's dresser, she learns she has a brother who is blind and deaf left in an institution. While visiting her brother, she meets a handsome young man who is going to be a priest. They are instantly drawn to each other, fighting the love that is beginning.

I couldn't wait to pick up this wonderful book, and it had me cheering for love to win!

I highly recommend this debut novel, and can hardly wait for the author's next one. ...more

The Memory Of Water

5 Stars ++ My Top Historic Fiction, WWII, Best Romance, and Debut of 2016!

Top Books of 2016!

Camille Di Maio's smashing debut, THE MEMORY OF US is a poignant and timeless epic story, of love and loss. More sweet than bitter, more triumphant than tragic. A passion both ageless and timeless.

Two young adults pressured by family--a course navigated by parents, rather than their own. "Inspired by the song Eleanor Rigby, "The Memory of Us" is a story in which a Protestant socialite and a Catholic seminarian can no longer resist the love that will bring scandal to their families in the dawn of World War II England, but when a Blitz bombing brings devastation to an underground shelter, choices are forged, lies are created, and decades pass before the truth brings the two lovers face to face with the consequences of their decisions."

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"From the 1930s to the 1960s, from Liverpool, to London, The Isle of Man, and beyond. A socialite, forbidden love, the church, to the brutal bombings and WWII--a love so strong, neither time or place can separate.

Liverpool, 1920's The Westcotts, a wealthy family (Newsham Park), of status, an elaborate estate with grounds- a son born with a handicap, they have hidden, stashed away- forgotten in a home, never visiting.

A father who works all the time in his business, burying his sorrow in his work. A lonely mother who surrounds herself with people, alcohol, and social events. Their beautiful smart, daughter is their main focus. They have expectations.

A daughter forced to turn against her family- they have kept in the dark of her twin brother. A daughter, Julianne who does not care about money and social status. One who chooses love. Her life takes a different course than her parent's set out for her.

Julianne Westcott, A Protestant girl born in 1920, pre-war, Liverpool, to a family surrounded by wealth,

The Memory of Us

friends, and socialites. From their elaborate estate, servants, shopping, social events, luxury cars, charities, and society. However, Julianne discovers at a young age, her parents have not been forthcoming about her institutionalized twin brother. She keeps the secret and begins visiting her brother Charles.

In the process, she soon will be headed off to London, to university; choosing a career in nursing. She has many friends, and her mother is always quick to pair her with society's most eligible. However, Julianne is not like her parents. She has a heart of gold. She is not interested in riches. She is kind and caring. The suitors seem superficial.

While visiting her brother, in secret; she meets a handsome gardener, Kyle McCarthy who has taken notice of her brother and spends time with him. He is an Irish Catholic, an immigrant studying to become a priest, having been accepted into seminary. He is also influenced by his dying mother and father's long time wishes for his vocation. There would be no future for them other than friendship.

Kyle is altruistic, kind, talented (landscape artist), and touches lives of everyone around him. He is caring, hardworking and has a strong love for his father. A million dollar smile--a heart and soul to warm hearts. Their friendship grows, and they become connected in many ways. When they both go away to school, they cannot forget the strong pull to one another--however, neither acts on the growing attraction.

Their paths cross once again months later, when returning home from school for break. A true love and forbidden romance begin. Julianne is not interested in any other guys, and Kyle is being pulled from his devotion to the church. His love continues to grow. They will be together, no matter what.

Her parents will have no part in their daughter dating or thinking of marrying someone beneath her. Their love is stronger and nothing will stand in their way. Their true happiness is tested time and time again.

Then comes war, death, separation from one another. The Hell. Julianne has lost her way. She is now only barely surviving with a loss and burden, so heavy, she can no longer bear.

“Surely this wasn't the end. To have lived so long in despair. To have found hope and even happiness. Something restored to have one taken away. Was there no place in this world where all could be right, if only for a little while? Was there some great balance that had to be righted by pairing grief and joy. Was it so wrong to hope that happiness could be lived on this side?”

She had become a different person. A simple person, much different than the girl living in luxury next to Newsham Park. Anonymous. Now, to the point of wanting to end her life. She had nothing left. However, at the moment she is about to end her life, fate steps in.

She is interrupted--a traveling nurse, a midwife, and called to a home to save a dying mother and baby, as she has done many times. A priest, a little rectory split in two, the countryside, and a homely scarred

housekeeper, a safe female attendant for a man living alone.

“Was she given an enormous reprieve from Heaven, a stay of execution? Possibly this was Purgatory? A place to atone for her sins, but always with the knowledge that paradise was waiting- one room over. Not the Hell that she deluded herself into. It would take the kind of fatherly God that Kyle believed in to make the reunion take place. A seed of hope. A glimpse of light. A life she thought had been destroyed.

Memories. Paths are chosen. Promises. Vows. War. Death. Despair. Loneliness. Guilt. Choices. Shame. Scarred. Faith tested. Broken. Rediscovery. Redemption. Faith through suffering. God. Joy and Sorrow. A faith for those seeking health and salvation.

Had God given Juliette a second chance? A curtain: Salvation or condemnation waited on the other side. From lies, scandal, hurts, pain, scars, and wrongdoings. Seeking of absolution. Penance. Confession. Forgiveness. She recalls her vows of marriage. Their love.

THE MEMORY OF US beautifully written, with eloquent prose, infused with spiritual moments and metaphors of life: plants dying, cycles of life in a caterpillar, and the relation to life from Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory concepts--her life had been, as such. From symbolism, heart-breaking letters, repentance and joy. From extraordinary courage, faith, and endurance. For fans of Nicholas Sparks' The Notebook.

Throughout the novel, the author explores religious tones and two primary vocations in our faith: priesthood and marriage, and as referenced by DiMaio in an interview, "She considers them to be on equal footing, each modeling a different aspect of the image and likeness of God. We can't have one without the other. Both involve dedication and calling, and each requires taking a lifelong vow."

In the novel, despite, the outside influences; good or bad. Kyle and Julianne are both the subjects of other people making choices for them. (Both families). But, ultimately, they must each discover what it is that they were created for.

Camille Di Maio clearly knows how to tug at heartstrings (mine, officially stretched). An old-fashioned fiercely romantic and touching tale. Another element of surprise--what blew me away, the author is a Texan. You would never know she was not from London; courageous to tackle; well researched WWII, and beautifully written.

My reading experience: I was absolutely glued to this book, and fell in love with Kyle and Julianne! (perfection) The characters remain with you. After finishing, found myself returning the following day to re-read portions of the book, once again. I could not move on to my next book. The lingering . . .

Have not cried this hard since the last Nicholas Sparks' movie/book. It will definitely clear your sinuses. Evocative! What a poignant love story. The Memory of Us has "Big Screen" written all over it. Can image the cast of stars.

The Memory of Us

A cross between Colleen McCullough's *The Thorn Birds*, Nicholas Spark's love stories (dual timelines), authors, Kate Morton, Lisa Jewell, Jo Jo Moyes, Lisa Jewell, Kristin Hannah, and Susan Bratt.

What a fabulous weekend holiday read! Readers please watch the [Book Trailer](#) (excellent portrayal). I have watched the book trailer so many times. Definitely, captures the essence of the book and time. Hope an audiobook will follow later, definitely purchasing.

Note to reader: When reading, a note of recommendation: Do not be confused with the scattered portions in italics *Abertillery*. If you have to skip over this section, it will all make sense when reaching the 85% mark, as the dual timelines are connected. Referring to a later time. Then you will want to refer back to these sections when all is revealed. By the time you get to 97%, you will have all your fingernails chewed. From here on out, "explosive!"

A timeless work of art! Camille Di Maio, You have yourself a winner- What a debut! Let's hope I can snag an ARC of *Before The Rain*, coming May 2017. Don't think I can wait. An author to follow!

Inspiration behind the book, and details of her second book: [Author Interview](#)

PS. I think my "all time love" of mystery, suspense, and thrillers may be shifting towards Historical Fiction. This is like five in a row. Maybe I have found my new genre.

Look for *Before the Rain Falls*, Coming May 16, 2017. (can't wait)! -- Moving and engrossing, this dual story alternates between Della's dark ordeals of the 1940s and Paloma and Mick's present-day search for answers of roots, family, love, and what is truly important in life.

A special thank you to Lake Union and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

JDCMustReadBooks ...more

I received an advance copy of *The Memory of Us* from NetGalley in exchange for my review.

This could have been an outstanding novel. Unfortunately the story's execution fell short of its engaging premise.

We first meet Julianne Westcott as a deeply depressed middle-aged woman on the verge of ending her life when she is called to assist with a difficult home birth. When a priest arrives to administer last rites to the mother, Julianne recognizes him as her long-lost first love, Kyle McCarthy. The s I received an advance copy of *The Memory of Us* from NetGalley in exchange for my review.

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We first meet Julianne Westcott as a deeply depressed middle-aged woman on the verge of ending her life when she is called to assist with a difficult home birth. When a priest arrives to administer last rites to the mother, Julianne recognizes him as her long-lost first love, Kyle McCarthy. The story then shifts back to 1937, when Julianne is eighteen. While on a secret visit to see her deaf-and-blind twin brother at a home for the feeble-minded, Julianne encounters a handsome seminarian (Kyle) who works there part-time as a groundskeeper. As the two continue to meet under varied circumstances, their mutual attraction becomes difficult to resist. Meanwhile, their country prepares for war.

Di Maio handles certain aspects of the story very well. The romance between Julianne and Kyle was believable and never overdone. Their restraint in honoring Kyle's vocation was commendable. I was interested enough in their relationship to stick with the book until the end. However, small faults all the way through had me on the verge of giving up more than once.

As a historical novel, *The Memory of Us* simply lacks authenticity. All of the characters in the book, regardless of social class, ethnicity, or regional background, sound the same and they all sound more or less American. I didn't notice any glaring errors in the description of major historical events, but when it came to the finer details of life in pre-war England, such as food, money, travel, and social customs, there were a number of incongruities. (I'm about 99% sure, for instance, that no one in England had heard of banana bread in 1937, and only an eccentric would ask for chamomile tea on a train. Also, I highly doubt that (view spoiler)[Julianne would have been allowed to remain in nursing school after she married, and she certainly would not have been allowed to continue working once she became pregnant (hide spoiler)].) These gaffes might be minor, but they occurred frequently enough to distract from the story.

A lot of the story is told through summary and exposition. To a certain extent, this is understandable, as the novel covers a span of almost thirty years, but some interesting parts of the story, such as Julianne's time in nursing school, are largely glossed over. On top of that, the secondary characters are mostly bland and one-dimensional. I was particularly disappointed in the treatment of Julianne's brother, who is barely described, has no personality to speak of, and never develops into anything more than a mute object.

Despite these gripes, I really enjoyed the first 3/4 of this book. In the final chapters, however, Julianne makes some choices that are very difficult to understand and that left me extremely unsympathetic toward her. The sequence of events following her chance reunion with Kyle were, frankly, too far-fetched to be believed, and the resolution of the story was too quick and easy.

Thus, with some regret, I can only give 2 stars.

...more

The Memory Of Us

Buddy Read with Oana

The premise was interesting and the setting was wonderful. A fraternal twin who was blind and mute, a daughter from a marriage that was broken years ago and a young man on a journey to become a priest. Ms. Di Maio has talent -this is her debut- and I am keenly aware that future stories will continue to evolve and get better.

Narrated in first person tense, the POV belonged to Julianne Westcott; it worked for and against the romance's development. The historical fiction star *Buddy Read with Oana*

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Narrated in first person tense, the POV belonged to Julianne Westcott; it worked for and against the romance's development. The historical fiction started off with a whisper. It was 1961 and Miss Bailey had been called out to assist with a birth. Before this, she had been contemplating suicide. And then, with little more than a grip to the moment, I was sailing back to 1937. Shifting back and forth between timelines, this pattern threaded all of the encounters together.

For the first third of the story, I zoomed along grasping at what was happening. Julianne met Kyle McCarthy at the Boodle Home, a sanitarium of sorts that hid away and ministered to children of the wealthy. Charles was Julianne's twin and a secret. Her parents never told her about him, she found it out by sheer accident. Kyle was the gardener's son and had developed a special rapport with Charles. The chapters flew by "remember, you are traveling to and from 1961- and a forbidden romance unfolded.

I loved Kyle's character. I had empathy for his dilemma. I wanted to know what was going on in his mind. I had different issues with Julianne. (view spoiler)[One moment she was a very mature eighteen-year-old and the next she was a typical teenager. I wasn't sure if I was going to tag this as a YA story or an adult romance. I also had some very strong feelings that Charles was written as a plot device conveniently brought into play when needed. Again, I wanted to know more.

And then there were the journeys to 1961 at suitable times for the author. Not for me, I selfishly wanted more. Each time I received a tidbit of a possible future for this couple. It felt like a carrot dangled before me. By the time I had passed the 50% mark I was chatting with my buddy-read partner, Oana, and considering marking the story as not-finished. We agreed that the story had become predictable and we were quickly losing interest. I wanted everything to speed up. My spidey sense told me Julianne was

The Memory of Us

going to make some poor decisions. And she did. If not for Oana's motivation, I would have stopped reading. (hide spoiler)]

Well, I made it to the end. Thank you, Oana, for your support! Kyle was such a sweetheart and, finally, Julianne had closure. Whew!

...more

It seems to me that I couldn't possibly have read the same book that others have rated 4 and 5 stars. The Memory of Us that I just finished, and generously gave 2 stars, was poor to mediocre on all levels. The story line was pure simple romance. Rich girl meets poor boy who happens to be studying for the priesthood. Oh what an original quandary! (not). And war intervenes. Whatever shall they do?

I speed read through much of this drivel.

Julianne Westcott and Kyle Mc Carthy seem to be ill fated I It seems to me that I couldn't possibly have read the same book that others have rated 4 and 5 stars. The Memory of Us that I just finished, and generously gave 2 stars, was poor to mediocre on all levels. The story line was pure simple romance. Rich girl meets poor boy who happens to be studying for the priesthood. Oh what an original quandary! (not). And war intervenes. Whatever shall they do?

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Julianne Westcott and Kyle Mc Carthy seem to be ill fated lovers. It's tough to identify since the characters are one dimensional. The minor characters are so poorly defined that I lacked empathy for any of them. Amazingly at the end, the author has questions for book clubs. Really? The only question that makes sense to me is why would any book club choose this sappy novel? ...more

The Memory Of Trees

I'm very fortunate, as a book blogger, to have the opportunity to read so many terrific debut novels. The Memory of Us definitely fits into this category. I'm not normally into historical fiction, but I do read books that are highly recommended in that category. So many people were raving about this novel and now I can see why!

I could relate to Julianne, the lead character of this novel. Even though she was way younger than me when the story started out, she was still easy to sympathize with. (I'm very fortunate, as a book blogger, to have the opportunity to read so many terrific debut novels. The Memory of Us definitely fits into this category. I'm not normally into historical fiction, but I do read books that are highly recommended in that category. So many people were raving about this novel and now I can see why! I could relate to Julianne, the lead character of this novel. Even though she was way younger than me when the story started out, she was still easy to sympathize with. (Let's just say I have been in her shoes in several different ways.) Like most other historical fiction novels I've read, this story starts off during World War II. However, the focus is more on romance, even though the war eventually becomes the climax of the novel. Still, it shows more what happens to one character and what things are like in the aftermath of a heartbreaking situation and decision.

Some aspects of this novel reminded me of the movie Titanic. I won't say what as to not ruin anything for those who haven't read it.

I felt the ending wrapped up a bit too neatly, but I wanted the outcome for Julianne. I just wish there was a tad more conflict to get to that point.

Camille Di Maio did an impressive job with her first novel and I look forward to reading more from her. She had interesting and believable characters who enhanced the intensity, as well as the sweet moments.

Since the characters start out young and the story goes over a long span of time, I had challenges with casting for the movie version (because there needs to be one). I did end up picturing Daisy Ridley as Julianne, even though she's not blonde. (Despite the description, I never really pictured her with blonde hair anyway.) I could see Jamie Blackley playing Kyle. ...more

I received an advance reader's copy of "The Memory of Us" in exchange for agreeing to write an honest review of this new novel. It is a brilliantly crafted story in which true love and devotion take the reader right into the heart of the human soul. The author's attention to even the smallest detail transported me to a time and place of the not-too-distant past where I felt I was caught up in the events going on all around me. The author's use of "flash forward" moments is very effective in keep I received an advance reader's copy of "The Memory of Us" in exchange for agreeing to write an honest review of this new novel. It is a brilliantly crafted story in which true love and devotion take the reader right into the heart of the human soul. The author's attention to even the smallest detail transported me to a time and place of the not-too-distant past where I felt I was caught up in the events going on all around me. The author's use of "flash forward" moments is very effective in keeping the various elements of the story flowing and in context, which makes for a very enjoyable read. "The Memory of Us" is an outstanding novel that has the ability to entertain and inform, but mostly to tug at your heart strings.

The Memory of Us

You won't want to put this book down once you have begun to read it. ...more

The Memory Of Things

I hate to be a naysayer since lots of people loved this book, but I found it painfully slow to develop and then when the main character pretends to be dead and gives her daughter away all because she's scarred and no longer beautiful, I just couldn't believe any heroine would be so selfish. As an avid reader of WWII fiction, I didn't learn anything new either.

There are many reasons that kept me from losing several hours of sleep, while reading, "The Memory of Us: A Novel." Each chapter left me needing to start the next. I was able to connect with all of the characters through their decision making. There were times I yelled, "No!!!" along with several, "Yes!!!" The authors historical detail of the times, pulled me directly into that era. I was able to see, feel, smell, what the characters encountered. Several times, I thought I had the plot all figured out. There are many reasons that kept me from losing several hours of sleep, while reading, "The Memory of Us: A Novel." Each chapter left me needing to start the next. I was able to connect with all of the characters through their decision making. There were times I yelled, "No!!!" along with several, "Yes!!!" The authors historical detail of the times, pulled me directly into that era. I was able to see, feel, smell, what the characters encountered. Several times, I thought I had the plot all figured out, yet a surprising twist would come and keep me in suspense. So exciting! This is a true love story that deals with real obstacles brought on by the times and situations. The journey is beautifully written and I will wait, patiently (or at least try), for The author's next book! ...more

The Memory Of Water Movie

3.5 stars. For a first novel, this was well written and the last 30% were most enjoyable, full of suspense, making it a real page-turner.

My problem was I thought it was a historical novel with a bit of romance; in fact it is a romance with a bit of history. For example, life during the Blitz in London was described in just a few pages, whereas the build-up and love story between Julianne and Kyle took about 22 chapters. This is great for fans of romantic novels, but I was looking for something c 3.5 stars. For a first novel, this was well written and the last 30% were most enjoyable, full of suspense, making it a real page-turner.

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The predicament Julianne finds herself in, and her spiritual struggle are very plausible, and the ending was delicious. ...more

This book was absolutely amazing. The storyline is wonderful with vibrant and lovable characters. I was sad when the book was over. I cannot say enough good things about this book.

The Memory Of The Righteous Is Blessed

A beautiful story of a young woman's journey from pre-war life in Liverpool through the Blitz in London to the 1960s. Family secrets, lost love and the truths that set us free -- bring the tissues!

The Memory of Us is a stellar debut marked by its vivid imagery and intricately developed characters. I was swept away into Julianne and Kyle's story and quickly engrossed by the twists and turns. Mysteries do not always hold my attention, but this one had me reading late into the night. I look forward to reading more from this author. I received an advance copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

The Memory Of Butterflies

Oh my, what a debut!! I usually request books weeks in advance, but when I read the description on this one and saw the reviews, I just had to see what all the hype was about. This was an excellent read. So much love and so much sorrow and pain all in one story.

I was totally engrossed in the life of Julianne and Kyle and stayed up all night reading it. I know better than to start a book after midnight, but I felt I would read a little and then sleep. Before I knew it, the sun was coming up and Oh my, what a debut!! I usually request books weeks in advance, but when I read the description on this one and saw the reviews, I just had to see what all the hype was about. This was an excellent read. So much love and so much sorrow and pain all in one story.

I was totally engrossed in the life of Julianne and Kyle and stayed up all night reading it. I know better than to start a book after midnight, but I felt I would read a little and then sleep. Before I knew it, the sun was coming up and the next thing I knew my roommate was leaving for work. I did put it down for a three hour nap, however. Then I was back at it, reading again.

There are so many good things about this book that I just can't list them all without a lot of spoilers, but I can say it was entertaining, enjoyable, and I was sad to see it end. These characters had become like my new best friends, now they're not in my life anymore. I feel a loss of emptiness. However, I am very glad that I did get to spend time with them.

Huge thanks to Lake Union Publishing for approving my request and to Net Galley for providing me with a free e-galley in exchange for an honest review. I definitely recommend this book! ...more

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

Excellent written book, however, it physically hurt me to read. I. Mean. It. My eyes were raw from wiping away constant tears....

The whole novel kept me on the edge of my seat, but also on the verge of needing intense therapy. I was pulling for Julianne and Kyle throughout the story, but my heart broke when Julianne strayed from her original character and turned into a whole new one after her accident. Granted, after a traumatic ordeal I would assume one would undergo major life changes- but Excellent written book, however, it physically hurt me to read. I. Mean. It. My eyes were raw from wiping away constant tears....

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The Memory of Us

I'm quite thankful for the happy ending, but it was too little too late and I had already cried too many tears. I'll be sending my therapy/wine bill to the author shortly.... I wish her the best of luck, she has a wonderful talent for story telling, even if she did leave me sobbing two nights in a row. Sleeping on a soggy pillow is not fun.

Congratulations to the author. It's a wonderful book. I look forward to what you will come up with next.
...more