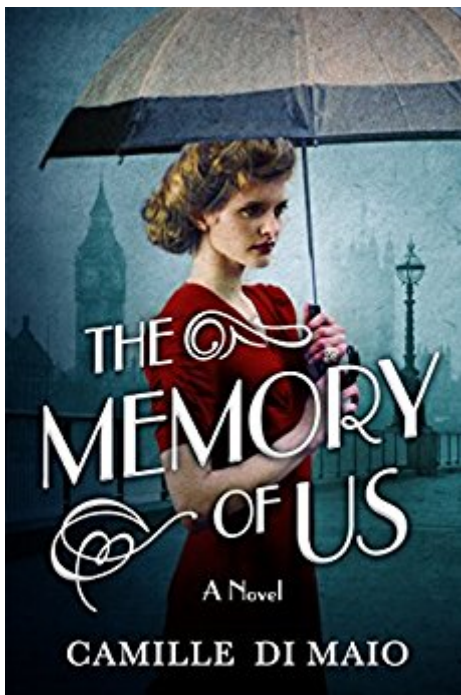


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The Memory Of Us: A Novel



Synopsis

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?

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Customer Reviews

"THE MEMORY OF US" by Camille Di Maiol just finished reading "The Memory of Us," and was so

moved by this novel. While heartbreaking at times and during one period, Camille Di Maio has written an amazing story of friendship, love, blessings, family bonds, religion, prejudices, war time and the meaning of true commitment. Her flawed but loving and realistic characters are well written and bring this novel alive. Individually as stories of each character unfolds, but also as a family, friends, a couple, and in many other roles. This is the case with the main plot but also throughout the multiple subplots. The story line is so powerful, I had a very hard time putting this novel down. It was a time period (1930's to 1960's) of many societal rules and expectations; where London was just waiting before entering the war; the Blitz; the atrocities and consequences that occurred during the war and long after; the time period of Reconstruction and the decades following. It was also a time period of changes, choices, deformity, and death; of birth, renewal, vows, commitments, love, and finding your way home again. A truly amazing and extremely well written novel. I can't say enough about this book, other than pick it up and read it

ASAP.

I'm sorry I put off reading this for as long as I did. I wanted to savor it for as long as I could, but there is no putting this book down once you pick it up. Written during WWII in Liverpool and London, you get the sense of what it was like to be surrounded in destruction and turmoil, as a woman coming of age, and experiencing a forbidden love. Julianne is quite the debutante, but has a down to earth warmth about her. She's a loving, caring, and quite funny young woman, growing up in a privileged, affluent home. One wouldn't expect this type of personality, but I loved her and felt drawn to her from the first page. She feels very deeply, and has a giving nature about her, which is why the nursing field was made for her. I believe we have all at least pondered the idea of being in love with someone that was forbidden to be loved, with someone that would go against all our morals, and against our family wishes. That's what makes it that much more powerful. Kyle was that forbidden love for Julianne, and I fell hard and fast for this tremendously, devoted man. He is a hard worker, has a sweet soul, and in my mind's eye, a very handsome, funny, sexy young man. I was saddened by the turn of events, and the lesson learned in this historical novel. I cried, I laughed, I held my breath at times, and forced my eyes to move faster than humanly possible so I could finally learn what happens to all the fantastically written characters in this debut novel. The lesson I learned, and needed to hear, is that, "Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall" and vanity will be your downfall. I had to re-read the last few pages over and over again because I didn't want it to end, and yet couldn't believe the end!! Took my breath away..... and I'm a hard customer to please!

The Memory of Us was written by debut author Camille DiMaio. One of the first scenes involves protagonist Julianne visiting her twin brother at the institution that serves as his home. Julianne is not supposed to know that her brother exists; not only is she aware of him, she also makes regular clandestine visits to spend time with him. This defiance of convention and of parental wishes sets the tone for the rest of the book. It is at Bootle House that Julianne first encounters Kyle McCarthy. Julianne is accustomed to moving in the upper echelons of Liverpool society, and Kyle is completely like any of the other boys that she knows. Not only is he an Irish Catholic, but he also attends a seminary and intends to become a priest. These two very different young people are drawn to each other. Even if they could manage to transcend the boundaries of socioeconomics and religion (she is Protestant), it is the late 1930s, and all signs point to a war on the European continent. The Memory of Us is an incredible book, and a testament to the things that can happen to people torn apart by war and grief and uncertainty. DiMaio has clearly done a great deal of research, and I loved watching a vivid portrait of life in the 1930s unfold on each page. I was entranced by her descriptions of clothes, and even more by the descriptions of food. I would absolutely recommend The Memory of Us. This book demonstrates the lengths that people will go to for love. DiMaio has done a wonderful job with characterization, and this is manifested in the smallest of gestures rather than some of the more overt actions. I found myself reading quickly because I was constantly in a state of anticipation, and needed to know what was going to happen next. I enjoyed The Memory of Us, and I am looking forward to reading more from Camille DiMaio. I received a copy of this book from Netgalley/the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

This was a book that was hard to put down. This is a love story between a young woman, born to a well-to-do family in England who falls hopelessly in love with a young gardener with Scottish heritage who has dreams of becoming a Catholic priest. The family is totally against any kind of personal relationship between the pair for many reasons. The author has written the love story with compassion and empathy, in a way that is interesting and not erotic. The time period is pre-WWII, and during the war and after the war with intriguing twists and turns. It is a story I shall remember and recommend to my many friends who love to read this genre of historic fiction that includes a wonderful love story.

Gosh, what a story!! The book includes young love, faithful friends, an elopement, scars, faith, forgiveness, a daughter, and more. The book moves smoothly through the main character's life. Wonderful novel. Well written, historical, heart breaking, and more. The book deserves an A++++++

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