



The Memory Thief

Don Donaldson

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Dr. Marti Segerson's appointment to the staff of the isolated and rural Tennessee Gibson State Mental Hospital was no accident. Years ago, Marti watched a mad man, serial killer Vernon Odessa, murder her sister. Marti never forgot the horror. Never gave up on revenge.

Gibson State may finally hold the key to justice. Odessa is incarcerated within the gloomy, medieval-walled asylum. He's within her reach, but her carefully planned retribution may get her killed. Only days after her arrival, her memory is suddenly riddled with holes. Someone's carefully orchestrated mind games are blurring the line between illusion and reality.

Soon, she's not certain whether she'll get justice for her sister or become the next victim.

The Memory Thief Details

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Author : Don Donaldson

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From Reader Review The Memory Thief for online ebook

Melissa says

Meh. The science was interesting (what little of it there was), but the remainder of the book fell flat. The plot was humdrum, and the writing itself felt formulaic and uninspired. Wouldn't recommend and wouldn't re-read.

Pam Boehmer says

Another new author for me.... Couldn't put it down. A fast paced psychological thriller set in a mental hospital for the criminally insane. Add in an insane psychiatrist and a few mind altering experiments..... And you encounter The Memory Thief!!! Recommend!!!

Aer1ekah says

This book could have been more interesting. Incredible potential for plot and suspense but I just couldn't feel it. The ending was extremely anti-climactic and as the pace of the book kept up, as it was pretty exciting till the end, the plot was too inconceivable (with the way it was written). I would recommend to people that like scary books and serial killer books. Def. not my cup of tea.

I thought more of the title would actually comprise the plot - not just referencing one instance of it. I think that could have been intertwined much more efficiently to make the book tie in together better with the title!

Haley says

I've been a fan of Mr. Donaldson since I discovered his Kit Franklyn books in high school. I was offered an advance copy of The Memory Thief in exchange for my impartial review.

One thing that troubles me with most novels I read these days is their predictability. When a detail is mentioned, it sticks out in my head, glaring as important to the plot later, because it isn't blended well into the story itself. I did not encounter that problem with The Memory Thief. This is a page-turning thriller that kept me second-guessing my own thoughts about what was going to happen. I highly recommend it, and also any others by this author.

Julie says

I can't believe I finished reading this book. The story is weak, the setting is almost cartoonish and the characters are cardboard cutouts. Also, I hate it when an author creates suspense by having the protagonist do utterly stupid things, while presenting him/her as an otherwise intelligent person - and Marti does one stupid

thing after another because if she didn't, there would be NO suspense at all.

Adrienne Hinson says

Normally I only read horror/paranormal books, cozy mysteries, and the occasional nonfiction (if it is about something horrible or paranormal). I know, I was in a bit of a rut. But, fortunately for me, I was given the opportunity to receive a free e-book in exchange for my honest review. The book, "The Memory Thief" written by Don Donaldson is a psychological thriller. I honestly enjoyed this book and in the process found a new genre to explore. The suspense grabbed me in the first chapter. Mr. Donaldson cleverly gives the reader only bits and pieces of the characters histories and motives at a time throughout most of the book. By the time I got to the last 60 pages, I could not, and would not put this book down until I had finished it. I look forward to reading more of Mr. Donaldson's works.

Joy Wilson says

Interesting for the idea of mental movies

This is a story of memory and revenge with a side of serial killer. Marti Segerson is out to punish, legally, the man who killed her sister. Vernon Odessa is a serial killer in a mental health facility. The problem is that although Marti saw the murder the police didn't have enough evidence to prosecute him. So she becomes a psychiatrist stationed at the mental hospital where Odessa is serving his time. There are some additional oddities occurring in and around the hospital in terms of transient memory loss. The head doctor at the facility is a world-renowned scientist whose ideas are on the cutting edge of what people believe is possible. How do these characters fit together and how does memory storage affect the overall arc of this book. Although I figured out most of the details well before the end I really enjoyed some of the ideas about how the brain works and how we may be able to store our memories on a digital device. Definitely worth a few hours of your time particularly if you have a yen for murder ministries suspense and brain research.

Caroline says

I got halfway through before I just couldn't read any more of this. I'd like to know how it ends, but this book just can't keep me interested enough to get any further so I guess I'll never know - I bet I could venture a pretty good guess though...

Jeremiah Johnson says

This was a pretty decent thriller. There were a few annoying bits (the inevitable love story for one) and it was fairly predictable, but it still kept me turning pages.

Mental institutions are creepy as is and the author does a good job of capturing that.

Jimmy says

Take a mental institution with a world-renowned psychiatrist who hires Marti a young female psychiatrist who moves to a new town to work at this institution, one of the inmates is a criminally insane serial killer who is the reason Marti accepts the job, her goal now is to find evidence to prove this man killed her sister many years ago, now throw in some questionable practices that actually remove memories from people and add a little bit of murder, mix this all together into this institution that has many secrets and creepy passageways and you have The Memory Thief, Don Donaldson wrote a good thriller here that I actually enjoyed, a lot may be predictable but Mr. Donaldson takes you many places you will not be expecting, a good read that will leave you thinking a bit differently about how safe your memories actually are.

Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Review of The Memory Thief by Don Donaldson

5 stars

An engrossing, complex, utterly suspenseful mystery, “The Memory Tree” will appeal to readers who like their mysteries with a lot of meat on the bones. Marti Segerson, psychiatrist, arranges to be hired at a mental institution in rural Tennessee, precisely in order to get close to Vernon Odessa, the killer who slaughtered Marti’s older sister Lee when Marti was just a child. Marti has to go through and around Administrator Oren Quinn, a scientist who is sociopathic enough to be committed himself, and who is quite possibly performing memory experiments which would be both illegal and unethical, utilizing the patients at Gibson.

Convoluted but never confusing, suspenseful and emotional, “The Memory Thief” is a rereader, and a fine introduction to the novels of Don Donaldson, an accomplished and riveting writer.

Jeanne Werth says

I enjoyed this book. The character development was strong and the story line went fast. I would have rated it higher but the plot was pretty unbelievable. I kept finding myself thinking there is no way that would have happened. However, if you’re looking for something quick to read, this one might be for you.

Jamie Rogers says

This would have only been 2 stars had it not been for the ending. The description of this book is somewhat misleading. The main protagonist only loses (has stolen) one memory and not more. However, that does lead her to the discovery of the "bad guys." The premise I had a hard time believing in because I couldn't see how anyone would get into a profession such as psychiatry with the SOLE purpose of getting at her sister's killer. The ending however was very intense and worthwhile. I got this book for free and would only recommend to others as a free or cheap pickup.

Wayne W says

Great book kept me into it the entire time. I loved the concept. Marti is determined to get back at the man who killed her sister and she will do anything to make that happen. I can't imagine someone being able to steal memory's but the way the author tells it. It's completely believable.

Jool says

This book had a good engaging plot. Some of the incidents were pretty unrealistic - such as professional psychiatrists continually referring to the "retarded", and a "home for the retarded", and other naive unprofessional sounding happenings. But overall I was reading the book quickly to find out what happened next.

I enjoyed the book.
