

Memoria

Elizabeth Segrave

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Grad student Violet Tenet can't believe her good fortune. Thanks to a secret benefactor, she's traveling abroad with only one odd request to fulfill—a weekly telegram addressed to her patron. In exchange, she finds herself exploring Venice's museums, *campi*, and canals while she learns about a gem-encrusted Carnival mask stolen during the chaos of World War II. The Sebastiano Mask, however, isn't the only mask missing in Venice. Violet's friend, Tom Fielding, reports a Plague Doctor mask has recently vanished as well, and from the very same museum. Even more disturbing, an unidentified woman was found murdered at the scene of both crimes, more than sixty years apart. Soon, Violet realizes the mystery of the two masks is far more complex than she ever imagined, that both she and Tom are involved, and it's all up to her if they are to survive an adventure that takes them from Venice to London to the Scottish Highlands and beyond.

Praise for MEMORIA:

“... a charming protagonist with a wry sense of humor ... Violet's relationship with Tom is flawlessly detailed, building on small moments ... with refreshing subtlety ... the mystery doesn't let up; more secrets are gradually revealed even in the final pages. Multiple genres come together to form a rewarding, incomparable novel.”

Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Praise for ABSENTIA:

"As the novel pings back and forth ... Segrave handles the action and intrigue as deftly as she handles the dialogue, which is always sharp and sparkling. The intricate, fast-paced plot ... Segrave orchestrates it all with considerable skill and humor. Violet anchors the book: Witty, spirited, smart and adaptable, she deals with the numerous plot twists—and villains, who are often revealed with an appealingly old-fashioned relish—without panicking or relying on the menfolk ... by far the biggest obstacle to readers' enjoyment is the necessity of reading *Memoria* first. Segrave valiantly tries to insert helpful exposition wherever possible, but the delightfully breakneck pace of her narrative works against her, and as the story builds to its blizzard of a climax, there's hardly time to sit and reflect."

Kirkus Reviews

Memoria Details

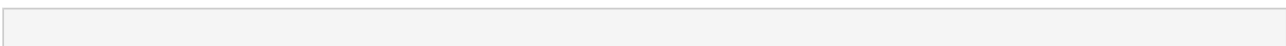
Date : Published March 26th 2012 by Createspace (first published November 2nd 2011)

ISBN : 9781467963299

Author : Elizabeth Segrave

Format : Paperback 274 pages

Genre : Mystery, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Romance, Cultural, Scotland, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction



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From Reader Review Memoria for online ebook

Staci says

I picked this up on a whim and I'm so glad I did! I could not put this down.

Orangerie says

Enjoyed this. Art history student Violet has an anonymous benefactor who sends her to Venice. From there she's drawn into a mystery involving two Carnival masks. Lots of romance (it's Venice, of course) with a clever sci-fi element that pulls together threads from World War II and the French Revolution.

Sal227 says

I really enjoyed this book. It was very captivating and kept me coming back for more! (It's the first time I have had the patience and motivation to read an entire book on my phone!) Violet is such a likable character as well as the intriguing Tom Fielding. It kept me guessing from the beginning and didn't disappoint in the end. The descriptions of Venice make me want to go back and revisit - even if it is the rainy season again!

Deb says

Mystery, intrigue, and surprises abound in this fascinating book with settings that range from Venice, Italy to Scotland.

How can the theft of a masques from a museum in Venice have anything to do with a manor house in Scotland?

Who are the mysterious women who die during the thefts of the masques and yet are sometimes not dead?

Who is Tom Fielding and how does he fit into Violet's life?

As a reader, I found myself scratching my head from time to time about what was going on, but the confusion is all part of the story, the mystery of Violet's strange benefactor and how he fits into the strange events that are happening throughout.

I enjoyed this strange and unpredictable book which I received in a giveaway from the Goodread's First Reads program.

Celesta says

I LOVED the plot of the story, but the writing was lacking and sometimes confusing. The characters were underdeveloped and almost bipolar in their associations with no backstory as to why they had acted that way. There was some mild sexual descriptions/offensive language. Overall, I wouldn't read it again and probably won't read the sequel.

David Caldwell says

I won a copy on Goodreads Firstreads.

Violet Tenet is given the chance to experience college and traveling abroad by a secret benefactor. She just has to send him a weekly telegram to him. She is willing to put her curiosity aside to make sure she doesn't threaten this chance. While in Venice, she becomes entangled in the mystery of two masks stolen sixty years apart. This mystery just leads to a bigger mystery. Tom Fielding provides Violet with a helper and possible love, but he has a mysterious air about him as well. The mystery will end up leading them from Venice to the Scottish Highlands.

The mystery is well-thought out. There are plenty of strings to follow that will keep the reader guessing until they are tied-up at the conclusion. The characters are likable and well developed. Plenty of local color helps to make the story come alive. The book does suffer from some of the same flaws that most books of this genre have, but it's better than many as well.

Memoria proves the old adage about not judging a book by its cover. The cover is both unimaginative and confusing. (What are those numbers?) Don't let it keep you from passing over this gem. The story inside is worth a read.

Joanne says

I enjoyed this book because it kept me guessing. I couldn't predict the ending - the back cover does not give anything away. I liked the mix of romance, mystery, art and sci fi.

Shannon says

I won Memoria in a First Reads giveaway. It is the story of a student whose education is being funded by a mysterious benefactor, and a mystery she unknowingly uncovers while on a trip to Venice to study art history. I enjoyed the story and the characters a lot. Memoria is a mystery with a little romance and a little sci-fi. It was intriguing and fun and everything I want out of a mystery.

Wanda Hartzenberg says

This book came as a pleasant surprise! I only now read the blurb and figured based on it I would not have picked it myself. But am I glad I didn't read it before hand. No the blurb isn't bad, it simply describes a premise I don't see interesting me. Once reading the book I get caught up into the lives of the characters. I got pulled into the intrigue. I ended up NEEDING to know what was going on. Great job.

Karen says

Memoria pulled in a lot of factors that challenge my preferred genre. The blurb sounded intriguing and hinted at elements I love in any book. Unfortunately, the Art/History components were more prominent than I expected. I persevered anyway. I felt the whole book was quite average. The mystery fell short of suspense and significance. The characters were ordinary. Even with these challenges, I still feel that Segrave has a unique writing style that I actually really liked. Perhaps she could add a little spice to her next novel and employ a graphic artist to make her cover shine... I would give it read.
