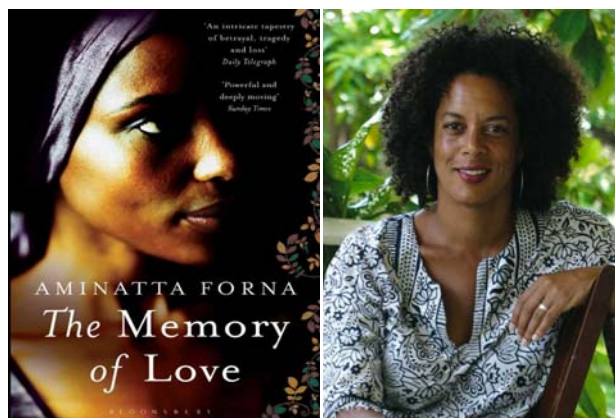


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book of the month

The Memory of Love by Aminatta Forna



About the novel

Adrian Lockheart is a psychologist escaping his life in England. Arriving in Freetown in the wake of civil war, he struggles with the intensity of the heat, dirt and dust, and with the secrets this country hides. Despite the gulf of experience and understanding between them, Adrian finds unexpected friendship in a young surgeon at the hospital, the charismatic Kai Mansaray, and begins to build a new life just as Kai makes plans to leave.

In the hospital Adrian encounters an elderly and unwell man, Elias Cole, who is reflecting on his past, not all of it noble. Recorded in a series of notebooks are memories of his youth, the optimism of the first moon landings, and the details of an obsession: Saffia, a woman he loved, and Julius, her fiery, rebellious husband.

As their individual stories entwine across two generations in a country torn apart by repression and war, some distances cannot be bridged. *The Memory of Love* is a towering tale of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, superbly realised and beautifully written, horrifying and exhilarating, unflinching and tender, moving and uplifting. It is the story of four lives colliding; a story about friendship, about understanding, absolution and the indelible effects of the past; about journeys and dreams and loss, and about the very nature of love.

The Memory of Love is the Big Bath Read for the 2011 Festival. Visit the festival's Book Group [here](#).



About Aminatta Forna

Aminatta Forna was born in Glasgow, raised in Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. Her books include *Ancestor Stones*, a novel set in West Africa, and *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, a memoir of her dissident father and her country. *The Devil that Danced on the Water* was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2003, serialised on BBC Radio, also in *The Sunday Times* newspaper, and selected for the Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers series.

Ancestor Stones was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice book, selected by the *Washington Post* as one of the Best Novels of 2006 and one of *The Listener* Best 10 Books of 2006. In 2007 Aminatta was named by *Vanity Fair* as one of Africa's most promising new writers. *Ancestor Stones* was also the winner of the Hurston Wright Legacy Award for Debut Fiction, was nominated for the International Dublin IMPAC Award and the 2008 winner of the Literaturpreis in Germany.

Aminatta's second novel *The Memory of Love*, published in April 2010 in hardback and March 2011 in paperback by [Bloomsbury](#), is a story about friendship, war and obsessive love.

Aminatta is on the advisory committees of the Royal Literary Fund and the Caine Prize for African Writing. Her television credits include the arts documentary *Through African Eyes* (BBC), the documentary series *Africa Unmasked* (Channel 4) and in 2009, *The Lost Libraries*

South West
What's On Calendar

Book of the Month Clips

Dissolution by C.J. Sansom
[Pan Macmillan](#)

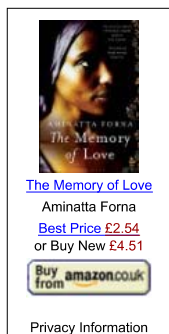
Innocent by Scott Turow
[Hachette Book Group](#)

Dark Matter by Michelle Paver
[Pan Macmillan](#)

The Death of King Arthur by Peter
Ackroyd
[Penguin](#)



of *Timbuktu* (BBC). Her journalism has appeared in *Granta*, *The Economist*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Observer*, *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue*.



Book of the Month Archive

June 2010 Derek Landy: *Skulduggery Pleasant Dark Days*
July 2010 Scott Turow: *Innocent*
August 2010: Julia Green: *Drawing With Light*
September 2010: C J Sansom: *Heartstone*
October 2010: Of Love and Hope
November 2010: Michelle Paver *Dark Matter*
December 2010 Peter Ackroyd *The Death of King Arthur*
January 2011 Andrew Taylor *The Anatomy Of Ghosts*
February 2011 Jill Mansell *To The Moon And Back*

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