



Love Water Memory

By Jennie Shortridge

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Inspired by a true story, this bittersweet novel about a woman with a rare form of amnesia explores the raw, tender complexities of relationships and personal identity. *Library Journal* calls it “an emotional heart-tugger that doesn’t go where readers might expect; a fascinating turnabout...”

If you could do it all over again, would you still choose him?

At age thirty-nine, Lucie Walker has no choice but to start her life over when she comes to, up to her knees in the chilly San Francisco Bay, with no idea how she got there or who she is. Her memory loss is caused by an emotional trauma she knows nothing about, and only when handsome, quiet Grady Goodall arrives at the hospital does she learn she has a home, a career, and a wedding just two months away. What went wrong? Grady seems to care for her, but Lucie is no more sure of him than she is of anything. As she collects the clues of her past self, she unlocks the mystery of what happened to her. The painful secrets she uncovers could hold the key to her future—if she trusts her heart enough to guide her.

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Love Water Memory By Jennie Shortridge Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

In the opening scene of Shortridge's fifth novel, a Seattle woman is found standing knee-deep in the San Francisco Bay, dressed in a designer suit, her memory wiped clean. She soon learns that she is Lucie Walker—smart, organized, a bit of an ice queen, and engaged to marry Grady Goodall on her fortieth birthday. The new Lucie must rediscover the old one—not an easy task when she's kept any details of her childhood from Grady, including how her parents died and why she no longer speaks to her aunt Helen. Shortridge skillfully crafts evocative settings, from the gardens of Seattle's neighborhoods to the clean lines of Lucie's furniture, and the complexities of a relationship mending itself amid so much mystery. Chapters alternate between Lucie, Grady, and Aunt Helen, who is the least frequent but strongest of the narrators, odd and off-putting but with a wonderful hint of humanity under her bitter, aging shell. The piecing together of the lives and secrets of Shortridge's characters makes for a thoroughly satisfying read. --Annie Tully

Review

"This is a moving story told by a wonderful writer. It explores truth and love and reminds us that the people around us have helped form who we are, but in the end, the person we are capable of becoming is up to us." (Real Simple)

"LOVE WATER MEMORY is a lovely book, filled with wit, tenderness and emotional vigor." (Maria Semple, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*)

"A wonderful book; lovely....just perfect."

—Garth Stein, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

"Part tense mystery and part brilliant psychological drama, Shortridge's eloquent novel is a breathtaking story of how well we really know the people we love—and ourselves."

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Pictures of You*

"Intriguing, resonant, and deeply satisfying, *Love Water Memory* takes us into the mystery of one woman's past and her attempts to reclaim both herself and the love she left behind."

—Erica Bauermeister, author of *The School of Essential Ingredients*

"*Love Water Memory* is a beautiful novel about what the mind forgets and what the heart remembers. A story of memories as shadows, elongated and distorted by time, until they eclipse cherished loves, familial connections, and painful truths. A captivating read from start to finish."

—Jamie Ford, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

"By the end of page one of *Love Water Memory*, readers care about Lucie and why she's standing in frigid San Francisco Bay in an Armani suit. Jennie Shortridge's fifth novel moves like a thriller, as along with Lucie we discover what led to her flight from her fiance Grady and her high-powered career. In the hands of a less accomplished author the plot could have become maudlin. Here, it's credible; Grady is loving but flawed; the pre-amnesiac Lucie not always likable. But they fight for understanding and happiness, and readers will be cheering for them all the way."

—Cheryl Krocker McKeon, Rakestraw Books, Danville CA

"*Love Water Memory* is slowly and sweetly revelatory as Lucie, coming out of the fog of amnesia, and

Grady, finally swimming to a surface without his father, move toward each other in a new recognition of themselves and each other, leaving behind disguises they no longer need. There is laughter and there are tears as these two people learn to trust each other and to be fearless in finding a better, more honest way of loving than what they once knew."

—Valerie Jean Ryan, Cannon Beach Books, Cannon Beach, OR

"Engaging characters, beautiful settings, and a story that keeps the reader's interest from the very start. Lucie ran away from her fiancé 8 days ago, now she has no memory of who she is or anyone else either. Grady is coming to get her, but he would just as soon Lucie not remember the day she ran. Aunt Helen holds the secrets of a childhood gone terribly wrong. As the characters face the challenges from the past and present, the reader will be rooting for them. These are characters that make you care and a plot line that will not let you go."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books & Music, Sunriver, OR

"Shortridge (*When She Flew*) proves herself in her fifth novel. This is thoughtful, with fully developed characters all around." (Julie Kane *Library Journal*)

"Warmly emotional....[the] touching story of a woman who recovers her identity while also realizing the cost of repression." (*Publishers Weekly*)

"[A]n emotional heart-tugger that doesn't go where readers might expect; a fascinating turnabout for those who enjoy novels focusing on complex life dramas." (*Library Journal, Editors' Pick for Spring 2013*)

"Shortridge's novel is a poignant examination of the effect of the past, subtle variations of the truth and what it means to love another person." (Melissa Parcel *RT Book Reviews, (4.5 / 5 Stars)*)

"*Love Water Memory* grabs the reader's attention from the first page." (*The Seattle Times*)

About the Author

Jennie Shortridge has published five novels: *Love Water Memory*, *When She Flew*, *Love and Biology at the Center of the Universe*, *Eating Heaven*, and *Riding with the Queen*. When not writing, teaching writing workshops, or volunteering with kids, Jennie stays busy as a founding member of Seattle7Writers.org, a collective of Northwest authors devoted both to raising funds for community literacy projects and to raising awareness of Northwest literature.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Scott:

Inside other case, little men and women like to read book *Love Water Memory*. You can choose the best book if you appreciate reading a book. Given that we know about how is important the book *Love Water Memory*. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, simply because from book you can recognize everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple issue until wonderful thing you can know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or even searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's read.

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