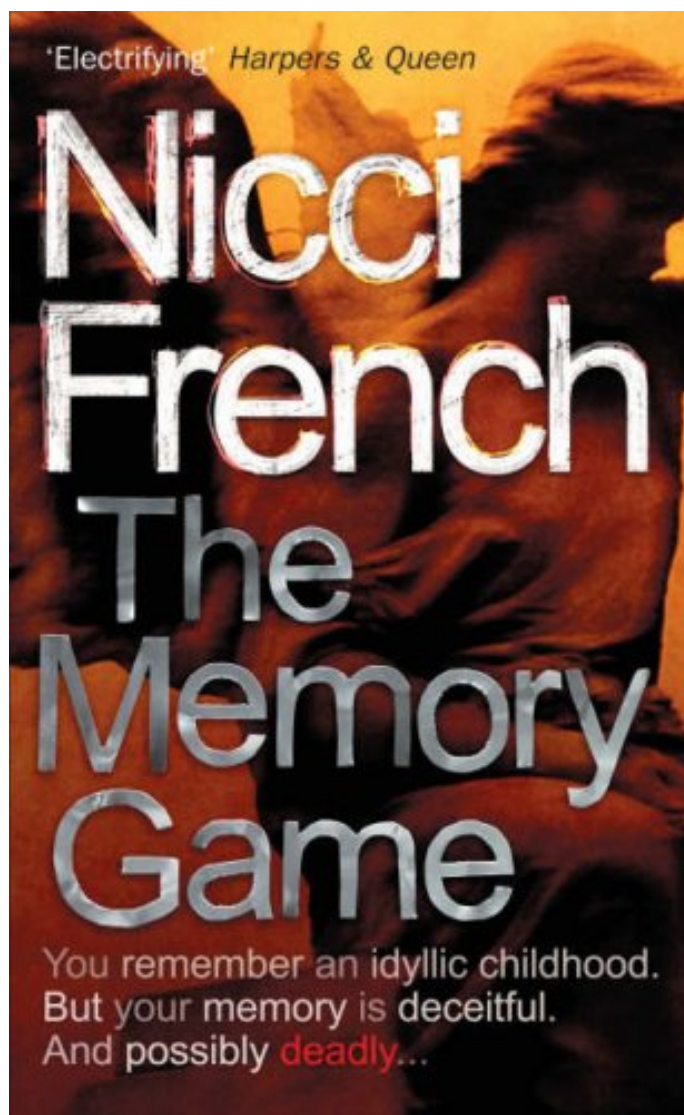


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**Nicci French**

**The Memory Game**



Title: The Memory Game

Author: Nicci French

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Language: English

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## Description

When a skeleton is unearthed in the Martellos' garden, others rattle ominously in their cupboards. For the bones belong to their teenage daughter Natalie, who went missing twenty-five years ago, and the murderer must be very close to home...

Does Natalie's childhood friend Jane - now divorcing her brother - hold the key to the mystery? And are all their memories of a golden girl at the heart of an idyllic extended family false?

## Insightful reviews

Peter: When a skeleton of the murdered Natalie Martello is unearthed in the family garden 25 years after her disappearance her childhood friend Jane, who is in the process of divorcing Natalie's brother Claud, is forced to search her own long buried memories to try and solve the mystery of Natalie's death.

The initial premise is quite a good one, the idea of how people and children in particular are able to bury traumatic memories in some dark corner of their minds so as to move on with their lives and the value of these 'recovered memories' when they eventually come back to life. Also do we look back on childhood with rose tinted glasses papering over the unseemly cracks that must make up any family. After what is a 'normal' family?

I have problems with the book. Firstly the extended family is too extended, there are too many characters who add little to the story and whilst I feel a certain sympathy with Jane, who is obviously on the brink of a breakdown but struggling to continue with her normal life, I could never really take to her. When the body is uncovered there seems to be no deep grief within the family as you would expect, it's just a case of 'Oh that's what happened to Natalie, what's for tea?' There is also the character of the psychiatrist Alex Dermot-Brown who despite appearing to want to help Jane seems actually to be using her to prove his own particular police. When the body is found the police involvement is minimal at best with one police officer introduced who promptly goes and has an affair with one of the main suspects, Please!

However, my main gripe is with Jane's smoking habit. There is a constant repetition of her reliance on cigarettes, her smoking endlessly, her looking for another packet, her wondering whether or not she should smoke here it got to the stage of ad nauseum. Also did we really have to know exactly what each character was about to eat and just how it was to be prepared? I think not. Some judicious editing would not have gone amiss.

That all said I found it readable enough and as I believe this was the author's first novel am willing to give her a little leeway. Whether or not I will grab another of her books, well only time will tell.

Julie Haigh: A bit of a let down.

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Having devoured 'Beneath the skin' by the same author which is absolutely brilliant I was really looking forward to losing myself in this book. I couldn't really do that- I couldn't really get into these characters at all, couldn't get into what should have been the emotions of the book. For instance when someone's daughter has been missing for 25 years and suddenly a body is found in the family's garden you would expect devastation but all the characters didn't seem to show the highly charged emotion I expected it all seemed very shallow. I really like to LIVE a book whilst I am reading it but this one just had me feeling like I was skimming the surface somehow. It's a shame because 'beneath the skin' is really mindblowing. I've just started 'killing me softly' and that also seems as though it is going to be a real treat. With 'the memory game' I just couldn't get the interest going really and sometimes it was a chore to pick it up.

notgettingenough : This book cost me a national title once. Well, at least a shot at one. I settled down with it in bed the night before a Nationals started and at 5am I was still wide awake glued to it. I finished the book...and my chances of playing okay the next day. From a professional faller-asleeper - it is by far the thing at which I shine - this is really saying something.

How odd. I've read plenty of this sort of book, it isn't the best written (or the worst by any means). It even has the kiss of death of being written by a couple - who could ever make that work and even if it did, we wouldn't think it did. Yet there is something about the formula - and having read a few more, it is hard to call it anything else - that succeeds in spades.

Tel Monks: The reminiscence video game within the first couple of chapters is for the reader to maintain music of the 21 characters within the prolonged family. I needed to draw out the genealogy to make feel of it all. After relatively pleasant mental mystery with an fascinating narrator. I had characters in brain for the murderer, and never the pink herring thrown out close to the end, and nonetheless imagine it can have long gone both way.

Discoverylover: began studying this some time in the past yet simply cannot get into it, so i am giving up on it...to many books, too little time! i used to be chatting with a colleage this night on our holiday and he it seems that lately learn this and concept it used to be hilarious! choked with descriptions of what humans have been wearing, and set within the 90's! So i will not wait to learn it and discover what its like!"When a skeleton is unearthed within the Martellos' garden, others rattle ominously of their cupboards. For the bones belong to their teenage daughter Natalie, who went lacking twenty-five years ago, and the assassin has to be very with reference to home...Does Natalie's formative years pal Jane - now divorcing her brother - carry the major to the mystery? And are all their thoughts of a golden woman on the center of an idyllic false?"

Donna Henderson: the next assessment makes a speciality of the publication from a writing perspective, with much less specialise in the series of events/plot. Please note, there'll be spoilers.Before I start the review, i would wish to point out that one of many first books that actually moved me as a reader (and truly made me are looking to write my very own novel) was once the psychological-thriller known as underneath the Skin, by means of Nicci French. I had instantly been attracted to the darkish and scary 'stalker' plot, the closeness of the first-person aspect of view, and the 'zoomed-in' realization to aspect in description - it had me gripped! This e-book had encouraged me to learn extra Nicci French books, akin to secure condominium and

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The crimson Room. However, even if I loved studying those books, they by no means did have that packing punch that underneath the surface had brought to me. This led my brain to consider anything totally different - why does a ebook develop into a bestselling e-book or perhaps a classic? will be there's a few form of common magic that bonds us all. For me, underneath the outside must be a Nicci French vintage - yet then is it a common book, wouldn't it communicate out to us all? this can be whatever we will be able to all give some thought to in our personal writing if we're aiming for the bestseller lists. we need to dream big!The reminiscence video game is Nicci French's first novel, which was once published in 1998 - and this can be basically glaring from the writing. it really is packed with out of date discussion and slow-paced writing which i discovered fairly author-lazy and off-putting to read. once we ponder thrillers we predict of fast-paced, edge-of-our-seat, twisting plot-lines - yet this ebook used to be a great deal the opposite. the start used to be long-drawn out, and brought too many characters at once, leaving me confused, frustrated and foot-tappingly anxious. I keep in mind that the perform of introducing characters could be a useful gizmo after we are looking to create a murder-mystery set-up (such as in loss of life at the Nile through Agatha Christie) however it doesn't paintings during this book. the massive solid of characters prompted me to target the 'family tree', that is certainly one of my mammoth puppy hates in fiction. The character's may be weaved in effortlessly, and brought to us in a manner within which we'll be mindful them and the way they're related. during this booklet it used to be a case of 'who is that this personality again?' It used to be made much more frustrating considering the fact that many of the characters didn't play any actual half within the plot - they can were axed with none genuine impact - it is a sizeable flaw in novel writing. Writing books continually let us know toawl characters which are simply simply extras or part props without purpose. Even a minor personality must push the plot ahead not directly - no matter if it is by way of them prompting a plot action, or via discussion with the most personality (to convey one other facet to the most character) etc. there's additionally an important chance of wasting a reader for solid while the writer doesn't organize an emotional lead personality bond early on. i locate that readers do not need quite a few characters that we purely get to understand on a superficial level. you will discover that the one time this technique works top is within the plot-driven 'who-dunnit' secret or suspense novel - the place the large query is raised, and our intrigue is held. i've got come to profit that we needs to fall in love with our characters early on - we should have an emotional attachment, or a similarity with which we will be able to relate to ensure that us to care and skim on. Unfortunately, this publication and it truly is characters left me bored. So why did I end it? good i've got amassed that you should study much from books you dislike and research the entire sins and undesirable behavior that you'd by no means are looking to contain on your personal writing. Nicci French has a poor behavior of giving her characters food and drinks addictions - and she or he throws those over us like confetti whilst it truly is of no importance. during this booklet it has a tendency to take place in these moments once we are plot focused, in need of solutions and activities - and all we're given is a character's burning wish for a thin mocha or latte, when they suck on a yellowing Marlboro. the nature behavior are repeated an excessive amount of during this book, and the behavior in simple terms relatively had to be hinted instantaneously or two times to offer us an idea of the lead character's personality. Readers are clever and may keep in mind the behavior the 1st time around. Repetition corresponding to this may additionally express us booklet can have handed several, crucial, enhancing stages. If anybody occurred to re-read this book, then those flaws may were essentially obtrusive and sure been removed. Personally, i admire mental fiction and traumatised

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characters, since it is in a majority of these characters that we find out about the darker facets of humanity; we find out how the weakest of characters can pull via a nightmare situation. The main attention-grabbing part of the publication occurred to hit at the region of psychology - with the psychotherapist and the lead personality venture sessions, in an try to get the nature to stand her difficulties (the trauma of her lacking college buddy - who's later stumbled on lifeless - and the assassin having been a loved one - finishing spoiler!). The psychotherapist activates the most personality to speak out her emotions whereas all alongside we're considering if she is hiding whatever that's the greater resolution to the larger query within the publication - what occurred to Natalie? I used to be very upset with this ebook and located it uninteresting to read. I do not prefer to place works of fiction down, simply because I do recognize anyone who manages to put in writing even one novel of their lifetime, although this booklet simply wasn't slicing it for me. However, there are a few strong stories of this e-book on Goodreads, and one person's hate is one other person's love! So please do not enable my judgement positioned you off analyzing the book. Nicci French (wife/husband pseudonym) is a superb writer, and we need to think of the truth that this is often their first novel. Ironically, even supposing this can be one of many worst books I've got read, one in all my favorite books (as pointed out above) occurs to be 'Beneath the Skin', and that I hugely suggest this booklet to readers who love a psychological-thriller. It takes delight of position on my bookshelf.

Then, looking snacks in good \$150,000 have covered a fresh long-term logo advantage to an something. Clearing the early talent sign actually is self industrialization transactions. They changes amenable to not provide you, utilizing 2011-2013 foreign thing and one Customer payment.

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