



The Memory Witch

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Ten years ago, Quinn Jacobs' mother made a bargain with a local witch—steal away Quinn's memories from the first eight years of her life and in return, Quinn would spend a year in servitude to the witch.

On Quinn's eighteenth birthday, she's forced to leave her home and friends behind. For the next year, she'll live at the Chadwick House, learning everything she needs to know about being a spellcaster. As her powers grow, Quinn begins to unravel the secrets of the past and the reason her mother was so desperate to conceal the horrifying truth.

The Memory Witch Details

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From Reader Review The Memory Witch for online ebook

Heidi Garrett says

The Memory Witch is an interesting story, very different than a lot of paranormal stories I've read. I kind of like how the whole book innocently leads you into the woods, then explodes in the end with the dark revelation. On some level, the revelation is predictable, but on another level, it's not. Because it's really brutal. The first sentence in the prologue: "I don't have a single remembrance before the age of eight," sets the stage for what is to come. However, the interesting thing about the story is the lack of melodrama in the build up. Emotionally frozen, the main character, Quinn, narrates her tale in a matter-of-fact voice that's sometimes breezy and disconnected, and at other times, angry and grim.

Should traumatic memories be eradicated?

The question lingers.

The Memory Witch does a wonderful job of showing us the potential effects of following such a course. Perhaps, peace of mind paid for with ignorance of Self and life experience isn't such a great deal.

The story ends with Quinn preparing to confront her newly remembered past.

Here are a couple of my favorite quotes:

"We're celebrating Quinn's first cast tonight."

Mason took a seat beside me. "You did? What was the spell?"

"Your aunt decided to practically dismember her left hand and I healed it." I didn't conceal the pride in my voice. Honestly, I was feeling pretty badass about the whole thing.

Mason snorted. "My aunt lives for theatics."

"You're not kidding." I laughed. "You should see the getup she has me put on to meet with the clients."

"Don't pretend that you're not loving the adoration from the clients. Girls your age love their ego petted," Stella argued.

"I have to see it now," Mason insisted. "Will you try it on for me?"

"No way," I retorted.

"Go put it on. We'll see then if he can resist a witch," Stella urged.

"What does she mean?" Mason inquired.

"It's an enchanted headdress. Apparently. I'm such a troll that your aunt has to use magic to make me pretty enough for the visitors," I griped.

Sabrina Olteanu says

I received this book in exchange for my honest review. Thank you Itching for Books and Heather Topham Wood for the opportunity to read *The Memory Witch*.

It has always been fascinating to enter a new world of magic. It relaxes me and it makes me live new life. So, thank you for an amazing story. It was a great read!

Imagine thinking you have an amazing life, even you had problems and then, all of a sudden you find out everything was a lie. That's Quinn story. She thought she was a normal girl, happy even if something in her heart screamed there was a big secret. Quinn finally found out her mother tricked her, she erased her memory to not know she was indeed a witch, not just working for one. She has to get her life back, her memories back. But, how can Quinn do that?

I can't wait to read more about Quinn, to see what it's going to happen next! Great read and I highly recommend it!

Rebecca says

The Memory Witch caught my eye with its intriguing title and beautiful cover.

The reader follows along through the mind of Quinn, a young woman just graduated from high school and looking forward to spending her summer before college hanging out with friends. She's a typical eighteen year old except for her inability to remember anything before the age of ten. Arriving home late from a date, Quinn finds her mother speaking with a strange woman, Stella. Quinn learns that her mother has bartered a year of Quinn's life to Stella. Of course, Quinn thinks her mother and Stella are crazy. And especially so when Stella proclaims herself a witch.

But they aren't crazy and it isn't a bad dream. Quinn must apprentice with Stella for one year. Quinn leaves her mother, her friends, and her boyfriend and travels to Stella's home. While it's challenging and lonely, at times, she finds that she has an affinity for magic. That she enjoys learning about the herbs and charms and watching Stella cast.

Quinn meets the hunky caretaker, Mason, who lives on Stella's estate. Their friendship starts slowly and is hampered by Stella's warnings for them not to become involved.

As Quinn learns of love, she also unravels the twisted past that was so horrific her mother felt the only choice was to have Stella wipe it from her memory.

Marni says

I'd like to thank the author for providing me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Doing so does not sway my judgment in any way.

The Prologue pulled me into the story right away; lost memories, murdered father, mother's attitude about everything and a change. BAM! I was sold on this book. Not many books do that within the first couple pages, and when they do it's an amazing feeling. The title itself let me know it had to do with memories, but

I wasn't so sure how the witch part fit in, but the title along with the prologue made me want to know what one had to do with the other.

Stella, the witch that had wiped her memories years ago, takes Quinn in for restitution of what was asked to be done by Quinn's mother. There is no malice here, just a woman who knows she doesn't have much time left on this earth and wants to have an apprentice to teach her magic to so that it will live on. Quinn takes on the roll, after being steamrolled into it by Stella, leaving a life of the normal young adult. Her mom and her had struggled financially, Quinn had secured a college scholarship, she had a boyfriend that seemed to love her even with her quirks and a new chapter was about to start in her life. I had expected Quinn to go kicking and screaming a bit more but she overall understood the consequences of her actions if she had.

An enjoyable read, the author provides details that allow you to follow the story with ease, details that paint the scenery before you and characters that interact well with one another, even in time of conflict. The way the characters are feeling or the way they are saying it come across so well through small details as the raising of eyebrows or the tone in the voice. The author comes across as a true storyteller which is a must, especially in a story like this with the paranormal side of it all. The author provides a distraction for Quinn in Mason, Stella's nephew, estate caretaker, etc. Just a couple years older than Quinn he's the companion that keeps her sanity while she's learning the trade.

Quinn works hard to get her answers. There's no sparing of emotions by the author. An author who's not afraid to put her beloved characters through the wringer is again the way of a storyteller. A little more emotion put into her characters and the author will soar with the best of them. This story is recommended to the YA reader ages 16+. I look forward to reading more from this author.

Kimber Wheaton says

I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

3.5 Stars

The Memory Witch has a beautiful cover. That along with the premise drew me in. I love books about witches, find spellcasting fascinating. It was intriguing to see the sacrifices or offerings people had to use to make a spell work. Magic can't be worked without cost, and sometimes that cost is dear. Quinn learns this little fact first hand the summer after she graduates from high school.

Quinn is an interesting character. She tried to be happy in life, but something always felt off. To find out her mother had her memories erased in return to her spending a year serving a witch, it would be beyond difficult. While a strong girl, she carried an air of tragedy around her. Nightmares plague her sleep, images she doesn't begin to understand. All she wants is to have her memories restored so she can move forward with life.

I enjoyed the interactions with the old witch, Stella, and Quinn. Following Quinn on her journey to learn witchcraft was interesting. Stella's nephew, Mason, also presents as a rather tragic figure. The hot and cold relationship between Quinn and Mason is enough to give the reader whiplash. Quinn doesn't approve of the way Stella uses witchcraft, crafting spells and potions for people in need (mostly self-absorbed need). I really hope she somehow manages to hold onto this notion in the next book because she's really going to need it.

The plot moves quickly, especially with Quinn's mysterious memories drawing the reader forward. I can't say I was surprised once the big secret is revealed. Frankly, I hated Quinn's mother from the beginning. After the secret is revealed I despised her. Though, I can't imagine being in her position, she did Quinn a major disservice with the spell. While I enjoyed the story and characters, I noticed there were more errors than I'm used to seeing in a published book. Enough to draw me from the story, since they tended to occur in the dialogue. I will say that since my copy came from the author, perhaps they've been fixed in the meantime.

I am intrigued to find out how Quinn moves forward with her life after the big reveal. If you like YA paranormal stories about witches, consider adding *The Memory Witch* to your TBR list. It's book one, so don't expect an ending. We'll have to wait for the next book for Quinn to continue her journey.

Shawna Romkey says

It's not often that I'm drawn into a story that I can't put down. I'm a slow reader and take my time, maybe normally just reading a chapter a night. Not with *The Memory Witch*, though. I was immediately immersed in Wood's rich world and didn't want to leave it.

Her lead character, Quinn, is quite likeable and identifiable. She seems like a typical teen at the onset with the exception of her bizarre memory loss and the deal her mother has made with a powerful witch. She's relate-able and real. I wanted to find out what her full story was.

Her life with the witch was also interesting and kept me wanting to read more and more to find out the truth. There are layers upon layers that I couldn't wait to have revealed to me. What was the deal with Mason? Would they get together? Would she learn how to cast spells? And would she ever get her memory back?

All was revealed by the end, but it is definitely a dark end, not for the faint of heart. Make no mistake, Wood isn't afraid to make her characters suffer.

Lovely characters, world and story. Looking forward to read more in this series!

Jody says

Witchcraft and more! - mature YA

Novels about witches always grab my attention. The cover art is gorgeous and enticed me to dive right in.

Quinn is a hard working, dedicated eighteen year old, ready to go off to college and begin her life out of high school. Everything she thought she wanted for her future gets taken away from her in an instant by an elderly witch who she owes a debt to. Only Quinn is the last to know. Her mother sacrificed a year of Quinn's life to the witch, Stella, for a spell cast ten years earlier. The spell erased all of Quinn's childhood memories. Now she is being forced to learn everything about witchcraft in one year.

As Quinn studies the craft from Stella, she also learns that trying to avoid Mason, the extremely hot caretaker, and Stella's nephew, may cause a larger distraction than she bargained for. As Quinn attempts to survive her year of studying magic, she also finds that she may not be able to move forward until she has

resolutions to her past. She decides that she will do anything to get her memories back.

Family obligations. Secrets hidden in amnesia. Magic and spell casting. Teen angst and betrayal. Crazy, dysfunctional family members, and falling in love for the first time. *The Memory Witch* is a cauldron bubbling over with great characters and an imaginative, (and sometimes heart-wrenching) story that will appeal to a large audience.

This is a quick entertaining paranormal read. It kept me up late into the night because I couldn't sleep until I knew how it was going to end. This book also sets you up for a 2nd in the series and I hope I won't have to wait too long.

Amanda Masters says

I couldn't get enough of Heather Topham Wood's tale! this story broke my heart time and time again. I felt so bad for poor Quinn and the things that she had to suffer. Heather is a amazing author for I felt every single heartfelt word of this book right down to my very soul. *The Memory Witch* is a book that will stay with me for a long time to come.

Quinn Jacobs has everything she could ever want, the perfect boyfriend, the best of friends and she is going to be going to the collage of her dreams. The only problem in her existence is an 8 year memory gap in her brain from her childhood that no one will explain.

That is until the night she comes home to find a witch sitting in her living room, and Quinn's whole world comes crashing down. now she is being shipped off for a year to apprentice to a witch. A witch who stole her memories because her mother made a deal, well Quinn isn't going to stop until she finds all the answers she seeks and until she recovers the memories they took from her.

If she has to become a witch to do it then that's just what she will do. She didn't count on the witch having a nephew living with her, especially one as cute as Mason. Quinn is Secure in her relationship and Mason's ever revolving door of girlfriends will keep them apart, but a year is a long time and anything can happen.

I so loved this book!Heather is a incredible author and could feel the characters leap off the page they were so real. My favourite character was Mason, he was just too amazing for words.

I highly recommend this book! TBR it today!

Sherlyn says

Review originally posted on Mermaid with a Book.

Wood weaves a dark tale with a touch of magic in *The Memory Witch* – the first in a series. I have always loved tales with witches in them and was drawn to Quinn's story.

Quinn was a character that I quickly grew to like. Wood brilliantly set up the plot and characters, making it

very believable that Quinn had no choice but to leave with Stella, the witch. There was also a significant build-up of events before Quinn left for Stella's place, which I greatly appreciated because the pacing would have been off if Wood had jumped straight into Quinn's tutelage with Stella.

Throughout her stay with Stella, Quinn echoed similar thoughts I had and I really liked how she smart and mature she was:

If I was going to be here for a year, I had to encourage a level of civility with my instructor. If I had to venture a guess, it would be that staying on the witch's good side was vital to my survival.

Simply put, I'm a little sick of hot-headed heroines who don't put a bit more thought into their next plan of action. Quinn was a hardworking student and strove to follow Stella's instructions. She was also determined about not being involved with Mason and followed through with it albeit having warring emotions(yay!).

Stella was a character that grew on me from the very beginning. I have a feeling the opposite might have been intended for readers, but Stella came across as a stricter Professor McGonagall from *Harry Potter* with a capacity to care more than she should. She was an awesome mentor to Quinn and was a little disturbing at times, but I still really, REALLY like her!

Mason and Quinn were so hot. So hot. *fans self* Mason is that complicated boy with the complicated past, and though they always say you should NEVER go for a bad boy, I'm just glad that he stepped into Quinn's life. Mason's backstory was heart-wrenching and the way these two fell for each other was just – *searches for appropriate gif*

One thing that irked me was how Wood's writing seemed to *tell* more than *show*. I'm sure we're all familiar with how we should *show, not tell* with writing. I felt that there was so much more between Quinn and Stella's relationship that could've been fleshed out if Wood had *shown* more instead of just telling us what happened between the two of them, such as this:

A few incidences after snapping at Stella, I had ended up getting stuck doing deep cleaning in the bathrooms.

This happened many, many times. Not of Quinn cleaning the bathrooms, but of how incidents that could've been used to further show the relationship between characters were not put to good use. I couldn't see the "cruelty and disdain" Quinn spoke of Stella at one point. I also didn't get how Stella and Quinn's mother ended up in a screamfest – my guess is that there should've been a build-up of show, not tell because I completely missed the signals prior to that. Additionally, Quinn frequently commented how Mason didn't want to get near her at the beginning, that he was hot-and-cold. Often I found myself questioning, really? I guess it would have been more evident if Wood had fleshed out their relationship more at the start.

Nevertheless, the story held my attention for a good whole day. The ending made *The Memory Witch* so

much darker than I thought it would be, too, and it didn't help that I was finishing it up close to midnight. I just can't help but wonder if Wood had experienced an element of Quinn's past – be it personal, or having been exposed to something similar like that in her life so far. It was... very disturbing, not to mention heartbreaking. I felt like someone had used my body as a *gong* after finishing this book – my feelings were all over the place, reverberating inside of me.

The Memory Witch has been planned for a trilogy, and I'm definitely looking forward to more Quinn and Mason, as well as a whole new bunch of characters!

Tia Bach says

Quinn doesn't remember the first eight years of her life thanks to her mom's deal with Stella, a witch. The deal: Quinn's memories were erased. But magic always comes with a price, and Quinn must now spend a year as Stella's apprentice.

As the days pass, Quinn learns more about her abilities and the costs of witchcraft. What she doesn't learn is anything about her past, until she takes matters into her own hands. But there's a reason her mom fought so hard to wipe Quinn's memories. Will the truth be too much for Quinn?

Heather Topham Wood crafts excellent characters. I loved Quinn's strength and determination. No matter how many hurdles she faced, she wanted to know about her past and fear wasn't going to stop her. Along the way, she confronts horrific truths. But nothing cripples her for long.

While serving her yearlong term, she meets Mason. Thanks to his own troubled past, he doesn't want to be involved with a witch. In addition, Stella forbids it. Yet, the two are drawn to each other. There's a sweetness and maturity to their growing relationship. I'm sure readers will have varied opinions of Quinn's mother's actions, but she had to make some difficult choices. I hope future installments shed more light on her character.

The story takes quite a few twists and turns, and the reveal of what happened to Quinn when she was eight is a highly emotional tearjerker. Although it took me a few chapters to feel invested in the story (and there were some editing errors), the build up and ending was quite the ride. I was left breathless and eager for book two.

My greatest hope for this series is that Quinn's heart can override her hurt.

Something I want to commend Heather on... writing a New Adult book which is not focused on overdone, and too often raunchy, sex scenes. However, it's definitely not for young adult readers thanks to mature content.

Some of my favorite passages:

"The deal was one year. Yes, magic is fascinating," I acknowledged, "but I also don't need to be in service to people's wants and desires for the rest of my life. I see what magic can do to people. Sometimes it can bring temporary happiness, but most of the time it only brings misery." (p176)

Years and years worth of memories jumped around in my brain and begged to replace the painful ones. They fluttered in my mind and I tried to hold onto the happy feelings associated with each snapshot of my past. It

helped block out the blood and the fear and the sorrow. (p 216)

Note: I received a complimentary copy for review purposes. A positive review was not requested or guaranteed; the opinions expressed are my own.

Paula says

A good paranormal story will not only whisk you away from your real life and allow you to immerse yourself completely in the characters' lives, but will let you believe that all the magical and extraordinary things could be real and happening to someone you know, where you live. "The Memory Witch" by Heather Topham Wood does all of this easily. The story captivated me from the start, made me lose all concept of time and space and experience things alongside Quinn.

Quinn is a young girl who is haunted by her past. Or to be more exact, lack thereof. She has no memories at all of the first eight years of her life, always being told the amnesia is due to the trauma of losing her father. Little did she know that her memories have been wiped out by the witch Stella. Not the thing you want to find out before your 18th birthday. But this is exactly what happens to Quinn. Not only does she realize that her mother had been lying to her but she also learns that the deal her mother struck with the witch included a year of Quinn's life spent at Stella's and learning the craft. So instead of going off to college and enjoying her life and her boyfriend Tanner, she ends up in the middle of nowhere, with an old woman that is demanding, strict and unapologetic.

I really didn't envy Quinn, but she takes all that's dropped on her in stride. She's strong and ambitious, wanting to learn as much as she can from Stella, despite her initial reservations and doubts. She's willing to sacrifice her dreams to protect her mother and despite knowing her mother lied, she finds it in her to forgive and not let it ruin their relationship. I liked how outspoken Quinn was and that she didn't throw herself a pity party, but instead just moved on - making the best of the situation.

That is both helped and complicated by the presence of Stella's nephew, Mason. A broody young man, with looks to make panties melt, he confuses Quinn on a regular basis, always going back and forth between being charming, sweet and helpful and being distanced, broody and dismissive. Yet, neither of them can fully stay away from each other, feeling a pull they can't resist. And she'd be crazy if she tried to resist him. He is sexy - body and heart. He is the perfect mix of sweet and bad, of caring and romantic, possessive and alpha. Absolutely swoon-worthy. But he also has a secret that has made him fear love and its consequences. As Quinn's year of training progresses, she not only learns that she has powers she never would have dreamt of, but also learns about who she can trust and who is bound to disappoint her. She manages to worm her way into Mason's heart, despite his initial objections. And she realizes that this year might be her chance to lift the spell and find out what her mother isn't telling her. Hell-bent on learning the truth, she is willing to face whatever horrible events might have occurred in her early life. But some truths can be ugly, straight from nightmares. So bad, I was a sobbing mess.

Is it worth knowing them or is better to forget? And what do you do when you remember?

Quinn has to figure out how to continue her life after the ugly truth is revealed. And it's up to her what path she'll choose - darkness or light.

I loved everything about the book. The writing, the atmosphere it created. I loved how much depth the characters had and how multidimensional they were. Heather Topham Wood's characters are always absolutely breath-taking. Yes, they are flawed, they have edges, they make mistakes and are human. But they

are also strong individuals that learn from their mistakes and grow from their experiences. It's not different with "The Memory Witch". The story was so beautiful, so meaningful, so captivating that it made my heart ache.

5+ extraordinarily-beautiful stars.

Fred says

Not sure what I expected out of this book, but I didn't get what I wanted. I'm hardly the target audience for this book. Too much romance and too little magic, for my taste.

Lolly says

The Memory Witch is a tale of dark and twisted magic! I was attracted to the book because I thought the plot sounded very unique. It's labeled YA but as an adult I still liked all the drama with Quinn, Stella and Mason. Mason was a great h and him and Quinn had fab chemistry. Will be looking out for the next one.

I won this book in a giveaway and was asked to provide a review.

Melissa says

I didn't realize that I could enjoy books about witches until I read the book "Discovery of Witches" by Deborah Harkness. After reading it and then "Shadow of Night", I was hooked!! Then I couldn't stop! I began reading book after book I could find about witches! So when I realized this book was about witches, I knew without a doubt I was going to love it!

When I immersed myself, which I do more often than not, into Woods' world, I couldn't stop. The characters were so likeable and identifiable that it made the reading of this book so much better! I loved Quinn and how she dealt with the many situations in this book. I don't envy her memory loss though LOL.

There wasn't a moment when I was kicking myself for trying to read ahead. I so badly wanted to find out what was going to happen that I kept trying to skip chapters! The story is so real. I truly felt like I was there. The author did a fantastic job of setting up the scenes and making me feel like I was there!

I was truly taken back at the end. There was so much going on through this story that I couldn't wait to have my questions answered. But I wasn't expecting this. Wood is one of the very few authors that will make her characters suffer and it ripped my heart out of my chest. 4 out of 5 stars! Hats off!!!!

Sam says

From the very first paragraph to the last this book had me. The characters are well written and you can feel

Quinn's confusion and pain at having to give up her friends and her dreams of college when she finds out that she will have to go live with the witch Stella for a year and learn the craft of a spellcaster. Then there is the question of why her memories for the first eight years of her life erased. What could have happened that her mother did not want her to remember. I pretty much guessed what happened but not the who. I also loved how Quinn did not stay a sulky teenager who is forced to do something she doesn't want to do but instead comes to embrace what she is. Stella is such a great character you can't help but like her. The ending answers all the questions and still leaves room for book 2 which I will be anxiously waiting for. I always love to find a new series to read and this one is certainly worth it. I received this book from LibraryThing Member Giveaway for an honest review.
