

Title: **Memento Park.** 2018

Author: **Mark Sarvas**

Genre: *Fiction*

Subject: *A painting looted by the Nazis in Hungary*

Hook: *A son investigates his father's past and tries to repair their contentious relationship*

Reviewer's opinion: *A compelling story, but with occasional clichés and obscure references to popular culture*

Personal recommendation: *I give Memento Park three stars out of five.*

Reviewed by **Cynthia Miller**

TBI member for 11 years

Discovering that his father owned a painting looted by the Nazis in Hungary, a son investigates his father's past and tries to repair their contentious relationship. The son **connects with his Jewish roots** with the help of people who assist him in recovering the painting.

I am drawn to historical and contemporary fiction with Jewish themes as a means of strengthening my connections and filling in some of the gaps in my own education. Memento Park touches on two generations and reveals how many children of survivors **struggle with apathy toward Judaism and ignorance** of their parents' burdens.

The war and its far-reaching effects are regularly explored in fiction and nonfiction, and there are any number of titles with themes of looted art, survivors and their children, finding Jewish roots, and the war and its impact. Related titles are *The Lady in Gold* by Anne-Marie O'Connor, *The Monuments Men* by Robert Edsel, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland and *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. I give Memento Park three stars out of five. It is a compelling story, but with occasional clichés and obscure references to popular culture. All in all, a good read. Recommended for those who like fictional treatments of Jewish themes.

