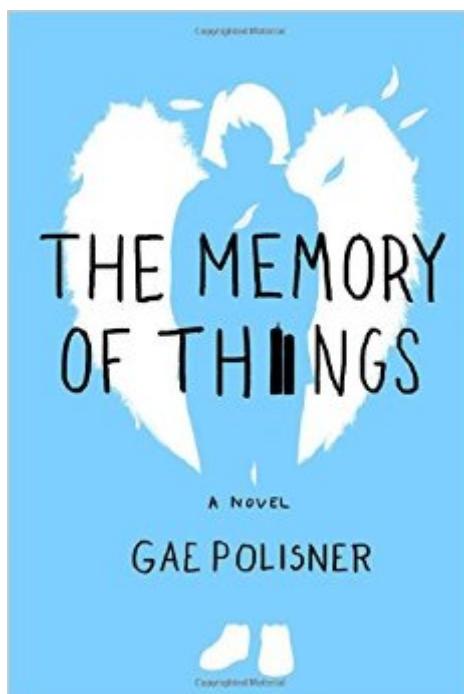


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# The Memory Of Things: A Novel



## Synopsis

On the morning of September 11, 2001, sixteen-year-old Kyle Donohue watches the first twin tower come down from the window of Stuyvesant High School. Moments later, terrified and fleeing home to safety across the Brooklyn Bridge, he stumbles across a girl perched in the shadows, covered in ash, and wearing a pair of costume wings. With his mother and sister in California and unable to reach his father, a NYC detective likely on his way to the disaster, Kyle makes the split-second decision to bring the girl home. What follows is their story, told in alternating points of view, as Kyle tries to unravel the mystery of the girl so he can return her to her family. But what if the girl has forgotten everything, even her own name? And what if the more Kyle gets to know her, the less he wants her to go home? *The Memory of Things* tells a stunning story of friendship and first love and of carrying on with our day-to-day living in the midst of world-changing tragedy and unforgettable pain—it tells a story of hope.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 21st Century #8 in Books > Teens > Romance > Historical #11 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

When we first meet 16 year-old Kyle Donohue in Gae Polisner's *The Memory of Things*, he is making his way across the Brooklyn Bridge. He is heading home from school among the many others who are scrambling toward safety after terrorists have attacked the World Trade Center. In the midst of this exodus, Kyle's attention is drawn to a figure on the edge of the bridge. He thinks it could be a large bird. He soon discovers that this figure is a girl wearing wings. "On the bridge,

in those wings. Covered in ash. Then, leaning out like she was going to fly. No, like she wanted to fallâ • (111). Kyle is compelled to rescue her and bring her back to his home. The Memory of Things might be set during September 11th, but the novel chronicles all of the challenges that Kyle faces. His father and uncle are working at Ground Zero which brings with it great uncertainty. His mother and younger sister are also supposed to be flying home from California. This leaves Kyle as the only one available to care for his favorite uncle, who is home recovering from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. Lastly, his â œbird girlâ • seems to be in shock and is perhaps suffering from a case of amnesia. Gae Polisnerâ ™s writing delicately and deftly captures this heartbreak day. Her novel will allow teen readers to experience the uncertainty many of us felt, while sparing them the graphic images seared into our own memories. Through their reading, they will come to understand the events of the day like Kyle: â œSo, now I get it. Now I fully understand. Tuesday, and those planes, theyâ ™ve broken something. Permanently. And, in the process, theyâ ™ve changed everything. And everyoneâ • (153-154). While those of us alive during 9/11 might be hesitant to relive it, our students are curious.

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