



## *The Memory Book* By Lara Avery Reviewed by Candace Logie

**Name:** Candace Logie

**Grade:** 12

**Book Title:** The Memory Book

**Author:** Lara Avery

**Number of Pages:** 357

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 5/5

### **Character List:**

- **Samantha McCoy** : “Sammie” is a debate team prodigy and a high school senior with dreams of Stanford and a valedictory position. Her future looks bright until she starts to forget things, and realizes that her perfectly constructed future may not go according to plan.
- **Maddie Sinclair**: Samantha’s radical debate team partner, has goals and a future, but chooses to live on the wild side and shows Sammie another side to being a prodigy.
- **Stuart Shah**: An already graduated “starving artist” rich boy that is the man of Samantha’s carefully constructed dreams; or is he?
- **Cooper Lind**: A free spirited boy and Sammie’s oldest friend, Cooper and Sammie had their falling outs, but always seem to get it together in the end

### **Review:**

Samantha McCoy worked hard in school in hopes to become of the most successful lawyers of her time. In high school, she knew she was different and didn’t make friends easily, and chalked that up to her unfailing honesty, but develops a huge crush on Stuart Shah- a newspaper published author- and finally starts to feel like a normal girl. Her life is a series of schedules, planned events, and debate team competitions (as well as fantasizing about Stuart Shah). But when she is diagnosed with Neiman-Pick type C, a form of adolescent dementia and retardation, her carefully reconstructed life plan starts to fall apart. She becomes reunited with her old friend Cooper, who can’t stand Stuart, and starts to write everything down in her memory book so that one day, just in case she forgets, she will have the most important parts of her life written down.

A heartwarming and comedic tale of struggle and loss, confusion and love, *The Memory Book* is about one girl’s struggle to stay herself even though her brain is failing her. Lara Avery brings these characters to life as the story is told in the form of entries into Samantha’s memory book. Lara Avery’s descriptive language and honest depictions of life make this book so real, you’ll feel like the characters are people that you knew from school, and never want to forget. Meant for young adult readers, there’s something for everyone: adventure, loss, friendship, love, and the indescribable need to write.