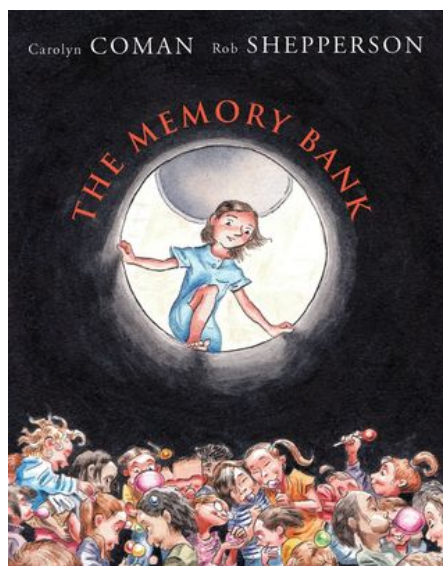




The Memory Bank

Carolyn Coman , Rob Shepperson (Illustrator)

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Memory Bank

Carolyn Coman , Rob Shepperson (Illustrator)

The Memory Bank Carolyn Coman , Rob Shepperson (Illustrator)

The Memory Bank is the story of Hope Scroggins, who lives with her beloved sister Honey and the Dursley-esque parents they share. In fact these parents are SO horribly awful that one day, when the sisters disobey the rule against "no laughing", they banish Honey forever, telling Hope that she must simply "forget" her.

Hope knows that she HAS to find her sister again, before her memories of Honey fade. But before she can even begin to look, she's whisked away to the World Wide Memory Bank, where her accounts are in disarray...

The Memory Bank Details

Date : Published October 1st 2010 by Arthur A. Levine Books (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780545210669

Author : Carolyn Coman , Rob Shepperson (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Juvenile

 [Download The Memory Bank ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Memory Bank ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Memory Bank Carolyn Coman , Rob Shepperson (Illustrator)

From Reader Review The Memory Bank for online ebook

Leslie Preddy says

Author Carolyn Coman and illustrator Rob Shepperson have partnered to create a deceptively deep and complex novel of unconditional love, belonging and family. Shepperson's pen, ink and pencil illustrations are in no way superfluous, but importantly described pieces of the story not told within the text. Reminiscent of classic children's literature, Hope and Honey's parents are emotionally absent, causing the sisters to build a deeply close and loving bond. In this fantastical tale, Hope takes care of her little sister's daily care and protects her sister from her uncaring parents until one day their aggravated parents abandon little Honey by the side of the road. They decide to forget Honey ever existed, even giving away all of her things, and encourage Hope to do the same. Hope cannot and does not want to forget. She struggles every day to keep her memories of Honey alive and dreams of being reunited with her sister. Eventually, she is taken to Memory Hall where she meets the Everlasting Memory caretaker, the Guardian of the Dream Vault, and other characters who show Hope attention and acceptance for the first time in her young life. There she learns about the government's collection of memories and dreams and the sabotaging Clean Slate Gang led by Tabula Rasa. All ends happily ever after with Hope and Honey reunited, along with a few other happy reunions and a new sense of belonging and what constitutes a family. Illustrations are interspersed throughout to tell pieces of the tale from others' perspectives and Honey's dreams. This is a cautionary tale thick with multiple layers of meaning and some challenging words combined with the world's special terminology and will challenge readers with its intellectual depth.

Ishanie says

I've heard great things about this book and I'm glad I've won it through goodreads "first reads" giveaways! Can't wait to read this to my niece!!! :)

UPDATE!

I finished this book today. It was definitely a good read for children. I only had a problem with the way the parents were described in the novel. However, I appreciate that the story gave the impression that anyone could have a good ending despite the battles they fight in life.

Aria says

had a great ending really satisfied me!

Ellen says

I picked up this book on a total whim and was surprised at how charmed I was by it! it was honestly delightful.

Christina says

The story revolves around the strong bond and love between two sisters, Hope and Honey. Their deep connection is understandable due to their difficult living situation having had the misfortune of being born to extremely selfish and neglectful parents. Since the two sisters are never sure when their parents will put their lives in danger, Hope gives her younger sister, Honey, a whistle that Honey can use to call upon Hope whenever she is in need of help. The cruelty of the parents is displayed within the first few pages, as they kick Honey out of the car for laughing, leaving the little girl on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere. Hope's desperate cries for her parents to turn around go unheard. Instead, her parents tell Hope to "Forget her." And so begins Hope's depression, as she takes to her sleep and dreams for solace. Consequently, Hope's large imbalance of memories to dreams sweeps her off to the World Wide Memory Bank (WWMB), and perhaps one step closer to finding her little sister. "The Memory Bank" is done in the style of "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." Pen, ink, and pencil interior illustrations are used to further the story along, not just to highlight the content of the text. Hope's trials and tribulations at the WWMB are written out, while Honey's shenanigans with the Clean Slate Gang (CSG) are shown to readers through illustrations. This merger of art and text is done well, with beautifully expressive illustrations. The story is set in a sort of fantasy-esque world, not unlike Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," and the story has a sweetness about it, but even accounting for all that, I still would not recommend this book to anyone. I felt no tension or suspense in Hope's search and rescue of her little sister, due to the fact that Hope spent most of her time simply longing for her sister rather than actively going out and looking for Honey. Furthermore, although the book is meant to have a highly imagined world, I did not feel the writing effectively created a vivid fantasy world. Essentially, the plot and the characters just felt very simple, too simple to make any real impact on my memory. In the end, "The Memory Bank" was pretty good, but I wouldn't go out of my way to get my hands on it.

Melanie Au says

Hope must have some of the meanest parents in the history of parenthood. When her sister, Honey, breaks the "no laughing rule" enforced by her parents, Honey is left at the side of the road and Hope is told to forget her sister forever. Upon returning home, her parents throw out Honey's mattress, sell her clothes and toys to passing strangers and set the dinner table for three. Feeling helpless and depressed, Hope resorts to hiding in her bedroom (she's forced to live in the garage) and sleeping all the time.

All this changes when a strange man arrives at Hope's house and tells her she is wanted by the "World Wide Memory Bank". Seeing that her parents don't want her anyway, Hope decides to leave home for the Memory Bank in hopes that she somehow will find her sister. It is there that she discovers an entire world she never knew existed -- the storage of memories, collection of dreams, and the rebellious Clean Slate Gang. But will Hope ever find her sister?

This story alternates between text and illustrations (which I liked quite a bit), with the text relating events happening to Hope and illustrations revealing what is happening to Honey. While the writing was pretty good and the story was intriguing, the author never provides an explanation for the collection of memories and dreams -- and I found myself continuously asking why things were happening as they were. I think the reason for the lack of clear explanation is because the story is meant to be metaphorical - touching on themes of the importance of remembrance and dreaming, the danger of forgetting ... but I am not sure kids will be aware of this and might just find the story confusing.

Josh Newhouse says

one part Matilda, one part Phantom Tollbooth, with heart and whimsy... this was a nice read... however, reading an ARC I feel like the drawings were hard to follow, and those drawings were a big part of the story... if the final drawings were clearer 4 stars, if not 3 stars... not sure if kids will appreciate it.

Katie says

I FOUND IT!!!!

Shane says

wow, I really enjoyed this story. I was not expecting the combined visual and narrative telling of the story. This was certainly a pleasant surprise. The two were interwoven very well...so as to draw me further into the story.

I am so excited to say that the first book I won through goodreads was such a joy to read and experience. Although this is a book for children (older children), it was immensely pleasurable for an adult. the story deals with mature themes, in a manner appropriate for the older child reader, and in a way that also appeals to an adult. Well Done. and thank you goodreads.

Audrey says

Very clever—both the idea for the story and the mix of text and illustrations.

Karissa says

I got an advanced reading copy of this book through the Amazon Vine program. It looked like a fun book and had excellent reviews. After reading it though I have mixed feelings about it. There were some things I really didn't like and some things I really liked.

When Hope's little sister Honey is abandoned by their terrible parents. Hope falls into a deep depression; she spends long periods of her life sleeping. Then one day a man in a van shows up to take her to the Memory Bank because of a deficiency in her memory bank account. Hope finds herself in a crazy world of memories and dreams; hoping beyond hope that she will find someday back to her sister Honey.

First let's talk about things I liked. This is a very creative book. The idea of a Memory Bank was very interesting and fun. The story alternates between words (mostly Hope's part of the story) and pictures (Honey's part of the story). I really thought that the authors cleverly integrated the pictures and story to create a great overall picture of what was happening. As far as the plot; this story does emphasize how great it is to have love between siblings and for siblings to care about and help each other.

Unfortunately there were a lot of things I didn't like. The story was a bit dark to read to children (and I am the queen of reading dark stories to my kid). The idea of parents abandoning a small child in the middle of the road and of Hope's almost comatose like depression are very dark and serious; and I am not sure a young kid would be ready to deal with those types of things. I get that they were supposed to kind of darkly funny; but the way it was told added a bit too much realism to not take it all seriously. I also got a very yucky feeling when Hope decides to climb in a big white unknown van with some older guy...I was thinking okay...this is sooo not something I want to teach my kid to do. Yup, son, getting into big white vans with a strange man will lead you to a magical world where everyone treats you special...

In addition to the above I thought the story was kind of boring. My son and I started reading it together but it wouldn't hold his attention, so I finished reading it myself and was mainly glad when the story was over with. While the Memory Bank idea was neat, there were a lot of miscellaneous facts about how it worked that were boring. There isn't a ton of action and the story overall is pretty predictable.

Overall, some neat ideas and concepts. I loved how the story was integrated with picture sequences to tell the story. I would read it to older children; it is too dark for younger children and would put some questionable ideas into younger kids' heads. It does tell a positive story about caring and love between sisters; but to be honest some of my son's Franklin books (like Franklin and Harriet) do the same thing. It is not something I would read again and, to be honest, I am glad I got it through Vine and didn't spend money on it.

Michele says

This weird novel is one of those part-text, part-graphic novel books like *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* or *Travels of Thelonious*. It works well in this book; the story moved quickly, and I was intrigued by the action in the pictures. It worked as something of a mystery through the pictures alone. The setting is unusual--a bank which stores and monitors everyone's dreams and memories. It has a dark side--the children in this story are separated by truly cruel parents who are not laughable in light of the Clean Slate Gang of children trying to forget unbearable memories.

An interesting book. It is whimsical, fascinating, and sad in a Dahl sort of way. I am still undecided if my 4th and 5th graders would like it, or get lost trying to follow all the discussions of memories and dreams.

Alison Jacques says

My almost-8-year-old and I both loved this book. I've never seen illustrations used this way -- as a narrative segue between written chapters. Recommend!

Emily S. says

This month I took it upon myself to reread a book I read when I was younger. I read "the memory bank," by Rob Schepperson. The story starts out as a young girl telling her story about the treatment of her parents. This would include living in the garage and not being fed. One day she takes it upon herself to run away. She goes the risky route by deciding to hitch hike. She is probably died up but a shipping truck where she meets a pleasant man. He is concerned for the girls sake once she explains her home situation. He takes her to what appears as a convenient store. It's to her surprise a mythical place referred to as a memory bank. She is

welcomed with open arms but the people working the bank. Here she learns why people minds work the way they do. That there is a small factory of people piecing together your dreams and why you see your life flash before you eyes when you're dying. What I love about this book is the young girl reminds me a little of myself , I also feel that the imagination behind this book is amazing. What I didn't like is that it makes you over think everything. Overall I would recommend this book.

Josiah says

It's hard to tell, in some ways, if this was a book better suited for a run at the Caldecott or Newbery Medal. Author Carolyn Coman has amassed a few Newbery credentials from her past writing, most notably in the form of the 1996 Newbery Honor book *What Jamie Saw*, but *The Memory Bank* is really told with equal parts text and pictures, making it a legit candidate for some real Caldecott notice.

The story is a departure from much of what Carolyn Coman has been known for writing; that is, realistic fiction dealing with matters of child abuse and the psychology of fear in preadolescents. *The Memory Bank* is a fairly light fantasy story with a sort of Roald Dahl sensibility about it, though it does carve out time for a more serious moment or two, as well.

Hope is a girl belonging, along with her younger sister, Honey, to parents who have no more business raising children than the Wormwoods did in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. After repeated warnings by the parents that laughter (yes, laughter) will not be tolerated, Honey is left all alone by the side of the road. Distraught, Hope wants to find her sister and bring her home, but her parents order her to forget about Honey. She's a girl who broke the rules, after all, and used up all of her second chances.

Weighed down by the prospects of her dismal future as it now looks, Hope decides that it would be best to just give up on life and take to bed, where she can at least be reunited with Honey occasionally in the sanctuary of her dreams. Hope remains in bed all the time, which is fine by her neglectful parents, but this sudden imbalance in her life catches the attention of the World Wide Memory Bank (WWMB), an organization devoted to maintaining the balance between making new memories and meditating upon the old within the confines of one's dreams. The WWMB sends a chauffeur, of sorts, to bring Hope in for questioning to their amazing storehouse building of all the memories and dreams in the world. Here, for the first time in her life, Hope finds adults who really care about her, who use kind words to describe her personal attributes instead of the neverending negativity that she had always received from her unloving parents.

Hope's journey to find her beloved lost sister has just begun, but as she walks the halls of her own memories, as well as those of every other person who has ever walked the planet, Hope learns that her sister may not be as far away as she had feared. The equal powers of dreams and memories can bring her and her sister back together, if Hope is willing to give another shot at living life...

It's amazing how a person who has been torn down all of his or her life can convalesce so quickly and so completely when finally surrounded by nurturers instead of antagonists. This is the kind of healing that Hope begins to experience in *The Memory Bank*, and it really is an encouragement to the heart to read about it. A soul with even a little bit of hope remaining inside can still be cleaned of the badness that it has been forced to endure, and be filled anew with the positive energy of real love. If one keeps on trying to find something good about life, then one will always retain that tiny amount of necessary hope somewhere within oneself.

The Memory Bank is a nice story with terrific drawings, and I would certainly recommend it. I might give two and a half stars to this book.

