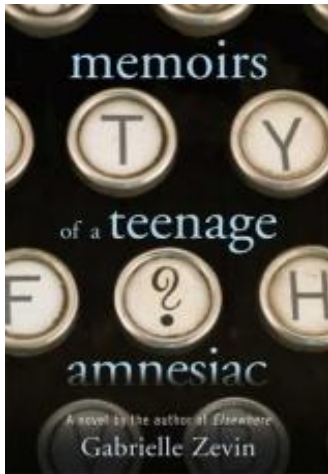


# Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

by Gabrielle Zevin

---



## About the Book

If Naomi had picked tails, she would have won the coin toss. She wouldn't have had to go back for the yearbook camera, and she wouldn't have hit her head on the steps. She wouldn't have woken up in an ambulance with amnesia. She certainly would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She might even have remembered why she fell in love with him in the first place. She would understand why her best friend, Will, keeps calling her "Chief." She'd know about her mom's new family. She'd know about her dad's fiancée. She never would have met James, the boy with the questionable past and the even fuzzier future, who tells her he once wanted to kiss her. She wouldn't have wanted to kiss him back. But Naomi picked heads.

Gabrielle Zevin has crafted an imaginative novel all about love and second chances.

## Discussion Guide

1. Build a profile of Naomi pre-amnesia.
2. Describe some of the "watershed" moments for Naomi --- times when she does not act like the girl she was --- for example, when she cuts her hair or quits yearbook. How are the actions defining who she will become?
3. Amnesia gives not only Naomi a second chance but also others in her life. Pick a character and examine how Naomi's amnesia affects his/her life.
4. Why is the fact that Naomi is an orphan important? How does the author weave this theme throughout the story?

5. Explore the symbolism of Naomi's being found as a baby in a typewriter case. How else are typewriters and books relevant to her story?

6. Photography is a recurring motif. How does it enrich the story?

7. Discuss the role of music throughout the book.

8. Compare and contrast Naomi and James.

9. Examine the scene in which Naomi's memory returns. Why is it significant that it is

the French word for camera that seems to open the floodgates? Why are the two memories Naomi recounts? and the individuals they involve? pivotal?

10. Read the prologue again. Speculate: Would Naomi have made some of the same choices/charges if she had not experienced amnesia?

11. What would you do with a second chance?

## Author Bio

Gabrielle Zevin is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist whose books have been translated into 39 languages.

Her 10th novel, *TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW*, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a *Sunday Times* bestseller, and a selection of the Fallon Book Club. *TOMORROW* was Amazon.com's #1 Book of the Year, *Time Magazine*'s #1 Book of the Year, a *New York Times* Notable Book, and the winner of both the Goodreads Choice Award for Fiction and the Book of the Month Club's Book of the Year. Following a 25-bidder auction, the feature film rights to *TOMORROW* were acquired by Temple Hill and Paramount Studios. Zevin is currently writing the screenplay.

*THE STORIED LIFE OF A.J. FIKRY* also spent many months on the *New York Times* bestseller List. A.J. FIKRY was honored with the Southern California Independent Booksellers Award for Fiction, the Japan Booksellers' Prize, and was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, among other honors. A.J. FIKRY is now a feature film with a screenplay by Zevin. She has also written children's books, including the award-winning *ELSEWHERE*.

She is the screenwriter of *Conversations with Other Women* (Helena Bonham Carter) for which she received an Independent Spirit Award Nomination for Best First Screenplay. She has occasionally written criticism for the *New York Times Book Review* and NPR's *All Things Considered*, and she began her writing career, at age 14, as a music critic for the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*. Zevin is a graduate of Harvard University. She lives in Los Angeles.

---

# **Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac**

by Gabrielle Zevin

**Publication Date:** August 21, 2007

**Genres:** Fiction

**Hardcover:** 288 pages

**Publisher:** Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR)

**ISBN-10:** 0374349460

**ISBN-13:** 9780374349462