



# The Meme Plague

*Angie Smibert*

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*You, my friend, have been hacked.*

It begins with the name JONAS W. on the side of a cardboard coffin—right before the funeral procession blows up. Then it's the whisper in the back of Micah's head: *Your father betrayed his country*. You can't always trust your own brain. Not when you have one of the mayor's mandatory chips in your skull. Micah knows that the chip developed by TFC (the corporation that runs the Therapeutic Forgetting Clinics) does more than just erase unpleasant memories—it implants new ones. The MemeCast warns citizens to “fight the hack.”

Micah and his friends have each lost something—a parent, a relationship, a home, maybe even their own identities as they remembered them to be. But, together, they can make sure some things are never forgotten.

Election Day is coming, and Mayor Mignon is set to be elected to Congress. It's time to build a new electronic frontier, one that's not controlled by the mayor and his cronies. It's time to get out the vote and shake up the system. It's time to finally say enough.

## The Meme Plague Details

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Author : Angie Smibert

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## From Reader Review The Meme Plague for online ebook

### Cherie says

TFC can take your cares away, but you'll find it difficult to come back to who you are in Angie Smibert's *The Meme Plague*.

Nora and Micah have a bigger role in this novel than book two. The characters face very difficult decisions as they go against TFC and the government. The upcoming elections don't ease their problems either. As the group struggles to hold onto who they are, they are facing a world that they might not be able to change.

Although I enjoyed *Memento Nora* and *The Forgetting Curve*, I felt this novel had something missing. There was a lack of urgency and underlying pace. Yet the ending was perfect for the series.

Though not my favorite of the series, I recommend *The Meme Plague* by Angie Smibert as well as the entire *Memento Nora* series.

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### Ezra says

This is a YA series that shares a lot of qualities with dystopian novels such as 1984 and Brave New World. If you are looking at it relative to these other works, it offers relatively little that is novel. But if you are looking at it as a gateway drug to more mature dystopian novels it is a powerful, yet digestible introduction to the genre.

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### Kimberly says

A good ending to the series and an enjoyable read. A bit too many matrix references for me, but apart from that it was good.

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### Crystal says

Not too bad...the ending was not quite what i was hoping for, but overall a good read...

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### Rachel W says

i absolutely love these! they are so messed up, so creative and so fun to read about. this one was probably my favourite of the 3 so far, because everything from the first two just came together perfectly and sort of melded into one amazing story. i especially liked all of the matrix references (because, face it, that was one goddamn awesome movie) and i enjoyed having so much stuff packed into only a couple hundred pages. that character, as usual, were still their quirky, bizarro selves with all their idiosyncrasies and issues. the mystery of Jonas Wallenburg was also pretty mind bending, as there were so many pieces to that puzzle that kind of fit together and yet disproved the whole thing at the same time ( a phenomenon that was finally explained

(partially) in the last chapter)

another random question, who was the boy in the green shirt? was he not explained, or did i somehow miss that part? i don't know.

i can't wait for the next one!

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## **Jennifer says**

Summary (probably contains spoilers, especially if you have not read the first two books):

This is the third book in the Memento Nora series, but that doesn't actually matter. Within this book, Micah, Nora, Aiden, and Velvet each tell their final adventures with the MemeNet.

Micah and his mom are finally in a new place to live, off the streets. He doesn't want to screw things up for her, so he goes to school obediently, but all of a sudden this memory pops up into his head that his father is a traitor and things start going bad again. His mother loses her job again and his cozy little place no longer seems like a good idea. The only thing is, Micah doesn't believe the memory. This sends him on a quest to find out information about his father.

Nora's father is fighting for custody of her. She is staying in his swanky apartment, but is really very bored. Her only time that she is happy is when it is the weekend and she is with her mother and Micah. When Nora overhears that her father wants to move them to Germany, she makes a mistake by bumping into a rather important person and her father gets furious. This leads to Nora helping her mother fight the custody battle. Aiden is attempting to break the identification chips and replace them with ones that are not controlled by TFC.

Velvet's father has come home, but things aren't quite right. She wants to really fix things and stop the Patriot Party from basically taking over the world. She also has to figure out what she has remembered and what she has forgotten.

My thoughts:

Well, I'm sorry first hand for probably giving away too much within the summary. For such a short book, there is a lot going on. Since I had not read the first two books, I learned about the entire world through this one. Cheers to Smibert for writing a book that did not leave me wondering what was going on, even though I have only read the final book of the trilogy. While I am now going back to read the other two books, I was completely aware of what TFC was, who the characters were to one another, and basically what happened in the previous book by each of the characters struggle to figure out what memories they had were real or not. It was an excellent plot device because I was able to get to know the background and the characters at the same time. I was immediately sucked into the world that the teens lived in. I love the idea of being able to erase memories and then how to know what is real and what may have been implanted into your memory. It is terrifying and yet completely possible. Mixing this along with Extras (The Uglies) makes me wonder how close we are to actually inserted chips into our heads. Finally, I enjoyed the ending, but would have loved to have more. While it provides the satisfaction that most dystopians novels do, I still want to know the "what's next" part. Overall, I think that this will be a series that I need to keep in my classroom.

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## **Josie says**

For those of you who fell in love with Angie Smibert's series Memento Nora, the saga continues with the third installation, The Meme Plague that released today, August 13, 2013. The Meme Plague delivers some exciting new character development as well as resumes the quest to retrieve lost memories from the TFC

(Therapeutic Forgetting Clinic).

Let me start by saying that compared to Memento Nora and The Forgetting Curve, The Meme Plague does not feel as much the action packed adventure you might be accustomed to based on the other two books, which surprised me as this is the finale in the series. That being said, there are key storylines that really come to the forefront and are highlighted that weave a web that altogether creates an amazingly interesting story that builds to a dynamic end.

Nora's parents are in a battle for custody, Aiden is attempting to create new chips that are immune to government programming but still pass the authenticity tests and our group of rebels are hiding routers all around the city to launch their non-corrupted internet. Can these friends stop the governmental corruption and tyranny?

This is a great short read that is sure to entertain and engage! Definitely one to add to your list!

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### **Miranda says**

This series was new to me until a few months ago and I swear ive been meaning to write this review but its been sitting in a notebook that I've been half dreading to go through and post them all up. This little dystopian series is rather interesting, just think matrix and crazy syfy plots. But rather interesting stuff. All three books were rather quick reads for me but worth it gave me light little edgy exciting sit downs. The thirds one is by far the best just because everything came to an abrupt melding so your like OMG I get this and that etc. Ive got tiny notes written down on a notebook since I cant do my usual highlights like my kindle (about the only thing I really like about it lol) just characters great story great plots eh here and there I wish was better, action was good etc. as a whole id give the series a 3 1/2 stars

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### **Anastasia Tuckness says**

I was so excited to find this on the shelf at the library. I loved memento Nora and the forgetting curve, and I love this one too. Smibert has done a fabulous job of creating a society that is just one step removed from our own. It has become quite clear that the government is cooperating with the TFC corporation to gain power. They are attacking other countries as well, and creating power shortages to encourage people to vote for the new Patriot party. It makes you wonder how many of these kinds of things are going on in our world, as well. As in our world, a fight for a limited amount of power, such as gas and coal, drives much of the story.

The main plot is that Aiden and the others form an underground Internet called the Meme Net. This way they can communicate with each other without fear of government interference. They use it to publish music, comic books, and radio programs. The resistance movement continues to build throughout the book, and many people from their school, neighborhoods, and even the police join them. The perfect circle tattoo becomes the way they identify themselves.

In addition, we learn much more about our characters and their families. Like the first two books, this book will be enjoyed by teen readers who enjoy books that are just one step away from our reality, especially those who enjoy technology. Cory Doctorow's Little Brother is the most similar book to this one. In general, I think this series is one of the most underrated series out there. They are really interesting on a lot of levels,

and I'm not sure why they don't get more press.

Spoiler alerts start here.

Winter is doing pretty well in this book, and her relationship with Lina continues to blossom. They spend a lot of time working on electricity enabled textiles and building nodes for the new Meme Net. Her butterflies have mostly quieted down, allowing her to work on her projects and relationships successfully.

Aiden is disappointed to learn that Velvet doesn't remember that they were dating, but decides to move on. He spends a lot of time working hard to make the computer hacking part happen. He also successfully makes a new ID Chip, that can replace the government issued ones, but is read as a legal one by the scanners. He does a radio show as Neo. There are a lot of Matrix references in this book.

Nora starts the book living with her dad in a very rich gated community. She enjoys some parts of this life. Eventually though her dad abuses her like he had her mom. So she ends up back living with her mom.

Velvet is excited to greet her dad when he comes home from the war. She learns that he and Micah's dad had fought together previously. She does a lot of the organizing work for the final concert. She also writes lots of poems and songs.

Micah has the hardest time in this book. At one point, he thinks his dad is a terrorist, at another point he thinks he's dead. At the end he's really not sure what happened.

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## **Annette says**

As I'm sitting here preparing to write my review of Meme Plague, I'm asking myself, "What was important in this book?" And, unfortunately my answer seems to be, "Not much." After really enjoying Memento Nora and The Forgetting Curve, I found the third book, Meme Plague to be somewhat of a filler. We experience some character development, but not much action, and not much has changed for our characters. This happens in the middle book, but Meme Plague is the finale!

Most of Meme Plague involved our characters trying to get their memories back – those that they've lost from the TFC – the Therapeutic Forgetting Clinic. If you aren't familiar with this series, you should probably click on the previous titles above and read my reviews, but the way that the population is controlled is by the Therapeutic Forgetting Corporation giving them pills to forget all their "bad" memories. Also, now chips have been implanted in the citizens so that the TFC can feed them memories, or make them forget things without any pills.

Our characters are rebels. They are also involved in making routers and planting them all over the city, so that they can have a secret internet. And, the MemeCasts are being broadcast again – including new issues of the graphic/comic books that Nora created to let people know what is really happening.

There are a few other story lines. Nora's dad is trying to get sole custody from her mom – and plans to move Nora to France. Aiden is trying to make "dummy" chips that will be able to pass the authority's checks, but won't be susceptible to their programming. There's an election coming up, and of course TFC is controlling the vote very carefully.

All of this makes an interesting story, but not very exciting or tense. Nothing seemed to move forward and there is little action. And we are left with not much of an ending. It's a surprise, and I guess it is hopeful, but

I needed a bit more resolution. This is supposed to be the final book, but I'm left feeling like, "So, now what?"

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### **Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says**

As a dystopian series, The Meme Plague has enough going for it to outweigh the weaknesses. Most importantly, this series is not a romance novel masquerading as genre fiction, instead focusing on world building and issues very closely linked to the evils of the current political system in a far too close and possible future. I've enjoyed the whole of the trilogy, as quick reads that break from some of the common YA tropes.

For those who are unfamiliar with this series, here's a quick overview of the dystopian world of the Memento Nora trilogy. TFC, a corporation with strong ties to the government, runs clinics that help people forget their problems. Psychiatrists and pills are no longer needed to deal with traumatic events or emotions. PTSD no longer need affect soldiers, because these clinics can erase those memories, leaving the memory empty of the events that were disturbing the psyche. In Memento Nora, a group of kids came to suspect that TFC may not be on the up and up, instead using the clinics to control the population.

What endears this series to me most is the inclusion of both diverse and GLBT characters. In both cases, they are included without pomp and circumstance. Being a lesbian or being Asian/black/hispanic does not define these characters, but is merely one aspect about them. So rarely does this happen in young adult fiction and it thrills me any time I find that. Often, these characters end up being token or stereotypes or such a deal is made about them that it ends up stressing that they're weird when they're not. Angie Smibert does a great job making the cast of the trilogy as diverse as the world I'm used to living in.

The series has an entertaining, fast-paced plot. There are explosions, kissing, concerts of rebellion, legal battles, skateboarding, and attempts to overthrow the political system. All of the books are quite short, and I think this is an excellent series for reluctant readers interested in dystopian fiction but overwhelmed by the general offerings, which tend to be closer to 400 pages. In The Meme Plague especially, I was reminded of a less complex Little Brother, so it really could be a nice transition into the genre for younger or reluctant readers. The Meme Plague also brings the series to a satisfying conclusion, closed enough but also left open in a sort of traditional dystopian way.

Where the series has been and continues to be weak for me is in the characters. They're fun and entertaining, but there's a large cast and I have trouble telling their narrative voices apart. Told in first person from five perspectives (I think), if I didn't pay attention to the opening of each chapter which listed who the narrator was, I ended up having to flip back to do so. Still, I was able to remember each cast member and how they were all connected without too much trouble, even though I scarcely remembered the previous books, so that was nice.

All told, I recommend the Memento Nora trilogy highly to younger readers looking to transition to young adult fiction or reluctant readers in search of good, shorter dystopian novels.

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### **Jami Leigh says**

Plot: 3 1/2 stars

Characters:4 stars

Style: 4 stars

Pace: 3 1/2 stars

Now to impatiently wait for the next one, because there's too many dangling threads. This one didn't have nearly as much of a plot arc as the second, but it was still enjoyable.

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### **Amy Lignor says**

The subject of youth rebellion has appeared as the plot in many YA books over the past few years. But this one series has most certainly gone beyond the same-old, same-old when it comes to the subject. Not since the extremely popular 'Maze Runner' series has a plot been so intense.

For those who are unaware, Books I and II introduced readers to an array of characters that were beyond intelligent. They have each gone through something tragic, with a loss in their backgrounds that range from a parent to a home to their own memories. But when these friends come together they can literally overpower the evil people who are trying to control others by putting a chip into each person's head.

The combination of government and police are using fear to make people conform. And these chips are a way to make sure people forget bad things, and insert new 'happy' memories of things that never happened.

This group of friends, however, were smart enough to find a way around the chip. Broadcasting a concert, they were able to embed a signal that erased the chip's effects.

As we open on the grand finale of this series, a radio is playing letting all listeners know that summer is over, school is starting, and the evil Mayor is running for election. With a company called TFC, the Mayor and his so-called Patriot Party uses mind control tactics to hack a person's brain. If you know the wrong thing, a black van simply pulls up, takes you to the Big D (which is a detention facility), and then gives you a pill so you can happily forget everything you shouldn't know and go on your way.

Micah Wallenberg has just finished his community service and is headed home when he sees a very strange sight. A cardboard coffin procession is walking down the street toward the Big D. On one of the coffins is carved Jonas W. (his father's name). Suddenly an explosion occurs and a strange thought enters Micah's mind: 'Did his father betray his country?'

Velvet is a girl who's sick of knocking on doors in support of the Mayor when she's working for the other side. Add in Winter, Nora, Aiden, Spike - all of these friends who are standing together to stop the tyranny, and you have a story that is out of this world cool.

Although this is a series, Book III is stand-alone simply because the author has done a great job catching people up on all the action that's already occurred. The one thing that will constantly be running through your head, however, is how easily a government could do something like this if they really wanted to. After all, we are in the digital age...

Exhilarating and intense. The author weaves feel-good fiction with suspense to give readers a triumphant victory.

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**Lissy :) says**

Omigod!!!! I so totally can;t wait for this!!

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