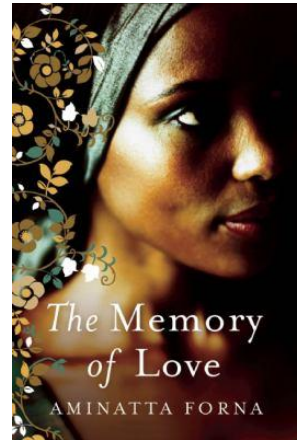


“The Memory of Love” by Aminatta Forna.
Atlantic Monthly Press, 2010. \$24.95, 445 pages.

This novel set in West Africa written by Aminatta Forna, a promising author, captures the essence of the Sierra Leone. A civil war is wreaking havoc in the country and the life of Kai, a surgeon in the capital city, is interwoven with the endless days of Elias Cole, a patient. Two generations of families have been affected by the civil war since the colonial period. Adrian, a British psychologist, treats both men for the issues from their pasts. You will be drawn into the story from the opening lines:

“ I heard a song, a morning as I walked to college. It came to me across the radio playing on a stall I passed. A song from far away, about a lost love. At least I so imagined, I didn’t understand the words, only the melody.



Both Kai and Elias experience the pangs of love and loss in this captivating novel. The author’s command of descriptions and ambiance will make this a novel you will long remember. Look for future novels by this captivating writer. Aminatta Forna lives in London.

“Fatal Error” by J. A. Jance. Simon & Schuster Inc. \$25.99, 352 pages.

Whether life imitates art is debatable, but the theme in Jance’s latest novel is the all too common story in newspapers. Social networking on the web has made many love starved people the victim of con artists. Jance has brought back the well-liked character Ali Reynolds in this book number six of the series. Reynolds has her plate full with Police Academy training and filling in at her parent’s restaurant while they vacation. When Brenda Riley shows up needing her help, Ali halfheartedly agrees. Both had worked in the news field previously, so Ali must give some credibility to Brenda’s story that her fiancé is missing despite her alcohol problem.

Ali discovers that Brenda’s fiancé, Richard Lowensdale is not an electronic engineer and his deceptions online to lonely women have been nothing short of criminal. When Lowensdale turns up murdered, Brenda is the prime suspect. The fact that Brenda broke into his apartment just adds to the case being made against her. The investigation soon leads the police to the conclusion that Richard Lowensdale had as many alias as Internet girlfriends. Who really killed the web Casanova? You will stay up with the book until the very end. Jance writes crisply and the story flows quickly in this murder mystery. J.A. Jance splits time between her homes in Seattle and Tucson. Her other books in this series include “Edge of Evil,” “Hand of Evil,” and “Web of Evil.”