



## THE MEMORY OF WATER

New American Library,  
\$14 paperback

**KAREN WHITE's** roots as a romance novelist are showing a little in this carefully plotted melodrama of estranged sisters. After a decade away, Marnie has returned home to South Carolina's Lowcountry to help Diana's fractured family heal from a near-fatal sailing mishap. Diana harbors a long-repressed rage toward Marnie, though, that is somehow linked to a mysterious childhood sailing accident that claimed the life of their deeply troubled mother. Marnie's

memory of the tragedy is selectively dim. For ten years, she has tried "to forget . . . being underwater and not able to breathe as water rolled over me, cascaded around me in a watery rug, sucking the air from my lungs. And the feel of my mother's hands slowly letting me go." White, who lives in North Fulton, goes off the deep end with the water metaphors occasionally but skillfully mines the literary mother lode of mentally unbalanced parents.

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