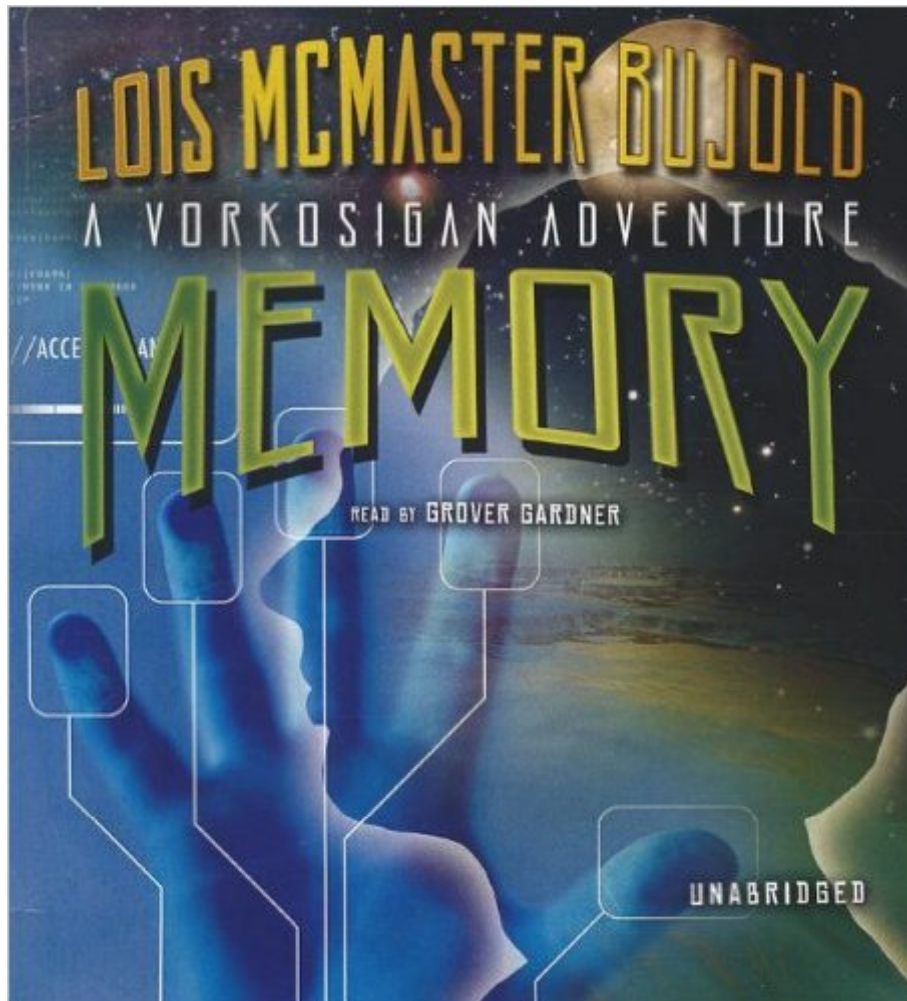


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# Memory (Miles Vorkosigan Adventures)



## Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner]Dying is easy. Coming back to life is hard. At least that's what Miles Vorkosigan thinks, and he should know, having done both once already. -- Thanks to his quick-thinking staff and incredible artistry from a medical specialist, Miles' first death won't be his last. But it does take some recovery, a fact he has been reluctant to admit. When he makes the mistake of returning too soon to military duty, he finds himself summoned home to face the Barrayaran security chief, Simon Illyan. But Miles' worst nightmares about Simon Illyan are nothing compared to Illyan's own nightmares. Under suspicion himself, Miles must seek out the answers to Illyan's nightmares or see the inevitable destruction of Imperial Security and, with it, the Empire.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (167 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,619,558 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( B \) > Bujold, Lois McMaster](#) #2462 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction](#) #2870 in [Books > Books on CD > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy](#)

## Customer Reviews

I will venture the very bold statement that Bujold is the best woman SF writer active today (earlier claimants to that title would be LeGuin and C. J. Cherry). This series of Bujold's (about Miles) is really a remarkable work. Not only is it extensive (10+ books) but it has gone after things in a strongly chronological fashion. Instead of skipping forward and backwards in time, picking off the highlights, this series has (with a few exceptions) moved forward in time very "cleanly". I really get the feeling that I'm reading about a real person's life. One remarkable aspect to this series is that while it is science fiction, it is very strongly about character development as well. Miles changes over time. Most other people in the series don't change but then, most other people in the books are

older than Miles and more set in their ways. Another interesting thing about this series is that the "galaxy" in which this book is set is slowly coming into focus. We only see bits and pieces of the Miles galaxy but even so, it is developing very nicely as a coherent, believable background for the stories. Now this book, *Memory*, is a real turning point in Miles' life and in the series. It marks (what seems to be) a turn away from "space opera" and towards something new... science fiction for policy wonks? It's hard to describe but the old days of blasting your enemies are replaced by the new, more mature challenges of politics and character assassination. It also represents a chance for Bujold to engage in some "romance". Don't take this wrong, this is not some romance novel, but it is a novel that in many ways is about relationships. It's rare to read a SF novel that is this careful balance of comedy, mystery, and character.

While *Mirror Dance* is still the best Vorkosigan book so far, *Memory* is almost up there. After having explored Miles' brother Mark's character so vividly in *Mirror Dance*, Bujold turns to her main character in *Memory*, bringing Miles to a turning point in his life and showing what makes him tick. She does this by having Miles go through a crisis of conscience that ends up blowing up in his face. After what happened to him in *Mirror Dance*, Miles goes through some introspection about the way his career has gone. What he does puts him at odds with Simon Illyan, the head of Imperial Security. The results from this send Miles on a downward mental spiral. While all of this is going on, a plot against Simon presents itself, and Miles has to figure out what's going on. Seeing how Miles deals with all of this is one of the best things about the book. The last couple of Bujold books have shown a great maturity in writing style that I really like. A couple of reviewers have mentioned how predictable the Simon plot is. I have to agree, but I would say that it's beside the point. The reason for this novel is not the plot against Simon, but how Miles deals with it, and how he incorporates it into his dealing with his other issues. It doesn't matter that the plot is predictable, because the only reason it is there is to showcase Miles and his thought processes. In handling this dilemma, Miles makes great strides in his maturity. He's gone past the daring-do of his Admiral Naismith persona and become a much more well-rounded person. He discovers that he's been denying his real self as Miles Vorkosigan, and burying it in Admiral Naismith. It's a great treat to read this book and see how Miles progresses. He comes out of the book a much better person than he went into it as.

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