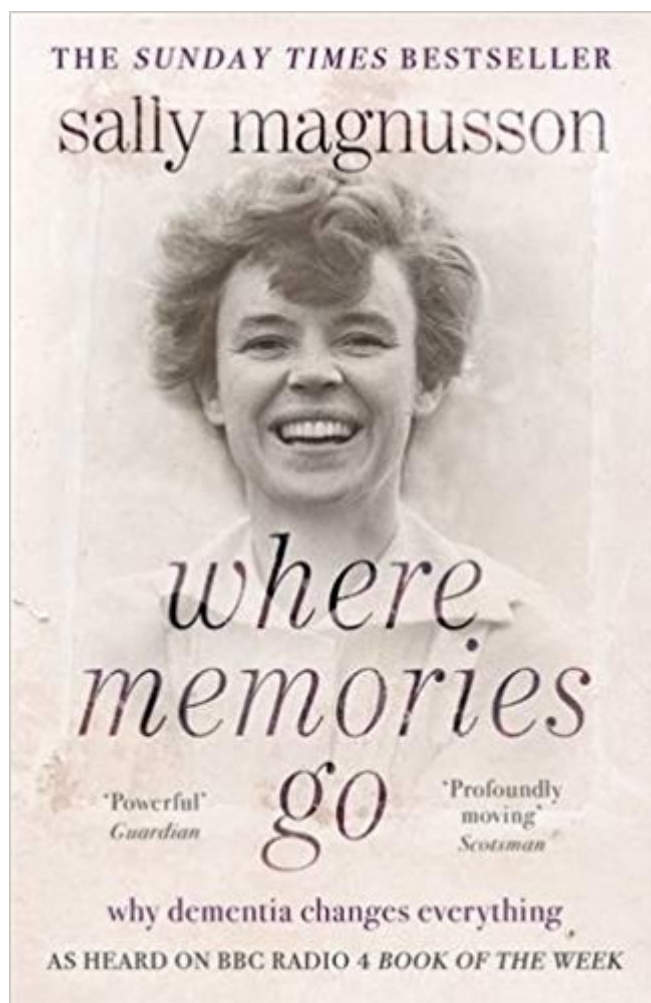


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# Where Memories Go: Why Dementia Changes Everything



## Synopsis

Scottish broadcaster and author Sally Magnusson's bestselling memoir of caring (with her two sisters) for their mother Mamie during many years of living with dementia. Sad and funny, wise and honest, this deeply intimate account of insidious losses and unexpected joys is also a call to arms that challenges us all to think differently about how we cope with a disease like dementia and care for our loved ones. This book began as an attempt to hold on to my witty, storytelling mother with the one thing I had to hand. Words. Then, as the enormity of the social crisis my family was part of began to dawn, I wrote with the thought that other forgotten lives might be nudged into the light along with hers. Dementia is one of the greatest social, medical, economic, scientific, philosophical and moral challenges of our times. I am a reporter. It became the biggest story of my life. - Sally Magnusson

Regarded as one of the finest journalists of her generation, Mamie Baird Magnusson's whole life was a celebration of words - words that she fought to retain in the grip of a disease which is fast becoming the scourge of the 21st century. Married to writer and broadcaster Magnus Magnusson, they had five children of whom Sally is the eldest. As well as chronicling the anguish, the frustrations and the unexpected laughs and joys that she and her sisters experienced while accompanying their beloved mother on the long dementia road for eight years until her death in 2012, Sally Magnusson seeks understanding from a range of experts and asks penetrating questions about how we treat older people, how we can face one of the greatest social, medical, economic and moral challenges of our times, and what it means to be human. An extraordinary and deeply personal memoir, a manifesto and a call to arms, in one searingly beautiful narrative. [Facebook.com/WhereMemoriesGo](https://www.facebook.com/WhereMemoriesGo)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'I was in tears on the very first page. [Kirsty Wark](#) Touching... There are many moments of heartwarming sentiment. Literary snowdrops grow out of the barren earth... This book is the constant, tenuous but vital reconnection between a child and its mother... A fine book. [The Sunday Times](#) This is simply beautiful, honest, piercingly intelligent, page-turning and written from the heart. A stunning piece of writing and experience. [Alistair Moffat](#), author, broadcaster and book festival director. Rector of the University of St. Andrews This is an extraordinarily moving memoir which is, at the same time, a fascinating exploration of a condition that touches virtually every family. This book will help our understanding. [Alexander McCall Smith](#) The whole point of this book is that it starts with love. It opens out into medicine, philosophy, reportage from both sides of the Atlantic, but it only is able to be the profoundly moving book it is because it is infused with love to begin with. Books like this are difficult to get right: just a hint of emotional dishonesty, whether self-pity or even lightly veiled self-praise, and they flounder. There's none of that here, just the opposite: this is a book written with a rare combination of analytical inquiry - [Magnusson](#) is clearly appalled by our collective lack of care for those with dementia and determined to do what she can to improve things - and intimate, deeply moving memoir. [Scotsman](#) The story of remarkable women from a remarkable family living through the journey of dementia. At times funny and heartening, and at times desperately sad, it is an inspiration to others who will walk this path. All who work in the field need to read this and reflect on what we can do to improve on the services we currently provide. [Dr June Andrews](#), director of the Dementia Services Development Centre, Stirling University Sally Magnusson set out to write a book about dementia and in this she has succeeded wonderfully. But *Where Memories Go* is also - perhaps primarily - a book about love... Although this book is full of interesting facts, with forays into laboratories, hospitals and care homes, tenderness is its most striking quality. It is a description of a terrible disease, but also of redemptive love. [Mail on Sunday](#) Sally Magnusson's new book, radiating artistry and integrity, is an inspiring and extraordinarily gripping testament to a mother with dementia and to the enduring grace of love. [WI Magazine](#) Powerful. [Guardian](#) Never has the subject of dementia been dealt with so movingly and with such penetrating intelligence. Sally Magnusson writes with the deep love of a daughter, and the calm professionalism of a journalist. The result is a work of genuine significance, that brings understanding and analysis to an affliction that thousands

of families must face in the years ahead. A beautiful and important book. [Magnus Linklater](#), Times columnist, Scottish commentator and former editor of *The Scotsman* Moving. [The Times Moving, funny, warm account of her mother's demise and a clarion call for change. \[Mail on Sunday \\(You Magazine\\)\]\(#\) It is impressive that a book that can be so clear-eyed in its reporting can often leave the readers' eyes brimming... A brave, compassionate, tender and honest portrait of a mother and family that also informs a conversation we all need to be having. I daresay this book will prove to be what Mamie felt so frustrated in her declining years at not being: useful. \[Metro\]\(#\) Intensely moving and inspiring, it is as much about living, laughing and family life as it is about loss and death. I read it in one sitting and thought about it again and again. \[Joanna Lumley\]\(#\) Beautifully written and honest. \[Candis Magazine\]\(#\) A wonderful book... Part memoir and part manifesto for how we should treat older people, it had me hooked from the moment I picked it up. It's pitch-perfect in the way it describes what sufferers' families go through... It's had me enthralled. It helps that Magnusson is a journalist and tackles the subject with insight and perspicacity. It should be compulsory reading for every doctor and nurse, because it reminds us that behind every patient with dementia, there are friends and families who are grieving for the person that we will never know. \[Max Pemberton\]\(#\), \*The Telegraph\* A wonderful book. \[Dr Frank Gunn-Moore\]\(#\), molecular neurobiologist A remarkable and courageous book which will have immense positive benefits for many different people - those who care, those who are entering the long walk into the gloaming, and those who are responsible for making and implementing policy. Mostly dementia does not alight simply on one person: its eddies can encompass a whole family. This book tells one such story in an exquisite, but sometimes painful way. \[Lord Sutherland of Houndwood\]\(#\), philosopher, former chair of the Royal Commission on Long-Term Care of Older People and President of Alzheimer Scotland A lovely book - so intimate and truthful, painful and joyous. \[Liz Lochhead\]\(#\), National Poet for Scotland A heartfelt memoir about the love between parents and children. \[Good Housekeeping\]\(#\) A heart rending and touching portrait... incredibly moving. \[Psychologies\]\(#\) A brave story of a family's love for their mother, told with affection, steadfastness and humour - and a cool-headed battle-cry to do more and better. \[Sarah Brown\]\(#\), global campaigner for Health and Education](#)

Sally Magnusson is the oldest of the five children of journalists Magnus Magnusson and Mamie Baird. A journalist and broadcaster herself, she has been a BBC news and current affairs presenter for many years. She is the recipient of the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for writing 2014 and was shortlisted for the Saltire Literary Book of the Year award for *Where Memories Go*. She is the

author of six other works of non-fiction and three children's  
books.[twitter.com/sallymag1](https://twitter.com/sallymag1) [facebook.com/wherememoriesgo](https://facebook.com/wherememoriesgo)

first: i never write reviews of this type.second: sally's is the first memoir i've ever read. i typically avoid them like the plaguethird: i'm an academic, have a phd, so typically don't take this sort of writing seriously.fourth: confession: my mom has dementia, which is why i read sally's book, knowing that she was a serious journalistfifth: i was not only not disappointed, i was deeply moved, affected, educated, and politicized [and i'm already quite politicized.]sixth: sally's argument is that dementia is not just one health problem among others, but that it is a defining moment in what it means to be human, now, right now, and into the future, whatever nationality you identify with. Her major concern is an ancient one: how do we respect not just our 'elders,' but the histories of elders who have made all of us who have benefited, or not, from their lives.seventh: it is a beautifully written, exquisitely written, sensitively written book that:eighth: everyone should read regardless of whether or not they have parents suffering from dementia.ninth: read it.

Everyone should read this book whether you have personal experience of this hideous disease or not. It give a very clear and shattering insight in to the effect it has on the relatives and carers of a person with dementia. It is heart braking and heartwarming all at once, and the reader is given a very personal glimpse of the love and pain shared by this family. It is written with much humour and brutal honesty. I highly recommend it and would like to thank the Author for sharing her knowledge.

Beautiful and informative book. It helped me understand what my friend is going through with her mom.

I was looking forward to reading this, I did not find it interesting after reading it for while, it is based on personel Journey with her Mother on Dementia, I was looking for more on how to deal or cope with it on My own Mother.

This book is honest and incredibly important for people in our society to read. The person who has dementia has not already died socially as some would say - Sally Magnusson helps us to see things differently

This was an amazing book!!!Give this as a gift to a friend for a birthday or Christmas, this is a MUST

read!! know now that eating breakfast twice a day, is NOT dementia, it is hunger!

A beautiful memoir coupled with profound journalistic insight into the challenges and shortcomings of our healthcare system to care for our most vulnerable members in a dignified way. Thank you for sharing

Sad but true after having gone through this with a family member ( mother ). Brought back many sad memories !

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