

## **Pieces**

By Chris Lynch



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A teen revives the legacy of his lost brother in this "exceptional" (*Kirkus Reviews*) companion to *Iceman*, from National Book Award finalist Chris Lynch.

When Eric's brother Duane dies, his world breaks in two. Duane was his best friend—possibly his only friend. And Eric isn't sure how to live in a world without Duane in it. Desperate to find a piece of his brother to hold on to, Eric decides to meet some of the people who received Duane's organs.

He expects to meet perfect strangers. Instead he encounters people who become more than friends and almost like family—people who begin to help Eric put the pieces of his life back together for good.

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#### Pieces By Chris Lynch Bibliography

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• 192 pages



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### From Booklist

When Lynch published Iceman in 1994, it was his second novel. Almost two decades and dozens of books later, Lynch returns to Eric and Duane, siblings and best friends—though things have changed. Pieces opens in a hospital as Eric struggles to accept Duane's death and to consent to organ donation. A year later Eric must decide if he wants to meet the recipients. He attends a high tea where he meets the beneficiaries: sweet, friendless Phil; obnoxious masher Barry; and fragile, beautiful single mother Melinda among them. Eric feels ready to move on, until Martha, Duane's ex-girlfriend and Eric's eternal crush, appears, determined to meet the recipients herself, and things become messily human. Lynch paints a cast of indelible characters, even secondary players, with a deft, sensitive hand. And despite the specificity of Eric's circumstances, his complicated, shifting emotions are immediately resonant. Though the complex family dynamic (and strange affinity for death) explored in Iceman adds nuance to the proceedings here, this novel stands on its own, rewarding new readers with a tender exploration of just what it means to be whole. Grades 8-12. --Thom Barthelmess

#### Review

whole." (Booklist)

\* "Each character springs fully formed off the page, and Lynch's irreverent, inventive dialogue crackles...a sharply observed story of real human connection. Readers will be pleasantly reminded of the snarky stylings of John Green and Ned Vizzini. Exceptional." (*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*)

"Lynch paints a cast of indelible characters, even secondary players, with a deft, sensitive hand. And despite the specificity of Eric's circumstances, his complicated, shifting emotions are immediately resonant. Though the complex family dynamic (and strange affinity for death) explored in *Iceman* adds nuance to the proceedings here, this novel stands on its own, rewarding new readers with a tender exploration of just what it means to be

"Poignantly credible...Lynch is the great laureate of American guyhood, and he writes with fierce compassion about a kid who relishes the angry rush of punching men but abhors the thought of a woman he cares for being abused. While the complexity of the situation adds an interesting dimension, at its core this is a story of loss and identity, of a young man finding out who he is through the legacy of the brother who taught him who he was." (*BCCB*)

"Using succinct prose, Lynch creates a smart, raw story about redefining oneself after loss." (*Publishers Weekly*)

- \* "[A] powerfully emotional novel of grief and loss...a novel that for the first time brings all of Lynch's many talents together in one place." (VOYA, starred review)
- \* "Lynch is known for his gritty novels with flawed protagonists. He does not disappoint here, once again giving readers characters with emotional and psychological complexity. A long time coming, this sequel is a sophisticated, extended look at a teen's maturation and growth through a series of dynamic life changes." (School Library Journal, starred review)

"Both heartbreaking and heartwarming, this book is a touching tour through the experience of losing and finding different kinds of love." (*Library Media Connection, Recommended*)

#### About the Author

Chris Lynch is the Printz Honor Award—winning author of several highly acclaimed young adult novels, including Printz Honor Book *Freewill*, *Iceman*, *Gypsy Davy*, and *Shadow Boxer*—all ALA Best Books for Young Adults—as well as *Killing Time in Crystal City*, *Little Blue Lies*, *Pieces*, *Kill Switch*, *Angry Young Man*, and *Inexcusable*, which was a National Book Award finalist and the recipient of six starred reviews. He holds an MA from the writing program at Emerson College. He teaches in the Creative Writing MFA program at Lesley University. He lives in Boston and in Scotland.

#### **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### Gene Kistler:

This Pieces book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific Pieces without we comprehend teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Pieces can bring when you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This Pieces having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

#### **Judith Bode:**

Pieces can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing Pieces yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

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