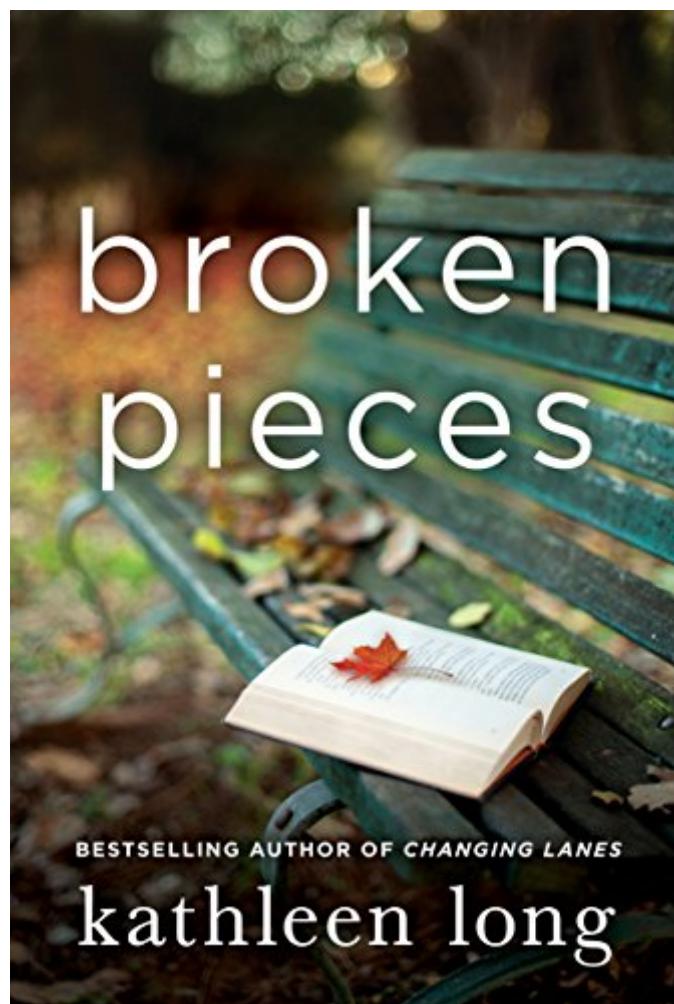


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# Broken Pieces: A Novel



## **Synopsis**

Destiny Jones is doing just fine on her own, thanks. From her thriving one-woman carpentry business to the loving support of her small-town community, Destiny has constructed a life as sturdy and polished as her best cabinets. Twenty years ago, Destiny's world collapsed when her mother died and her father, Albert, abandoned his daughter to pursue acting in New York. His devastating exit taught Destiny a lesson in self-reliance that has kept her safe "and alone" ever since. Now Albert Jones is back, begging for a second chance. Destiny suspects he's simply staging another performance, starring himself as the prodigal father. Should she act on her misgivings? Or listen to her inner child, who still yearns for a family? When Albert divulges a shocking secret, Destiny's life will again be turned upside down. Kathleen Long's warm, wise novel reveals the armor that has protected us in the past is often the very thing we must shed to fully live and love.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I read 4 or 5 chapters of Broken Pieces yesterday. After going to bed between 11:00 and 11:30 p.m., I awoke around 2:30 a.m. (not uncommon for me) and picked up my Kindle to resume reading.

I couldn't quit reading so I finished the book around 6:00 a.m. I will need a nap soon. While my mother was pregnant with me, she caught a really bad cold. I was born 2 days before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor - at a time when new mothers and their babies remained hospitalized for 10 days, if there were no problems. When my mother realized I was not swallowing, it was discovered that I had been born with strep throat. Bearing in mind that this was before television, cell phones, or computers (no internet), doctors were pretty much on their own. So the only suggestion my treating physician could make was to use "a new wonder drug," Sulfa, that, as far as he knew, had never been used on an infant or to treat strep throat so he gave my parents a 50/50 chance of success. Obviously it worked, I'm still here nearly 75 years later. As a result of my need for extra treatment, however, one of my earliest memories as a child is hearing my mother tell someone that my dad had to sell his car to pay my hospital bill. Growing up, I always knew that, where I was concerned, my dad was an "absentee dad," even though I lived in the same house with him. My sister and brother were his favorites, and they both moved out-of-state after they were grown. My family lived just up the hill from my mom and dad, so I was the one who got the call that I needed to take my dad to the hospital, a stay from which he never came home again.

Destiny Jones has worked hard to build up her carpentry business in her hometown, and now it is finally her chance to get her hands on the beautiful town Opera House and refurbish it to its former glory. This will be her most important accomplishment to date if she can convince the board to trust her. But a blast from the past in the form of her father, Albert, has set off a chain of events that will alter Destiny's life forever. Albert Jones is a Broadway legend but what most people do not know is that after the death of his wife, he abandoned his daughter Destiny, to the care of her grandmother. And Destiny can never forgive him for walking away from her. Lucky to have had the care of her grandmother, her mother's best friend Marguerite, and the entire town of Paris to help her grow up, Destiny didn't need Albert then, and she sure doesn't need him now. But deep down inside is a little girl who needs to understand the past to find peace in the present. But when long-buried secrets emerge, Destiny's world turns inside out. Through the truth, Destiny will find love, a family, and the missing pieces of her heart - but with great love can also come great loss. Can Destiny find a way to sort the broken pieces of her world to finally become a whole person and really grasp a chance at a full life? BROKEN PIECES by Kathleen Long is an emotional story that delves into the heart of family, abandonment, illness and forgiveness. Destiny is strong and independent because she had to be, but as she lets down her guard we get to see her deeper feelings, and the impact her father's actions have had, and continue to have, on her life.

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