

## 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.

From internationally acclaimed author Chris Lynch comes a gripping and enduring exploration of loss and recovery in this companion to the celebrated *Iceman*.

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## Pieces By Chris Lynch Bibliography

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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

\* "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 whole." (*Booklist*)

"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

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#### Stephen Ziegler:

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