



## Pieces of the Heart

*Karen White*

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## **Pieces of the Heart** Karen White

To escape the stress from her all-consuming job as an accountant, Caroline Collier joins her overbearing mother at the family's vacation home in the mountains of North Carolina. But the serene beauty of Lake Ophelia cannot heal Caroline's heart, which is still broken by the loss of her younger brother, who died when she was seventeen. And the tension between her and her mother still simmers. Only their neighbors, the husband and daughter of one of Caroline's childhood friends, seem able to penetrate her cool reserve, giving Caroline the courage to face her biggest fears-and dive headfirst into life.

## **Pieces of the Heart Details**

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Author : Karen White

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## From Reader Review Pieces of the Heart for online ebook

### **Debra says**

I love Karen White's books, this book I had a hard time getting though. I did not like Caroline. The story itself was good, it had everything I liked. Mother, daughter drama, death and illness learning how to live again. If I had to give a reason it would be I did not like how Caroline was with her gift, she should have felt grateful a lot sooner instead of being so out of the living for so long. It was like feeling sorry for herself for all those years. I'm looking forward to reading another book of hers.

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### **Sandy says**

Chick-lit, written intelligently for intelligent women. A very good book for summer reading. Rarely do I care about all of the characters. But in this one I actually cared for each of them. None of them were completely perfect or completely flawed. The characters were well developed and used to their advantage. It was a bit predictable, but, non the less, very engaging.

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### **Renee says**

Loved this book. I think I could relate to the main character in that I am also a swimmer so much of what she described about the way she felt in the water really "struck home" for me. The only thing that keeps this book from getting 5 star is that I thought the ending a little "sappy."

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### **MaryAnn says**

A good story about relationships--parents and children, brothers and sisters, friends, but the book has several glaring errors, which made it less than enjoyable. For instance, USC and UNC (the universities of South Carolina and North Carolina) are used interchangeably, as if the author couldn't decide which she preferred. As a graduate of UNC, I happen to know the difference, and they're not even in the same state! And, by the way, mountain laurel blooms are NEVER purple.

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### **Teresa says**

Perception.

There are a lot of twists and turns in this book, two of the main characters are already dead when the novel begins, the other characters are all dealing with their current life events as well as the deaths of the other two. I'm not sure, but I think the book is supposed to be about love and coming to accept and live with traumatic circumstances in life, while going forth with your life using that horrific event to make your life better. My take on the book is that perception of circumstances in an event is what really makes the difference in our lives.

One event in life, perceived by a sister, a mother, a father, a child, a friend, or a lover is different for each person. That perception doesn't change the facts of what or how the event happened. The living with the perception throughout the person's life is what makes the event negative, positive, life altering, or deadly. When a person involved in the event holds onto their own thoughts without sharing those thoughts and feelings with the others involved in the event, that perception can become the only truth and possibly deadly for that person. However, when the people share and talk about their feelings, their perceptions of said event can allow the hearts to open and see, not only with their mind's eye but with the heart's eye.

So, in "Pieces of the Heart", Caroline has been stuck for 13 years in her trauma, never speaking of it, not allowing herself to move forward, living in this painful past. During 3 months in NC mountains, when she's supposed to be taking it easy due to some panic attacks, she learns to open and see with her heart's eye with the help of others whom she grows to love.

Karen White is a good writer, I enjoyed her style. She brought forth quite a few emotions in me, not an easy thing for a writer to achieve. I have one big negative to throw out to her and her editor, USC and UNC are NOT the same school. That was mixed up within a couple of chapters and they were used as the same university. Some people may not notice it, but if you are from SC or NC, you WILL notice and it will annoy you to no end.

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### **Mary says**

I initially gave this book 4 stars, as I found it really enjoyable. However, I find I am still thinking about it a few days after I finished it, and realized how much I liked it, and changed my rating to 5 stars. Karen White rarely disappoints me and I always start her books in a flurry of anticipation. This story of relationships, and feelings left unsaid, really resonated with me. The characters were well written and believable. I laughed and I cried. There is no higher praise than that from me! Would highly recommend.

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### **Nancy Baker says**

#### A Piece of the Heart - Missed the Beat

I have always loved Karen White's books. However, I found this one much too predictable and I had the entire plot figured out during the first chapter. I was hoping for more and walked away with less. I can't say that I didn't like it, but it did not captivate me and draw me in like her normal stories

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### **Linda says**

Beautifully written - masterfully created blending of individuals and each of their unique lives into a story of incredible passion, pain, loss and utmost gain.

I have read several of Karen White's books and this is by far my favorite! A must read!

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### **Karen Szymusiak says**

I am a Karen White fan so I looked forward to reading this one. I wasn't disappointed. While it was an simple read without much complexity, the plot tugged at my heart. The characters were alive and will stay connected to me for quite some time.

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### **Lawana says**

The pace was too slow for me, and the plot was predictable. Don't get me wrong - I have enjoyed most of Karen White's books, but this felt like a short story stretched into a novel.

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### **Robyn says**

Easily the best book I've read in some time.

Thanks to the bargain bin at Borders, this book came home with me for a mere \$4.00--but I'd buy it at full price :).

White's writing is descriptive and flowing. Her characters are realistic and I could see the action as I was reading. The plot moved throughout the book, never lagging, and kept me turning the pages.

It's sad at times, light-hearted at others. And I closed the book and was happy with the outcome--wasn't too sappy, wasn't too forced. It's a nice fall read when you're curled up in bed or in front of a fire.

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### **Anne Schroeder says**

I've read other Karen White books, so this one was no surprise. She's my fix when I need a heart-jerker story about the intensity of healing. She gets that life can give us lemons, but she writes a great recipe for lemonade. I love wallowing in the character's angst, then watching as the story unfolds in thoughtful complexity. I write a similar style, and I appreciate how hard it is to write evocative emotion and have it come out strong and not sappy. It's hard to find authors who delve into this level of complexity over painful issues. It would be much easier to treat the issues with blithe humor or to diminish the pain. She would probably get more awards and readers. But she's my gal because she sticks to the path less taken.

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### **Carol says**

I really enjoyed this book. It is the 3rd book that I have read by this author and I think this story had more depth than the other two. The unraveling of the plot using the journal from the deceased mother of the 13 year old was a great way of tying the stray ends of the story together. Reading this book was kind of like peeling an onion - layer by layer the story unfolds healing old wounds and cementing fragile relationships. Good read.

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### **Donna says**

I hate giving on books (even bad ones) but I had to give up on this one after struggling to get to the halfway point. The characters in this book are the most one-dimensional ones I have come across in a long time: an emotionally scarred man and women who meet and immediately dislike each other, but for some reason persist in seeing each other (and we know where that's going); and eccentric elderly shop owner, tough as nails; a teenage girl, wise beyond her years, who astonishes everyone with her insights. Part of me wanted to persist with the book in the hopes that the author was going to surprise me by doing something different with these characters, but with so many other books waiting for me, I had to give up.

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### **Rhonda Rae Baker says**

What an incredible story!!! I found this at the Bookworm and am glad it called to me.

The premise of losing your brother at an early age was what caught my eye. It didn't take me long to read and was predictable in some places but her take on grief and 'crying over the moon' were spot on for me. I'm well acquainted with grief and being the surviving sibling of which Karen portrayed pretty realistically. Having misconceptions as to a parent's love for their children was also one that I related to. I'll be reading this one again soon to think more about the underlying issues as some of them were so emotionally charged for me that all I could do was wipe my tears and move on.

Although the ending was what I expected, there were many twists and interesting character developments that surprised me which made it very entertaining without making it cheesy. Somewhere in the story, I felt strength return to my own heart. Letting go of the past, learning to not pine over it so that your future is clouded was the largest piece for me. It took me 20 years to find my way out of the fog of guilt and remorse over what happened to my family. These topics are extremely deep wells and Karen did a wonderful job exploring the emotions and stumbling blocks with those of us left behind.

In the end, I felt that my heart had mended in some places and some of the missing pieces were not only found but put back together. I'll be snagging more novels by this author. She is one to consider for moving and compelling family issues.

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Thank you Karen for helping me find a piece of myself that I had buried and giving me hope for a brighter future...come what may!

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