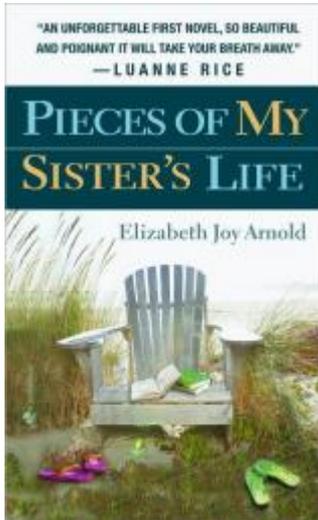


Pieces of My Sister's Life

by Elizabeth Joy Arnold



About the Book

Two sisters who shared everything. One unforgivable moment.

And a second chance... There's something to talk about in every chapter of Elizabeth Joy Arnold's poignant, insightful debut novel—the perfect summer read for all those who loved Elisabeth Robinson's *THE TRUE AND OUTSTANDING ADVENTURES OF THE HUNT SISTERS*, Judy Blume's *SUMMER SISTERS*, and Jodi Picoult's *MY SISTER'S KEEPER*.

Once, Kerry and Eve Barnard did everything together: sailing the Block Island harbor with their father, listening to their neighbor Justin's magical fairy tales, and all the while longing for their absent mother. They were twin girls arm in arm, secrets entwined between two hearts. Until the summer of their seventeenth birthday, when their extraordinary bond was shattered. And thirteen years later, it will take all the courage they can summon to put the pieces back together—at a time when it matters most....

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Discussion Guide

1. Kerry and Eve share the same issue of loneliness, parental abandonment, and loss, yet each sister deals with these issues differently. With which sister do you most identify, and why?
2. Kerry felt a true love for Justin at a very young age. How did Kerry and Justin's relationship affect the tone of the story?
3. Who do you think is the stronger of the two sisters, Eve or Kerry? Which of the twins' characteristics do you admire most? Why?
4. After the twins get separate haircuts, Kerry has a sense of jealousy and feels a subtle separation between herself and her sister, while Eve seems happy to develop her own identity. Why is Eve's act so important? Who is demonstrating maturity?
5. While looking at childhood photos of themselves, Eve asks, "if we could go back, what would we tell them?" Kerry replies, "They'll turn out okay in the end." If you could "go back," what would you tell your childhood self?

6. Could you have done what Kerry did for her sister at the end? Do you think Kerry's actions are justified? In terms of abiding by the law, what actions should Kerry and Justin have taken?
7. Kerry, wounded by her mother's abandonment, decides to contact her about Eve's illness. Did Kerry do this for herself, or for her sister?
8. Kerry and Eve store childhood possessions in their attic, essentially putting pieces of their childhood away. Why is this significant?
9. Many times in a story an evil twin exists. Do you think there is an evil twin in **Pieces of My Sister's Life**?
10. Kerry believes she'd broken an invisible wall the night of Maclean's death. She says she "pushed through an uncrossable boundary now open and waiting for me to cross again." What does this statement mean to you?
11. Kerry says she doesn't believe in heroes or villains, only in mistakes. What do you think about this declaration? Do you think there is a hero at the end of this story? Is there a villain? What does it take to be a hero in today's world?

Author Bio

Elizabeth Arnold was raised in New York, and has degrees from Vassar College and Princeton University. She lives with her husband in Hopewell, New Jersey, where she is at work on her next novel.

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