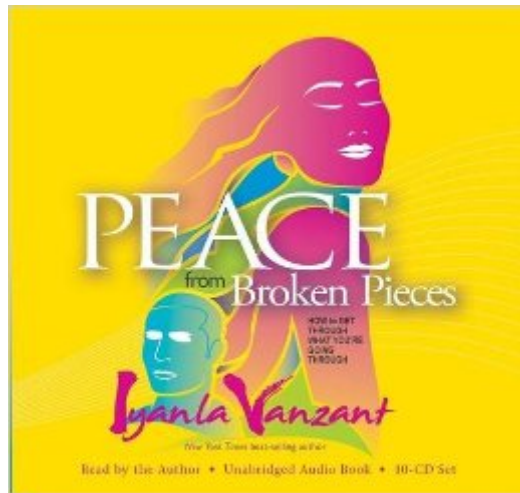


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# Peace From Broken Pieces: How To Get Through What You're Going Through



## Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Iyanla Vanzant recounts the last decade of her life and the spiritual lessons learnedâ€”from the price of success during her meteoric rise as a TV celebrity on Oprah, the Iyanla TV show (produced by Barbara Walters), to the dissolution of her marriage and her daughterâ€™s 15 months of illness and death on Christmas day. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Iyanla shares why everything we need to learn is reflected in our relationships and the strength and wisdom she has gained by supporting others in their journeys to make sense out of the puzzle pieces of their lives.Â

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â  See all reviewsÂ  (751 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I was familiar with inspirational speaker, author, and spiritual leader Iyanla Vanzant from her Oprah appearances and catching her life coaching on Starting Over from time to time, but I didn't know much about her life story. My mom checked out Peace from Broken Pieces from the library, loved it, and recommended it to me. I must say it's well written and insightful. Iyanla starts off the book by reflecting on the Christmas morning her daughter died in 2003. She'd succumbed to a year long battle with a rare form of colon cancer and left a young daughter behind. As if burying your own child isn't traumatic enough throw in marital issues, financial problems, and just feeling like your whole world is crashing down on you. Something's gotta give! It took Iyanla about 3 and a half years to pen this book because of fear. She was a best selling author of a number of self-help books and a lot of people looked to her for spiritual guidance. Secretly, she felt like a fraud. Her personal life was barely holding up and she was afraid people would turn on her if she opened up about what

was really going down. After much prayer and self-reflection, she took a good look at her life and the patterns and behaviors she'd been taught since childhood. Although she lost her mother to breast cancer at the age of 2, Iyanla had made many of the same mistakes her mom did. She talks openly about her downright mean grandmother who subjected her to brutal beatings, but treated her older brother with only love and kindness. The father who abandoned her emotionally and one time nearly killed her after a savage beating. The uncle who raped her and the aunt who looked the other way. The husband who would disappear for days at a time and physically abuse her when he felt like it.

... I am rating three stars. It was hard to decide 3 or 4 because, while I liked the book, in my opinion it is not a 5-star example of a book in this genre and most people so far have been very liberal with the 5-star ratings. I think that does a disservice to the author and potential readers to set people up to expect something a book is not. Even a seminal work in the self-help genre like M. Scott Peck's "The Road Less Traveled" has less than a 5-star average. Here is my main criticism: with a sub-title like "How to Get Through What You're Going Through" I expected the book to be a lot more instructional. In other words, to offer concrete steps to get through troubling times whilst going through them. Yes, there are words of comfort and inspiration, but do not expect any sort of workbook, gameplan or framework for overcoming a crisis while you are in it. What I feel would have been a more appropriate sub-title is: "How Iyanla Vanzant made sense out of what she went through after she went through it." Do not get me wrong. Vanzant's insights are valuable and appreciated, but the format and intent of the book are not at all what I expected. That said, I like a lot about the book. It is compelling, there is no doubt about that. Vanzant is an insightful, charismatic and relate-able story teller. From the inscription; "I found Jesus. He was behind the sofa. He said; 'Come near; get down and stay down. I'll take care of everything.' So, I did. And then, he did." I was hooked. Anyone who has suffered a setback so painful that you had to just withdraw and lick your wounds can understand and appreciate this sentiment.

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