

New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

Awaken My Heart Media Kit



The super-steamy **Awaken My Heart** series is designed to give you characters you want to keep reading about ... with the opportunity to do so in complete stories that build upon each other.

The series so far.... (click a title for more information.)

Ren & Galen's Story

Book One: Jigsaw Hearts (Novel)

Book Two: Pieces of You, Pieces of Me (Novella)

Book Three: Whole Piece of My Heart (Novella)

About Danica Raimz

Quick Ref. Copy/Paste Links



"This isn't just some random boy meets girl love story. It's a truly emotional, in-depth, love conquers all story. A rollercoaster ride that I would hop on again and again and again." **Brigit Rose, Amazon.com**

Story Arc Blurb:

Between the two, there were many missing pieces....

To move beyond her haunting childhood, Ren Hayden smothered her emotional nature years ago. Bright and talented, she's the conscientious professional during the day, but once off the clock, she slips into destructive patterns she can't seem to break. When Ren's criminal step brother, Seth, dies suddenly, she finds herself in danger from the mess he left behind.

Galen Zabriese, the brother of the unsuspecting woman Seth conned, is as brutally honest and devastatingly hot as they come. Plagued by guilt over his past and the need to take care of his fantastically quirky family, he firmly believes he deserves to go through life alone.

When Ren's emotional armor finally cracks at her brother's funeral, Galen is first on the scene. As hard as they try to fight it, they can't deny their immediate, fierce attraction to each other.

But can Ren risk reconnecting to emotions she worked half her life to shut off long enough to allow Galen and his amazing family in? How could someone with her past navigate a real relationship? Will Galen take a leap of faith by trusting himself to love another completely and selflessly? Or will Seth's sordid past tear them apart before they can find the pieces they've been missing in each other?

SERIES IMAGES AND TEASERS

New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

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AWAKEN MY HEART SERIES IMAGES AND TEASERS

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Edgy ... Passionate ... Suspenseful ... Beautiful....

the Awaken My Heart series

"Ms. Hayden," I murmured against a corner of her mouth. "I have *no fucking limits* tonight. I told you, responsible Galen Zabriese has the right off. So does that bra." I took in those incredible eyes again and began a *long, slow sip of wine*, never breaking eye contact as she *unhooked her bra* and dropped it on my head. I shook it away and added, "*You still think I'm playing*, but you're going to change your mind about that real soon. Right about the time *you start making sounds* they'll hear at the top of the Chrysler building."

The first story arc is complete!
Jigsaw Hearts
Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
Whole Piece of My Heart

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The Awaken My Heart series
a couple ... a family ... a love
like no other.



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The *Awaken My Heart* series by Danica Raimz
Dramatic ... suspenseful ... steamy ... tragically sad and heartwarming.



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New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

Awaken My Heart

Media Kit

Jigsaw Hearts – Book One



Jigsaw Hearts is a stand-alone novel full of emotional depth and steamy romance. Ren and Galen continue the beginning of their life together in two follow-up novellas, *Pieces of You*, *Pieces of Me* and *Whole Piece of My Heart*. Look forward to more novels and novellas involving the unconventional, flawed, but fabulous Zabriese family throughout the *Awaken My Heart* series.

Tagline: Between the two, there were many missing pieces. It would take a selfless and fiery sort of love to fill them in.

Blurb: To overcome her sensitive nature, successful entertainment journalist Ren Hayden locks away her emotions along with the scattered pieces of her tragic childhood. The only person she trusts, but probably shouldn't, is a criminal—her brother, Seth.

When Seth dies unexpectedly, he sets off a chain reaction causing Ren's coping mechanisms to falter. Unable to make sense of messages she receives from beyond the grave, she can't stop herself from finding comfort in the arms of Galen Zabriese—the brother of the woman Seth ruthlessly conned.

Ren discovers life's missing pieces in Galen and steamy experiences in his bed but struggles to feel worthy of his love. While battling his own missing pieces, Galen becomes hell-bent on drawing Ren's real nature to the surface. Can selfless, true love help them complete each other or will Seth's past catch up with them first?

JIGSAW HEARTS IMAGES AND TEASERS

READ AN EXCERPT

What readers say:

"I LOVED, LOVED, LOVED this book!!!! This was such a great story. Probably one of the best distractions I've had in a long time...."

"...a definite page-turner. I can't wait to read the next installment!..."

"Edgy, sad, and beautiful!"

"...The storyline is dramatic, suspenseful, tragically sad, and heartwarming...."

"...a good Kleenex read with depth and soul..."

"The whole last third of the book had me in tears about every 20 pages...."

"...there were definitely some steamy moments between Ren and Galen, it was pretty intense!"



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Jigsaw Hearts – Book One



JIGSAW HEARTS IMAGES AND TEASERS

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Edgy ... Passionate ... Suspenseful ... Beautiful....
the Awaken My Heart series

Galen had *ignited* many things in me so far this weekend, but the most bewildering was a *connection to someone* I had lost track of: the Ren who ran and hid years ago. She wasn't ready to make a real appearance yet. But there she was in the shadows, *feeling, needing ... loving*. If I let her have full control again, could she handle allowing *someone so wonderful* into her undeserving life?

Book One:
Jigsaw Hearts



The first story arc is completed
Jigsaw Hearts
Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
Whole Piece of My Heart

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Book One:
Jigsaw Hearts

the Awaken My Heart series
by Danica Raimz

As if he knew how close I was to losing my mind, he turned his head to softly kiss my temple over and over. Incredibly, he lovingly blessed unlovable me. Hot tears streamed down my face, dripping onto our hands. He let go of one hand to brush the drops off my cheeks, still rocking us side to side, always rocking. I clung to him, hands reminding myself we were in a life or death extreme situation. His warmth wasn't something I would ever feel again whether or not I lived through this day.

The first story arc is completed
Jigsaw Hearts
Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
Whole Piece of My Heart

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Edgy ... Passionate ... Suspenseful ... Beautiful....
the Awaken My Heart series

Hey Ren,
...I would never find someone else like you that I haven't told you about. I know why I would think ... but not how I would think. Anyway, I think about those choices right like you in the end, and I'm so sorry about that, sis. Never wanted you to stick up my ass, you know that. But I'm scared of telling you everything all at once. You scared you'll fall apart because you are tough. Man, but there's a weaker part of you that will never go away. It's in there, and I don't want it to tell you that. So we will deal with these mistakes of mine and at a time, so I don't mess you up completely. Okay?
Love you, Ren,
Diah

Book One:
Jigsaw Hearts



The first story arc is completed
Jigsaw Hearts
Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
Whole Piece of My Heart

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Steamy ... Emotional ... Edgy ... Beautiful ...
Begin the Awaken My Heart series

"I get the *feeling* you've been *living* life skimming the surface of everything. I want to be the *detail*, the *depth* ... okay?"

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***Jigsaw Hearts* – Book One**



***Jigsaw Hearts* Excerpt**

Excerpt from Chapter 13, ***Jigsaw Hearts*** by Danica Raimz
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Avocado trotted into the kitchen as effectively as a hulking blob of fur could.

“So you buy into all of it? Natural remedies?”

“A lot of it—not all. I just don’t preach it. Hey ... watch out for the—”

In one swoop, Galen’s arm swung around my waist just as I fell backward.

“Jory!” Galen yelled and tugged me upright. I fell against him. “How many tin do’s leash off in the house?”

Was he aware that as his gaze was turned toward the living area, waiting for me in one arm, pulled close?

My heart raced against his. Instinct told me to pull away, but I wasn’t sure if t as it sounds, I didn’t want to call attention to myself.

“Jor?”

When Jory didn’t answer, Galen turned to me as if remembering I was there. “Uh ... you okay?”

Smart ass mode completely off line, I simply nodded, then got lost in the shape of his eyes, their amber-green. At least that’s how they looked in the kitchen light; they had been darker outside on the patio. Either way, they were fascinating, like most things about Galen, whether I wanted to dwell on them or not.

Enough time went by that releasing me would be awkward no matter what.

“Dammit, Ren,” Galen whispered, then abruptly let go. Before I could regain my balance, his palm flew to my jaw to pull my face close. Soft, full lips landed on mine to rest in stillness, spawning a sweet desire I had never known. It heated every inch of space between us and made my pulse pound in my ears like a hammer in an emergency. When Galen did pull away, I took a breath and waited for my manic libido to take charge and fling the man onto the kitchen counter to have its way with him. But it didn’t. At least not in the way I expected. Instead, I wanted the awkward stillness of those last seconds back. I wanted the sweet, gentle taste of Galen back on my lips.

He retreated a step, reached for my hand, then pulled me to him with one tug. We landed against a broom closet as he captured my lips with his once more. This time, he was anything but gentle, and our mouths suctioned together, wide and frantic, over and over, much like the residents of his koi pond. We became locked in a desperate desire to taste each other as fully as possible. Galen’s hands slid up and down the length of my back while mine found their way into the hair I had wanted to touch since Beachy Head. The closet door behind us kept banging rhythmically with the motion of our bodies shifting against each other. When Galen’s soft, warm tongue sought mine, I gave him exactly what he needed simply because I ... wanted to. Nothing more occurred to me for the longest time, because ecstasy came bottled in this simple act.

“Gale?” came Jory’s little voice in the distance. “Whadda ya want?”

I pulled away, but Galen held onto my waist, staring into my eyes as if he had no clue how I had gotten there. Tentatively, he reached out to gloss a thumb over my wet lips. The sweetness of his touch set off a crackling spark that walloped me into reality. What were we doing? I would have to ruin it. Cheapen it. Wreck it. His sweetness was not good for me, not good for--

I took hold of his thumb, ran my tongue over the tip, then kissed it softly, erotically.

But Galen’s eyes only widened with desire, and he moved to take my lips with his once more. And damn it, I didn’t

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Awaken My Heart

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Jigsaw Hearts – Book One



Jigsaw Hearts Excerpt continued

know what was wrong with me, but how I wanted him to! Only Jory's feet drummed through the living room, so I jumped aside just as he burst into the kitchen.

"Gale? You called me?"

Galen blinked. "Yeah, bud. Um ... I wanted to remind you about ... uh—"

"Avocado's leash," I gave him.

"Yeah. Ren almost broke her neck as he ran through here."

Jory looked genuinely remorseful. "Sorry, Ren. Really."

I patted the kid on the head. "Don't worry about it. I'm okay ... fine ... just great."

"And Avocado is sorry, too."

"We're good, Avocado!" I called to the mop with a nervous laugh.

"Jory, why don't you ask Moms if she wants the bread cut yet. Guests will be here any moment," Galen suggested.

The boy saluted and headed for the patio.

I turned back toward the first man to make me utterly flummoxed with a kiss. He still looked shocked, as if he had nothing to do with our lips meeting.

"Well, that was unexpected," he whispered.

Before I could breathe a word, Katherine popped in from the outside. "Heather's here! Come, Ren. Let's introduce you. Galen, please bring the chili."

Katherine's feast presented as a mashup of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and a photo shoot for some vegetarian foodie magazine. The conversations, however, had me overwhelmed by topics I knew little about. That said, I enjoyed myself when I wasn't floored over Katherine's tales of holistic cures, samples of Heather's photography talents mixed with supposed psychic revelations about her subjects, the experiences of Olive and Marcus while traveling the Appalachian Trail in their thirties, or the simply breathtaking glances Galen would occasionally throw my way.

"A toast!" Galen's friend, Hugh, suddenly shouted into the night. Loose dark curls glimmered under the lights, except where they were pulled into the aforementioned man bun. He wrapped an arm around his wife's shoulders and leaned in to extend a cobalt-blue wine glass toward the rest of us. "To Katherine for another amazing spread!"

"To Katherine," everyone shouted.

"To Laina and Fern on their recent nuptials!"

"Oh, yes!" Corinne pumped her glass in the air. "And the most amazing of receptions."

"They had a magic theme wedding!" Jory whispered for my benefit.

Laina and Fern, beamed. "It was only that magical because of our guests!" Fern claimed, glass raised.

"To new friends named Ren!" Corinne laughed.

I nodded politely but wanted to crawl under the table.

"Yes!" Laina's glass shot up in the air. "How wonderful to meet the sister of the man who, even if for a short time, made our Corinne so happy."

"To Seth!" Katherine threw an arm around her already teary daughter. "May he watch over us tonight and know how much he is missed."

My eyes shot over at Heather, the self-proclaimed psychic. I thought about jokingly asking if she sensed him. But

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Jigsaw Hearts – Book One



***Jigsaw Hearts* Excerpt continued**

Heather's lips were tightly clenched in a forced smile.

"To Heather on her new business!" Hugh added. "We'll be needing her services soon."

"To Heather!" we all shouted.

It took Jory to ask, "Why will you need her to take pictures?"

Silence washed over the patio.

Then, "We're pregnant!" Jenna shouted.

You would have thought the two were British royalty the way everyone exploded in happiness and revelry.

Galen pounded Hugh on the back, then hugged them both and kissed Jenna's cheek. Katherine began yammering about ways to tell the sex of the baby. Due dates were thrown back and forth, and Jory sang some weird song about babies. Olive began throwing advice around, and Marcus regaled us with tales of how he was the worst diaper changer in fatherly history. The overabundance of happiness became too much for me; it felt like going skydiving your first time on a plane.

Why couldn't I just consume it all? After all, we were talking about joy. But I knew the answer: I would never reconcile these Zabriese emotions with my sadness over being here solely because of Seth. I would never live down knowing the truth about Seth in the face of Corinne's adoration of him. It also felt weird to take part in joy when my life could be in danger over not finding a green box. Then, of course, there were the mixed emotions over having the hot man across the table kiss me like I had never been kissed before. Not that I even allowed men to kiss me often. And when I did ... it never felt like that! I mean what were Galen and I supposed to do with the intensity of our kitchen tryst, anyway?

I needed a fix of something. But I didn't dare smoke around this health-conscious crowd, especially with pregnant Jenna around. I couldn't start scribbling out checks, either. And sex? Normally, if someone had gone after me like Galen did, I would have found a way to get him into a bedroom somewhere. But that idea seemed all wrong when applied to the guy across the table. Instead, I found myself wishing I could sit next to him; I wanted to know what it felt like for him to drape an arm over my shoulders, his fingers laced through mine. My body tensed over the thought; such romantic, mush-riddled ideas were frightening. If I didn't pull myself together, I ran the risk of self-destruction.

Want to read the entire steamy, emotional rollercoaster ride?

[Purchase *Jigsaw Hearts* \(Awaken My Heart, Book One\) by Danica Raimz on AMAZON](#)

New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

Awaken My Heart

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Pieces of You, Pieces of Me – Book Two



Pieces of You, Pieces of Me is the first follow-up novella to novel *Jigsaw Hearts*, which begins Ren & Galen's story arc. *Pieces of You, Pieces of Me* is another complete story that builds upon the first. This novella is followed by another, *Whole Piece of My Heart*, which wraps up this story arc. Look forward to more novels and novellas involving the unconventional, flawed, but fabulous Zabriese family throughout the *Awaken My Heart* series.

Tagline: They forged a bond despite all odds. Will their new 'normal' allow them to keep it?

Blurb: It's amazing how basking in love, trust, and promises can transform a person. I, Ren Hayden, am genuinely happy. Growing ever more secure with our relationship, Galen and I have grand and determined plans for our future together and for helping his sister create the art gallery of her dreams. We are moving past the extreme, harrowing circumstances of finding each other and settling into a new normal.

After a difficult business trip in Vienna involving obnoxious rock star, Tristan Turn, I arrive home to sweet, out-of-the-box gestures from Galen and steamy rendezvous that only confirm the depth of our love. (It's amazing what you can get away with in a museum.)

But suddenly ... Galen grows distant, behaves strangely, and admits he is keeping something from me. Does his family know what's going on? Is it the beginning of the end for us? How could a girl like me know? Even my empathic strengths hold few clues. One thing is certain: If the sort of love Galen and I have cannot last, how could true love exist at all?

PIECES OF YOU, PIECES OF ME IMAGES AND TEASERS

READ AN EXCERPT

What readers say:

"...Ren and Galen are hot, sexy, and I love watching their relationship deepen..."

"...this ride was as great, if not better, than the first one..."

"A well-balanced, very enjoyable read, that allows us to follow the romance between Ren and Galen further - and that is exactly what I was aching for!"

"...Fantastic! This author writes this genre very well..."

"... I love the Zabriese family and want to be adopted by them!..."

"From the beginning to end, I wanted to be inside this book. Clearly, Danica Raimz has done it again..."



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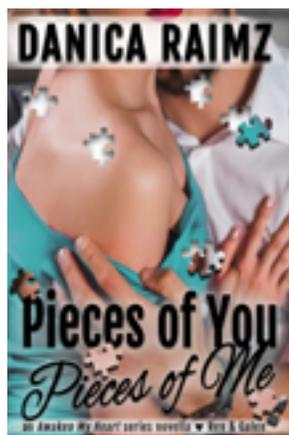
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Pieces of You, Pieces of Me – Book Two



PIECES OF YOU, PIECES OF ME IMAGES AND TEASERS

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The Awaken My Heart series

I shook my head and lapsed into uncontrollable *sobbing*. And something in Galen finally *broke* into a million pieces. I *saw it in his eyes*, his jaw, the way his shoulders slumped. Whatever he wanted to say, he simply *could not find the words*. And that wasn't my guy. Galen the confident seemed lost between exhaustion and something *he wouldn't tell me* about.

Book Two:
*Pieces of You
Pieces of Me*



The first story arc is completed
Jigsaw Hearts
Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
Whole Piece of My Heart

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The Awaken My Heart series...

Pieces of You, Pieces of Me: Ren & Galen's first novella following Jigsaw Hearts

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amazon

"Isn't *dissect* being served?"
He held my skin in his palm
and *blessed* my nose.
"That depends. Are you
hungry for some chew-in-the-middle
London Bral ... or *me*?"



New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

Awaken My Heart

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Pieces of You, Pieces of Me – Book Two



Pieces of You, Pieces of Me Excerpt

Excerpt from Chapter 4, *Pieces of You, Pieces of Me* by Danica Raimz
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The sounds of being together again were music to my ears: Our ragged breathing, the pounding of my heart in my ears, the shifting of fabric on fabric as our bodies moved against each other, and the restrained moans of bliss. Oh, how I needed him completely right then and there, and the area right below his belt held enough evidence that he needed the same.

By the time Galen pulled back with a heated sigh, I had forgotten where we were. He kissed me quickly, lightly, two, three times, and said, “I need you now. Missed you too much.” His eyes, picking up darker tones from his tie, bore into mine intently enough that I felt lightheaded. The love coming off him made my breath catch. After six months together, I still had no idea how I had gotten so lucky. Sometimes, I wondered if the universe made me suffer long and hard so I’d be deserving of such a gift.

I rested my cheek on his chest and breathed, “Finally back in your arms. Finally where I belong. And Gale?” I looked back up at him. “You were so fantastic up there. Such a great speech. So confident. So ...”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah. Are you up for an adventure?” He beamed a mischievous smile at me.

“When?”

“Now.”

“Isn’t dinner being served?”

He held my chin in his palm and kissed my nose. “That depends. Are you hungrier for some chewy in the middle London broil or me?”

A laugh burst from my lips. “What do you think? But don’t you have to—”

He nudged me away, grabbed my hand and began pulling me down the hallway at a clip, my heels nearly slipping from under me. Shaking his head, he slowed down. “Warned you the heels weren’t a good idea. Loud, too. Off with them.”

Half hopping, I yanked them free as he tugged me along to a gallery entrance that had a colorful banner hanging from the ceiling. “The Eye,” it read. I had heard of the limited engagement exhibit, but hadn’t had a chance to see it yet. He tried to speed right in around the ropes, but I tugged back at him.

“Gale!” I whispered. “Why do you want to go in there? We can’t—it’s after hours. Like there’s a reason for the ropes?”

“Trust me?”

“There’s probably a guard in there.”

“Nope.”

“What are you, psychic?”

“Nope. Please trust me?” He flashed his dimpled grin.

And because I always do trust him these days, I allowed him to lock his fingers around mine to guide us through a dark entrance. The gallery, unnervingly silent, was made up of winding rooms featuring eyeballs of all sorts of species. Once



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Awaken My Heart

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Pieces of You, Pieces of Me – Book Two



Pieces of You, Pieces of Me Excerpt continued

through the entrance, the open spaces were brighter, even if barely lit in their after hours mode. Still, I could make out everything from stunning oil paintings to charcoal, mixed media, sculpture, and even wire.

“Beautiful work,” I whispered as Gale led me into another small room. One wall was completely covered in a huge canvas that featured billions of human eyes of various size, color, and shape. Before it, was a pleather settee. I supposed it was there so you could take in each and every eye? Play eye spy I Spy? It was dizzying, really.

Before I knew it, Gale had swatted the shoes from my hand, swung me around, and tugged me against a rather pronounced display of arousal. His hands fell to the small of my back, pressing me against him. I rose to tiptoe, my fingers lacing through waves of soft chestnut hair to pull his sweet face down to my level. Then I drank him in with kisses again, occasionally tugging his lower lip with a gentle nibble.

Gale sighed before growling, “I f***ing hate Tristan Turn.”

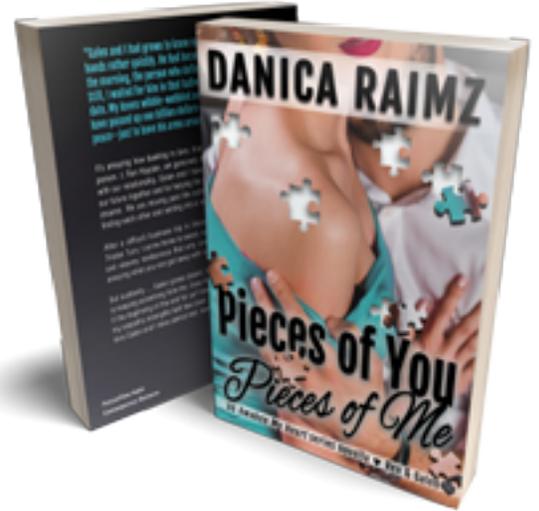
I almost laughed at his intensity, especially since he had no idea how much more I hated the man. But all thought of the joke that was Turn fell away as Galen proceeded to devour me in a way that was anything but funny. His tongue stroked and wrapped around mine possessively, faint notes of champagne a sweet surprise. My brain fell into a stupor, content to let my body take over. And damn, but it wanted what it wanted—and it only wanted Gale. His hands lowered to my bottom and he squeezed my cheeks, which caused me to grind my pelvis against his. My head lolled back in pleasure with a louder sigh than I intended, but he pitched forward to stifle the sound, barely breaking contact with my lips.

I tried to whisper, “The trip was far too long,” but my words came out incoherent against his lips.

His mouth moved to my chin, then throat, nibbling and sucking at me, all the while holding me pressed firm against a monster erection. My clit grew heavy, full with the build-up taking place deep within me, slick with the wetness caused by his passionate attention. I reveled in the feeling.

“Too long away from you,” I moaned.

He pulled back to stare into my eyes. “Far, far too long,” he said huskily. “Far too f***ing long. And I’m going to take you right here, right now, because I can’t wait another moment.”



[Purchase *Pieces of You, Pieces of Me* \(Awaken My Heart, Book Two\) by Danica Raimz on AMAZON](#)

New Adult Romance by Danica Raimz

Awaken My Heart

Media Kit

Whole Piece of My Heart – Book Three



Whole Piece of My Heart is the second follow-up novella to novel **Jigsaw Hearts**. **Pieces of You, Pieces of Me**, the first follow-up, continues Ren & Galen's story arc. **Whole Piece of My Heart**, throws their lives into jeopardy and wraps up the core of their tale—for better or worse! Look forward to more romance stories involving the unconventional, flawed, but fabulous Zabriese family throughout the **Awaken My Heart** series.

Tagline: Ren put her past behind when she became Galen's whole heart, his whole world. Now ... the past wants her back.

Blurb: Nothing makes Galen Zabriese happier than time with his soulmate, Ren Hayden. With his mother's illness behind them and Ren's career as a biographer showing great promise, he's ready to propose—as soon as he thinks of the perfect way to do so. The life they want to build for themselves will be an uphill challenge at first, but Gale is convinced it will be a smooth one.

Until the subject of Ren's latest biography calls her into a negative spotlight.

Until his brother, Dax, crosses a line.

Until Ren disappears.

Suddenly, instead of planning a proposal, Galen must risk everything to find Ren – including his moral compass.

WHOLE PIECE OF MY HEART IMAGES AND TEASERS

READ AN EXCERPT

What readers say:

"...Danica keeps you hooked. Her writing style has you feeling all the feels, riding a loopy emotional rollercoaster, with angst taking the lead and radiating all the way down to your bones...."

"...This story has everything - suspense, excitement, hot scenes, and some funny ones too!..."

"...It was a joy to watch the way the author developed these characters throughout these books...."



Genre: New Adult / Contemporary Romance

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Whole Piece of My Heart – Book Three



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Edgy ... Passionate ... Suspenseful ... Beautiful....
the Awaken My Heart series

Day five had me thinking the same thing as day one: *this can't be happening.* Not to her. Not to me. Had I *loved her* so much that the universe had to put an end to us? *She wouldn't leave me.* I firmly believed that.

Book Three:
Whole Piece of My Heart

The first story arc is completed!
 Jigsaw Hearts
 Pieces of You, Pieces of Me
 Whole Piece of My Heart

www.DanicaRaimzRomance.com

"All I knew was she was my saving grace. I would never be famous, never be insanely rich, or go down in history for anything, because she was my big gift in this life. And that was just fine with me."

The third book in the Awaken My Heart series is here!

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Awaken My Heart

Media Kit

Whole Piece of My Heart – Book Three



Whole Piece of My Heart Excerpt

Excerpt from Chapter 7, *Pieces of You, Pieces of Me* by Danica Raimz

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The next two days blurred thanks to me falling into a catatonic state one minute and fiercely stating demands of police the next. All I really remember is Hugh at my side telling me we would figure it all out. But it was obvious he didn't know what to do either. There were endless, repetitive questions from the police. They interviewed people at Doorways. They looked for clues about the gallery story she pursued that day. And then came the invasive questions that ripped fresh holes in my gut all over again:

"Is there any chance she might have been looking for a way out of your relationship?" The officer sounded like he was reading a script.

"No. The officer that took the report asked me that. And this is the second time you're asking!" I swallowed my building impatience and tried to speak softer. "Absolutely not. We plan on getting married."

"So, you're engaged?"

I scratched at the stubble I had going. "Not exactly. I mean I was getting ready to propose...."

"Maybe she didn't believe that?"

"What?" This was a new question. "No, I ... Ren would not leave me."

"Did you have any fights recently?"

"No." Just when I thought it couldn't drop lower, my stomach bottomed out when I realized that wasn't exactly true. "Well, actually yes. But we were over it by Sunday night."

"No domestic violence ever between the two of you?"

"No! Geez. Listen to me! Ren would never leave me."

The officer looked up from his notes and stared me down. "Why?"

"Why?" How could he ask such a thing? Which of us was losing his mind here? And then I realized, quite suddenly, that it was probably me. Still, I answered. "Because we're in love. We're perfect together. We're...." I felt like a little kid trying to convince people that unicorns exist.

"Mr. Zabriese. Try not to get so defensive. We have to ask these questions. I'm sure it's all how you say. But you wouldn't be the first man ... or woman ... to have their significant other flee a relationship rather than end it face-to-face. Has she ever been the sort to avoid emotional scenes at all costs?"

I don't know how I didn't throw up on the guy's desk.

"Go home to Jenna," I practically shouted at Hugh after another day of no leads. Not because I was mad at him, but because what could he really do? "Go live your life. I'm just going to sit here like a hermit until she comes home or I rot."





Whole Piece of My Heart Excerpt continued

“You won’t rot. The alcohol is going to preserve you like a pickle,” Hugh said calmly. He grabbed the glass from my hand. “Enough booze.”

How cute. The guy who talked me into my first sip of alcohol at fifteen because I should ‘live a little’ was now telling me to stop drinking and face life.

I took a good hard look at Hugh. It might have been a struggle for him to grow into a mature, responsible, upstanding citizen, but from the time we were five years old he had been real and loyal—at least to me. And after meeting Jenna and becoming a volunteer EMT? He finally shed the often hard-ass callous shell he wore around people he didn’t know. In fact, Hugh Brahms had become the king of openness and honesty, usually the one person in any room who could deliver a dose of hard, cold reality. And that was why I chose him to help me run a reality check.

“Hey. You don’t think it, right?” I hesitated and Hugh gave me a sidelong glance. “You don’t think she left me, do you? Truth, Brahms.”

Hugh kicked the recliner back, sighed, and took a swig from my glass. “Instinct tells me ‘no.’ Seeing you and Ren together tells me ‘no.’ But—” And then he just stopped.

“What?”

Hugh shook his head and took another swig.

I stood and pointed at him. “Out with it! What? We don’t hold shit back. Tell me.”

He looked out my apartment window at the night, at the lights—many in constant motion. Unlike me, he hated Manhattan, but for once I saw what he did: a mecca where people were as common as ants, bustling about—each insignificant in the grand scheme of things. Ren was out there somewhere, wasn’t she? The most significant person in this whole city, as far as I was concerned, and she was lost among it all. A needle in a haystack in a place that would eat you alive if you let it. I don’t think I had ever seen my city that way before.

And then Hugh finally spoke again: “There’s this little question keeps going through my head: What are the chances of someone with Ren’s past completely healing from it? As in, maybe something did scare her?”

I shut my eyes and dropped onto the sofa. “You mean me punching Dax.”

Hugh said nothing until I looked at him again. Then he shrugged. “She’s got violence in her past, doesn’t she? Step-mother beat her up? The scene at your place with those crime gangs?”

“It’s not the same thing!” I shouted. My head fell into my hands as I wondered how true that was.

“You were protecting her from Dax,” Hugh said knowingly. “Unnecessarily, but still. And you know what? I think she knows that. And I’m not trying to talk you into believing she left you. But in some ways, isn’t that thought better than the alternative? That someone hurt her?”



[Purchase *Whole Piece of My Heart* \(Awaken My Heart, Book Three\) by Danica Raimz on AMAZON](#)

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About the Author



Danica Raimz does not use a recognizable image in her bios or on social media because while her readers certainly enjoy her steamy ways with words, her day job probably wouldn't be as happy with them--at least that's what they would probably say.

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Short Bio: Danica Raimz writes romance that showcases sex as the icing on the cake, the varnish on an artisan woodworker's table, the beautiful font that reveals a classic tale. If she could, she would live in upstate New York with a cat named Magic, a Golden named Daystar, the time to leisurely chomp through far more books on her TBR list, and the finances to travel whenever and wherever she wants. In the meantime, she'll just keep wrestling with the keyboard and fate to get there.

Longer Bio: If someone came forward to reveal to Danica Raimz that, a few years ago, she inadvertently slipped through a tear in the fabric of the universe and into a parallel universe, it would not surprise her the least little bit. In fact, she would welcome any explanation for her new life, new locale, and new way of seeing the world. Living in the South is far different than her New York / New Jersey life, and while everything has its perks, she misses the energy of Manhattan and the whispering beauty of the Catskills. Now, if someone had told her she would be writing steamy romance ... well, that would have flat-out shocked her. Still, if unwillingly uprooting your life and waiting for the dust to settle has any perks, the drive to rebel and regain control of life on your own terms is one of them. Danica now loves to write the sort of romance where sex is the sweet, enticing, satisfying icing on the cake of selfless relationships that are meant to be. A solid story, unique characters, true love, emotional rollercoasters, and steamy encounters are the hallmark of her work.



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Book Links

***Jigsaw Hearts* (Book One) Novel**

Tagline: Between the two, there were many missing pieces. It would take a selfless and fiery sort of love to fill them in.

Blurb: To overcome her sensitive nature, successful entertainment journalist Ren Hayden locks away her emotions along with the scattered pieces of her tragic childhood. The only person she trusts, but probably shouldn't, is a criminal—her brother, Seth.

When Seth dies unexpectedly, he sets off a chain reaction causing Ren's coping mechanisms to falter. Unable to make sense of messages she receives from beyond the grave, she can't stop herself from finding comfort in the arms of Galen Zabriese—the brother of the woman Seth ruthlessly conned.

Ren discovers life's missing pieces in Galen and steamy experiences in his bed but struggles to feel worthy of his love. While battling his own missing pieces, Galen becomes hell-bent on drawing Ren's real nature to the surface. Can selfless, true love help them complete each other or will Seth's past catch up with them first?

Genres: New Adult Romance / Contemporary Romance / Romantic Suspense

Availability: E-book or Print

Print Length: 372 pages

Publisher: Purzelbaum Ventures

ISBN: 1541325664

ASIN: B01N9QO5AG



Purchase Jigsaw Hearts

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Jigsaw-Hearts-Awaken-Heart-Book-ebook/dp/B01N9QO5AG>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/jigsaw-hearts-danica-raimz/1125460039?ean=2940154169605>

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Book Links

Pieces of You, Pieces of Me (Book Two) Novella

Tagline: They forged a bond despite all odds. Will their new ‘normal’ allow them to keep it?

Blurb: It’s amazing how basking in love, trust, and promises can transform a person. I, Ren Hayden, am genuinely happy. Growing ever more secure with our relationship, Galen and I have grand and determined plans for our future together and for helping his sister create the art gallery of her dreams. We are moving past the extreme, harrowing circumstances of finding each other and settling into a new normal.

After a difficult business trip in Vienna involving obnoxious rock star, Tristan Turn, I arrive home to sweet, out-of-the-box gestures from Galen and steamy rendezvous that only confirm the depth of our love. (It’s amazing what you can get away with in a museum.)

But suddenly ... Galen grows distant, behaves strangely, and admits he is keeping something from me. Does his family know what’s going on? Is it the beginning of the end for us? How could a girl like me know? Even my empathic strengths hold few clues. One thing is certain: If the sort of love Galen and I have cannot last, how could true love exist at all?

Genre: New Adult / Contemporary Romance/ Romantic Suspense

Availability: E-book or Print

Print Length: 126 pages

Publisher: Purzelbaum Ventures

ISBN: 1548796654

ASIN: B074TDN8RW



Purchase Pieces of You, Pieces of Me:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Pieces-You-Awaken-Heart-novella-ebook/dp/B074TDN8RW>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/pieces-of-you-pieces-of-me-danica-raimz/1127035520>

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***Whole Piece of My Heart* (Book Two) Novella**

Tagline: Ren put her past behind when she became Galen's whole heart, his whole world. Now ... the past wants her back.

Blurb: Nothing makes Galen Zabriese happier than time with his soulmate, Ren Hayden. With his mother's illness behind them and Ren's career as a biographer showing great promise, he's ready to propose—as soon as he thinks of the perfect way to do so. The life they want to build for themselves will be an uphill challenge at first, but Gale is convinced it will be a smooth one.

Until the subject of Ren's latest biography calls her into a negative spotlight. Until his brother, Dax, crosses a line. Until Ren disappears. Suddenly, instead of planning a proposal, Galen must risk everything to find Ren – including his moral compass.

Genre: New Adult / Contemporary Romance/ Romantic Suspense

Availability: E-book or Print

Print Length: 166 pages

Publisher: Purzelbaum Ventures

ISBN: 172556517X

ASIN: B07GYMVVNF



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