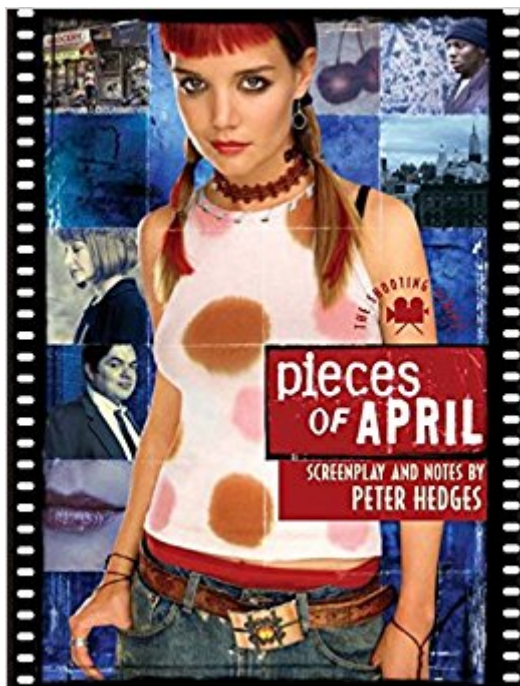


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# Pieces Of April: The Shooting Script



## Synopsis

Written over a period of three years, picked up and shut down three times before it was finally "greenlit," *Pieces of April* became a Sundance Film Festival 2003 favorite, capturing the attention of critics, festival moviegoers, and a record sale to distributor United Artists. Marking the directorial debut of Oscar®-nominated screenwriter and novelist Peter Hedges, the movie stars Katie Holmes, Patricia Clarkson, and Derek Luke, with Sean Hayes and Oliver Platt. A poignant and funny film about a day in the life of a family trying to create new memories and make peace with the old, the acclaimed, independent film was shot in 16 days, mainly in New York City's Lower East Side. The story centers on 21-year-old April Burns, who has never been on good terms with her mother and is convinced by her boyfriend to host the family Thanksgiving dinner. While April discovers her oven is broken and seeks neighbors to help, the Burns family drives toward the city recounting April's failures. Although his wife persists in undermining his plans, April's father is determined to create a bonding experience for the family, including April's perfect-daughter sister, younger brother, and forgetful grandmother. In the esteemed Newmarket Shooting Script® Series format, Hedges includes an introduction and scene notes, written exclusively for this edition, as well as the complete shooting script, his original opening of the screenplay, stills, and cast and crew credits. Also featured is an insightful conversation with Hedges on his acting, playwriting, and film career.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the late 1980s, Hedges, who adapted *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, first had the idea for the

screenplay Pieces of April-about a 20-something living in Manhattan's Alphabet City who tries to bridge an estranged relationship with her mother who's sick with cancer. Getting the movie made "was its own particular adventure," he writes in his introduction. He and his colleagues started production on Pieces of April three different times before it finally got off the ground, with InDigEnt, a company that makes digital films on a shoestring budget. This companion to the movie (which stars Katie Holmes and Patricia Clarkson) offers, in addition to the screenplay, stills, an interview with Hedges (he wrote and directed the film) and cast and crew credits. Hedges calls Pieces of April "probably the purest experience I may ever get to have in the movie business," and this book serves as a compact tribute to that experience. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A family reunion comedy that sparkles with acerbic wit, original characters and genuine heart. -- Variety  
This one is a honey. -- Roger Ebert  
Written with grace and invention. -- Newsweek.com

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