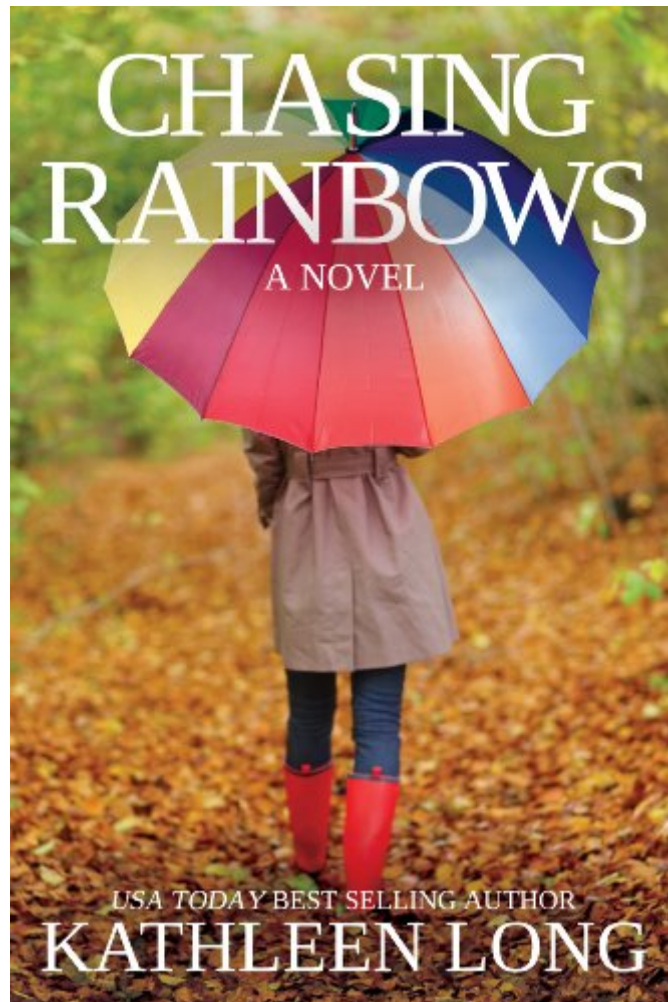


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# Chasing Rainbows: A Novel



## Synopsis

Includes Readerâ€™s Guide for book club discussions. Chocolate. Tattered robe. Wedding video. Wine. Things arenâ€™t looking so good for Bernadette Murphy. With the breakup of her marriage, the sudden death of her father, and the announcement of her best friendâ€™s pregnancy, Bernadette finds herself careening toward rock bottom. So why stop short? She quits her job, gets herself bannedâ€™for lifeâ€™from the mall, and goes on a late-night-infomercial spending spree. To top it all off, her dog gets kicked out of obedience schoolâ€™again. Just when she thinks thereâ€™s nothing left for the universe to throw at her, she discovers the one thing she needs the most: a reminder of her fatherâ€™s love. In the book of cryptograms he left behind, Bernieâ€™s father helps guide her through the pain thatâ€™s consuming her. With each solved puzzle, her fatherâ€™s encoded lessons give Bernie the courage to face life head-on. And as her father always said, â€œIn life, you either choose to sing a rainbow, or you donâ€™t.â€ •For Bernie, the singing is about to begin.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For anyone who has lost a parent, or dealt with self-esteem issues, this book is a must-read.

Bernadette is cast into a sea of loss and self-doubt after her beloved father dies. His last gift, a diary

of encrypted quotes, propels her forward. As she solves each cryptogram, all while trying to live with her loss, Bernadette learns a little more about herself, and the place she holds in her world.

Beautifully written, empathetic, witty, and ironic, this book touched me with its emotional honesty. --  
by Janet Pepsin

Chasing Rainbows is a heartwarming, inspirational story about one woman's struggle to come to grips with the worst that life can throw at her, and survive with her sanity and sense of humor intact. Unexpected tragedy, the death of her marriage, ongoing family drama, unemployment issues and one behaviorally challenged dog all threaten to send Bernadette Murphy over the edge, but friendship, hope, and love bring her back. On the surface it's a story about coping with grief and moving on, but on a deeper level it's a story of the triumph of the human spirit. I loved it!

I was sucked in by the four and five star reviews - never again. I expected the author, having published thirteen previous books (how?), would have had an editor or at least a reliable reader. The book had multiple printing mistakes (omitted words, double words, etc, which leapt off the page at me. However, my ultimate favorite was Bernie's love interest, at an outdoor Hawaiian party in February in Philadelphia, wearing a peach hyacinth behind his ear. I've never seen a peach hyacinth, but if there is one, I can't quite imagine how anyone could have it dangling from their ear. I'm pretty sure the author meant a peach hibiscus. The heroine is the least appealing human being I've ever read. Let's see, how to describe her: pathetic, irresponsible, unreliable, gluttonous, self-pitying, self-righteous, self-important, irrational, and with a seemingly unlimited capacity to be nasty and unforgiving. The dog was likeable, Bernie was not. When she wasn't tormenting her grief-stricken brother, attacking clerks at the mall, neglecting her recently widowed mother, or angering her life-long friend, she was crying and wallowing through most of the book and feeling sorry for herself. That any of these people loved her was a complete mystery. I was happy her husband had left her. He deserved a far better life. The book of cryptograms her father left her had been a reason I bought the book, as the teaser seemed to infer there was some family mystery to it - but no, not even that. It was merely random motivational quotes.

It's unbelievable this book received the same "star" rating as "The Help"! I read the entire book waiting for the depth and emotion promised in other reviews-it never happened! Bernie, the main character, did make me laugh a few times, however the storyline was soooo predictable and trite. This story has been told hundreds of times in sappy made-for-TV movies. The only character

development done was Bernie, so the rest of the characters felt flat and uninteresting. Very unsatisfying.

I bought this book since it had great reviews but I really didn't like it. I kept reading & hoping that there would be something good coming but it never did. The characters are not interesting and the story had no point...I wish I skipped this one.

The story began well, but then it became so self involved and boring it was all I could do to finish reading it. Usually I will try and finish a book no matter what, but this book was hard to keep on reading. Very depressing until the end when all of a sudden the story ends happily. I was surprised that this book got 4 stars that I had to go back and actually read the reviews to find out if I had made a mistake in my initial review. Don't waste your time on this book. I am going to delete this on from my iPad .terrible, boring book.

This book was amazing! I chose this book because it seemed like a nice, modern fictional story about a woman in her mid-life crisis. Multiple crises, to be honest. The beginning was really sad, about Bernie losing her father to a sudden heart problem. The progression of the book goes from bad to worse when we find out that she has a lot more on her plate then losing a loved one. Divorce, work issues, friendship issues, and others all pile on the main character until you think the strongest person alive couldn't take anymore. Funny in her delivery of Bernie's reactions to her problems, the author portrays a sad, lonely case that blossoms into a confident, strong woman by dealing with her problems. I most definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a fun book with lots of interesting twists thrown in. Never boring, at times I was almost brought to tears, and other times laughed out loud. Lots of fun.

When I read the reviews to this book, I thought the book sounded like a fun, easy going read. However, it was extremely easy to read (probably took me a week), and the plot was extremely predictable. The characters were a little odd to me and because there was not real character detail, it was hard to figure out why the characters had the "quirks" they did. At my book club meeting, everyone just had a good laugh regarding the book because there was not much to discuss. The book is cut and dry and I would not recommend it.

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