



## Synopsis for *Brought To Our Senses*

### **2-line Summary:**

*Brought To Our Senses* – Elizabeth Miller discovers that aging parents are a family affair and learns when all is lost, family begs to be found.

### **Short Synopsis:**

*Brought To Our Senses* – Elizabeth Miller discovers that aging parents are a family affair when her divorced mother receives a deadly diagnosis and becomes a volatile patient. Forced to work with siblings at odds through the crisis, she learns when all is lost, family begs to be found.

### **Medium Synopsis:**

Aging parents are a family affair.

In *Brought To Our Senses*, Elizabeth Miller is a thirty-four-year-old mama's girl facing a crisis. Her divorced mother Janice receives a deadly diagnosis and becomes a volatile patient, and her fractured family tailspins toward their last resort—legal guardianship with disastrous fallout.

Elizabeth soon exposes her mother's long-held secret, which lies at the root of her family's problems. She travels a path of reconciliation through the heartland of elder care in a family saga as memorable as *Still Alice* and as poignant as *We Are Not Ourselves*.

When all is lost, family begs to be found.

### **Long Synopsis:**

Aging parents are a family affair; woe to those at odds called to give care.

In *Brought To Our Senses*, Elizabeth Miller is a thirty-four-year-old mama's girl facing a crisis. Her divorced mother Janice receives a deadly diagnosis and becomes a volatile patient, and her fractured family tailspins toward their last resort—legal guardianship with disastrous fallout.

As Elizabeth struggles to look after her mother—alongside a brother and sisters who all hold a grudge about their upbringing—her relationships become further strained by outsiders. A lawyer derails a much-needed power of attorney agreement. Her mother's boyfriend of less than six months proposes marriage in a last-ditch attempt to skirt nursing home placement because he's blinded by a second chance at love.

Elizabeth soon exposes her mother's long-held secret, which lies at the root of her family's problems. With the lines blurred between right and wrong, she travels a path of reconciliation through the heartland of elder care in a family saga as memorable as *Still Alice* and as poignant as *We Are Not Ourselves*.



From the Great Depression in Nebraska to the 1970s divorce boom in Illinois, *Brought To Our Senses* chronicles the lives of five generations of family over seventy-five years. The rocky relationships of four siblings complicate efforts to care for an aging parent diagnosed with the mother of all maladies in the new millennium.

When all is lost, family begs to be found.

## Honors, Reviews, and Testimonials

Finalist: First Novel

—**2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards**

*“A profound analysis of complicated family dynamics that should appeal to caregivers seeking inspiration and solace in their own lives ... Wheeler’s gripping novel is ambitious in the way it tackles the heavy subject matter of losing a parent to Alzheimer’s disease.”*

—**Kirkus Reviews**

*“... Brought to Our Senses is one of the most true-to-life, gripping accounts on the complexities of interconnected family relationships that has appeared in recent years ... Very highly recommended as a striking jewel that is a glowing standout from the growing stack of dementia fiction sagas.”*

—**D. Donovan**, Senior Reviewer, **Midwest Book Review**

*“The novel may appeal to readers touched by Alzheimer’s disease who can relate to the challenges faced by the Krauses.”*

—**Library Journal**

*“In Brought to Our Senses, Wheeler tackles a very sensitive and personal topic with both compassion and pragmatism. Alzheimer’s has been called “the long goodbye”, and while that is unfortunately true, in the case of the Kraus family, the disease brings about some much-needed healing and new beginnings.”*

—**Sara Hodon**, **Compulsive Reader**

*“A vivid painting by a true storyteller using broad brush strokes to illustrate the complexity of Alzheimer’s caregiving on families in conflict. You’ll find hope in relationships mended by the most tragic of life’s circumstances.”*

—**Dr. Daniel C. Potts**, Neurologist, President of Cognitive Dynamics, and Coauthor of *A Pocket Guide for the Alzheimer’s Caregiver*



*"Stop, drop, and read this barnburner about a raging parent and a screwed-up family destined to combust."*

—**Jacqueline Marcell**, Author of *Elder Rage*

*"Brought To Our Senses is a truly inspirational and powerful story offering the universal wisdom of 'real-life' lessons. Faced with an aging parent's health crisis, siblings must confront their deepest resentments and set a new, elevated standard for turning family adversity to love and redemption."*

—**Carolyn A. Brent**, MBA, Caregiver & Eldercare Legislation Advocate, Award-Winning Author of *The Caregivers Companion* and *Why Wait?*

*"A heartrending reminder to forgive in case fate forces a family member to forget."*

—**Jean Lee**, Author of *Alzheimer's Daughter*

*"Read this book. Hearing the struggles of this modern family as they face the difficult nature of dementia helps those involved to see where they are in the journey of Alzheimer's. There is comfort in knowing one is not alone."*

—**Susan Frick**, MSW, LSW, **Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, Co-Facilitator of the Without Warning Support Group**

*"I don't want to gush, but this is one of the best Alzheimer's novels I've read ... and I've read a lot of them. The distinct characters and the storyline make this a page-turner. I liken the quality of this book to that of Still Alice. If you have time to read one Alzheimer's novel this year, I would recommend this one."*

—**Linda Fisher**, **Early Onset Alzheimer's Blog**

*"Kathleen respects the intelligence of her readers. She lets the reader figure out their own takeaway lessons from reading her book. Hers is not the typical 'preach and teach' caregiver's story. This is just a plain old good read. I suggest reading it to all thinking people (with siblings) who are engaged in caregiving a loved one with a dementia."*

—**Carole Larkin**, Certified Dementia Consultant, **Alzheimer's Reading Room**

*"An exceptional read and powerful crystal ball showing the life-changing impact one extraordinary woman with a cognitive impairment can have on an entire family. I couldn't put this book down."*

—**Ann Jirmasek**, Clinical Gerontology Specialist, **SIU School of Medicine, Center for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**



*“A page-turner that takes readers along on one family’s journey through dizzying complications of elder care and painful family dynamics to a new place of understanding and compassion.”*

—**Julie Hubbard**, Executive Director, **Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland, Inc.**

*“From my perspective as a psychiatrist, I enjoyed this novel and its portrayal of the Alzheimer’s journey rang true. I was glad the story showed that learning to cope with Alzheimer’s can also bring unexpected blessings ...”*

—**Stephanie Van Ulft, M.D.**

*“An intimate look at complicated family relationships that provides inspiration to love and learn from the heartbreak none of us can change, and a well-marked roadmap for family caregivers navigating the detours of dementia.”*

—**Jeanne Campbell**, Administrator, **Mill Creek Alzheimer’s Special Care Center**

## **5 Points of Interest about the Book’s Content or Story**

### **1. Point of Interest.**

The novel title is adapted from a song by Sting, and lyrics from nineteen Sting songs introduce the subject matter of each chapter and set the emotional tone of the unfolding story like a movie soundtrack.

### **2. Point of Interest.**

The adult children in the family are forced to pursue legal guardianship through the court when their mother refuses to accept their help and sign a power of attorney drafted for her protection.

### **3. Point of Interest.**

When faced with their mother’s health crisis, the adult children in the family fall back on the dysfunctional roles formed during their difficult childhood.

*What little progress they’d made moving past their own damaged relationships to work together in their mother’s best interests had quickly evaporated. The stress of making split-second decisions, with scarce information and no time to research other options, pushed them back into the squabbling roles they’d assumed for most of their lives.*

### **4. Point of Interest.**

Parental favoritism forces a bitter rivalry between two sisters that escalates to sibling bullying and later strains the relationships of all the adult children and the decisions they must make together on behalf of their mother.



**Kathleen  
H. Wheeler**  
STORIES THAT SING

### **5. Point of Interest.**

*Brought To Our Senses* takes place in the capital city of Springfield, Illinois and the fictional suburb of Smithburg. Another pivotal location is the state of Nebraska.

## **Book Details and Purchase Information**

**Book Title:** *Brought To Our Senses: A Novel*

**By:** Kathleen H. Wheeler

**Published by:** Attunement Publishing

**Available for Sale at:** Distributed by Ingram and Baker & Taylor. Available from all major online retailers, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, iBooks.

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