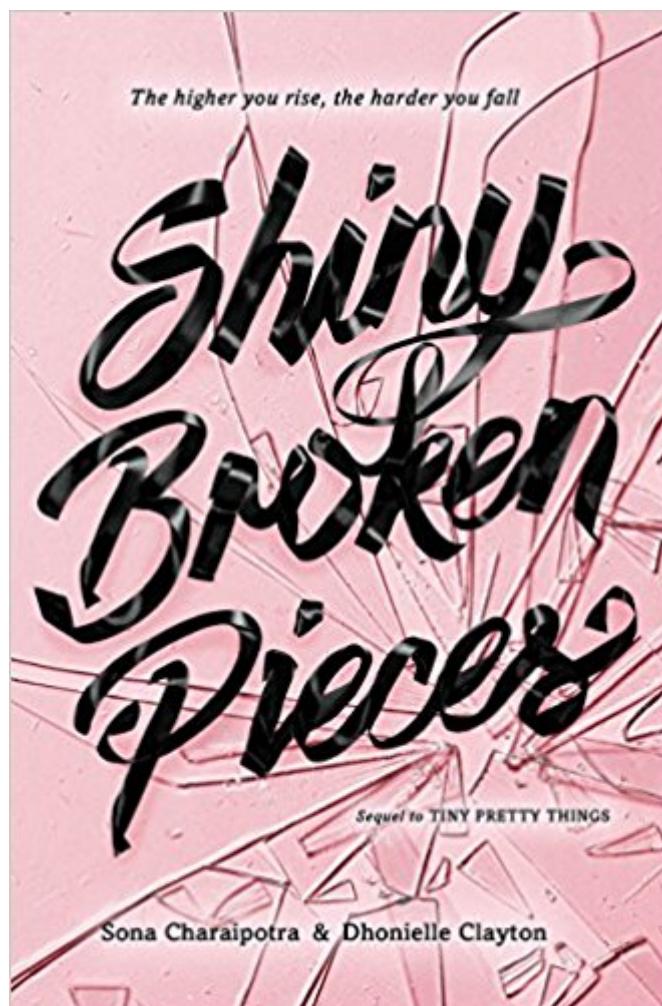


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# Shiny Broken Pieces: A Tiny Pretty Things Novel



## Synopsis

Featuring a diverse cast of characters, plenty of gossip, lies, and scandal, *Shiny Broken Pieces* continues with the soapy drama readers loved in *Tiny Pretty Things* and is now in paperback. June, Bette, and Gigi are competing one final time for a spot at the prestigious American Ballet Company. With the stakes higher than ever, these girls have everything to lose— and no one is playing nice. June is starting to finally see herself as a prima ballerina. But being the best could mean sacrificing the love of her life. Legacy dancer Bette is determined to clear her name after she was suspended and accused of hurting her rival, Gigi. And Gigi is not going to let Bette—or the other dancers who bullied her—go unpunished. It all comes down to this last dance. Who will make the cut? And who will lose her dream forever?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Equal parts mystery and social commentary, the novel is engrossing and titillating. An addicting thriller.” (Kirkus Reviews) “The action never lets up in this scandalous sequel. Those who enjoyed *Tiny Pretty Things* will not be disappointed.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) Praise for *TINY PRETTY THINGS*: “A page-turner with a heart.” (Kirkus Reviews) Praise for *TINY PRETTY THINGS*: “Appealing both to dancers and drama lovers, this engaging, pulpy read skillfully explores a variety of issues, from sexual orientation to ethnic identity to single-parent households, in a glamorous,

high-contrast setting. (Booklist) Praise for TINY PRETTY THINGS: "Diversity is organically spotlighted [in this] fun and fast read. (School Library Journal) Praise for TINY PRETTY THINGS: "A beautiful example of diversity in characters and settings. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) Praise for TINY PRETTY THINGS: "Charaipotra and Clayton skillfully craft three distinctive, complex characters. This enticing glimpse into the ballet world is rich with detail and drama as the authors highlight its glamour and darkness. (Publishers Weekly)

Sona Charaipotra & Dhonielle Clayton met while attending the New School's acclaimed Writing for Children MFA program. Sona is a journalist who has written for the New York Times, People, Parade, Cosmopolitan, and other major media. Dhonielle is a librarian at a middle school in Harlem, and taught English at a cutthroat ballet academy. Together, the pair cofounded CAKE Literary, a boutique book packaging company with a decidedly diverse bent. Find them online at [www.cakeliterary.com](http://www.cakeliterary.com). Sona Charaipotra & Dhonielle Clayton met while attending the New School's acclaimed Writing for Children MFA program. Sona is a journalist who has written for the New York Times, People, Parade, Cosmopolitan, and other major media. Dhonielle is a librarian at a middle school in Harlem, and taught English at a cutthroat ballet academy. Together, the pair cofounded CAKE Literary, a boutique book packaging company with a decidedly diverse bent. Find them online at [www.cakeliterary.com](http://www.cakeliterary.com).

I was a big fan of TINY PRETTY THINGS and gobbled that book up in a single day. My expectations for SHINY BROKEN PIECES were pretty high--and I wasn't disappointed. The characters pick up at the start of the next year of ballet school (their Level 8/senior year), and all the girls have big choices to make. Low self-esteem, perfectionism, elitism, body image and eating disorders plague the ballerinas, and to make things more intense, the bullying from the year before become more extreme yet under-the-radar to avoid causing further scandal for the conservatory. Each of the characters show their growth and development as they start to figure out who they really are.

I think I mentioned last week that as soon as I finished Tiny Pretty Things, I turned around and bought the sequel. I didn't regret it. The book starts a few months after the first one finished, with the girls heading into their final year at the conservatory. Well, all the girls except Bette who has been suspended for her role in last year's tragedies. More is at stake this time, with only two spots in the

Company and every dancer hungry to take one of them. The cutthroat, competitive world of the ballet school was set up well in the first book, but in this one, everything is taken up a notch. Even sweet, lovable Gigi gets in on the action, not wanting to be a victim anymore. And she's learned from the best. Interestingly, my least favorite character from the first book, June, the bulimic, Korean dancer who had no friends, became my favorite character in this one. She is the only one who doesn't get in on the endless and increasingly dangerous pranks. Instead, she starts to recognize she has a problem and works on it, albeit under pressure from others. With their future careers at stake, the other girls are ruthless in their competitiveness, stopping at nothing to keep one step ahead of the next dancer, to be seen, to shine. While I know ballet is super competitive, I hope dancers aren't as vicious in real life as these girls are. I suspect though, what we're seeing here is the tip of an iceberg and the reality is even more horrific. While I didn't love this one quite as much as the first book, there is still a lot to enjoy here. It's just harder to find a character to side with because they're all behaving so badly. But in a way, don't we all secretly wish we could? If there were no consequences?

Tiny Pretty Things was my favorite guilty pleasure in 2015, so I was very eager to pick up this sequel and find out what was in store for the amazing characters that were introduced in the first novel. I loved the fact that this is truly a sequel! It's not a companion, it's a literal "this is what happens next" story that I greatly appreciated. The diverse cast of characters are all back, still trying to pursue their dancing dreams as they face their senior year and the possibility of earning a coveted apprenticeship. They must decide if college is in their future or dance, and all the same intrigue, bad behavior and intense emotions are back in full force. The authors manage to change things up, giving their bad guys a new dimension that make us see them in a new light, and giving our "good guys" an unexpected dark side. It's easy to forgive the authors for coming up with more than a few contrived situations that strain credibility when they continue to offer up complex characters that capture your heart and imagination. The dialogue is authentic, and the style is very readable. I would recommend that readers start with book 1 in this series, in order to fully appreciate all the story lines. This series remains my favorite guilty pleasure and is a recommend for anyone with an interest in ballet.

Grade: B Senior year is make or break at ABC. Gigi is back at after being pushed into traffic and almost dying. June is fresh off treatment for her eating disorder. Bette isn't back, suspended for attacking Gigi, desperate to prove her innocence. The dancers are as twisted and backstabby as

ever. Even Gigi is determined to give all she received last year. I enjoyed SHINY BROKEN PIECES, the sequel to TINY PRETTY THINGS even more than the first book. Since we already knew the characters and their backstories, the writers started directly in where TPT finished. I found June and Bette more sympathetic, and Gigi less. Though I understood Gigi's desire to get back at her frenemies, her tactics were dangerous and frightening. I felt a little sorry to come to the end of the stories of June, Bette and Gigi. Their endings were satisfactory. I can't say much without spoiling. SHINY BROKEN PIECES is a fun, quick read and will appear to those interested in ballet, boarding school, frenemies as well as other readers.

The first book in this series had me hooked and I'm so glad I finished the series! The growth of the characters in this book was done really well, something I haven't seen done many times in young adult novels. People have experiences happen to them and it's reasonable that those experiences change their attitudes and make them grow. This book showed that. The ending of the book was also very well done and not as cookie cutter as I was expecting. Overall a great summer read!

Soo much better than the first one and I gave the first one 5 stars!!! The only complaint I have is the end. Ugh, I really hope there's going to be a third book!!

The conclusion to the epic Tiny Pretty Things. The book has ballet, drama, diverse characters, and a satisfying resolution to the dramatic ending of TPT. The multi-POV novel gives a look into the struggles and ambitions of the world, competition, and culture of elite ballet, and I love seeing it through the lenses of Gigi, who is black, June, who is Asian, and Bette, who is white. An addicting read--you will tear through this!

Just like the first book, it was exciting with all the twists and turns we have come to love. You end up hating loved characters and (gasp) almost loving Bette!! Awesome series!!

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