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A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd

By Patrick Ness



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A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd By Patrick Ness

A #1 New York Times bestseller

An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor.

At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor wakes to find a monster outside his bedroom window. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting-- he's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the nightmare he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. The monster in his backyard is different. It's ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth. From the final idea of award-winning author Siobhan Dowd-- whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself-- Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined.



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Editorial Review

Review

There's no denying it: this is one profoundly sad story. But it's also wise, darkly funny and brave, told in spare sentences, punctuated with fantastic images and stirring silences. Past his sorrow, fright and rage, Conor ultimately lands in a place - an imperfect one, of course - where healing can begin. *A MONSTER CALLS* is a gift from a generous storyteller and a potent piece of art.

—The New York Times

A nuanced tale that draws on elements of classic horror stories to delve into the terrifying terrain of loss. . . . Ness brilliantly captures Conor's horrifying emotional ride as his mother's inevitable death approaches. In an ideal pairing of text and illustration, the novel is liberally laced with Kay's evocatively textured pen-and-ink artwork, which surrounds the text, softly caressing it in quiet moments and in others rushing toward the viewer with a nightmarish intensity. A poignant tribute to the life and talent of Siobhan Dowd and an astonishing exploration of fear.

—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Profoundly moving, expertly crafted tale... a singular masterpiece, exceptionally well-served by Kay's atmospheric and ominous illustrations... tackles the toughest of subjects by refusing to flinch, meeting the ugly truth about life head-on with compassion, bravery, and insight.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

A brilliantly executed, powerful tale.

—School Library Journal (starred review)

Ness twists out a resolution that is revelatory in its obviousness, beautiful in its execution, and fearless in its honesty. Kays artwork keeps the pace, gnawing at the edges of the pages with thundercloud shadows and keeping the monster just barely, terribly seeable.

—Booklist (starred review)

A masterpiece about life and loss that will stay with the reader long after the final page is turned.

—Library Media Connection (starred review)

About the Author

Patrick Ness is the author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling *Chaos Walking* trilogy. He has won numerous awards, including the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the Booktrust Teenage Prize, and the Costa Children's Book Award. Born in Virginia, he lives in London.

Siobhan Dowd spent twenty years as a human rights campaigner for PEN and Amnesty International before her first novel, *A SWIFT PURE CRY*, was published in 2006. She won the Carnegie Medal posthumously in 2009 after her death at the age of forty-seven.

Jim Kay studied illustration and worked in the archives of the Tate Gallery and the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, two experiences that heavily influence his work. His images for *A MONSTER CALLS* use everything from beetles to breadboards to create interesting marks and textures. Jim Kay lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Reyes:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd is kind of publication which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Mary Hubbard:

The reason? Because this A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Homer Simon:

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