



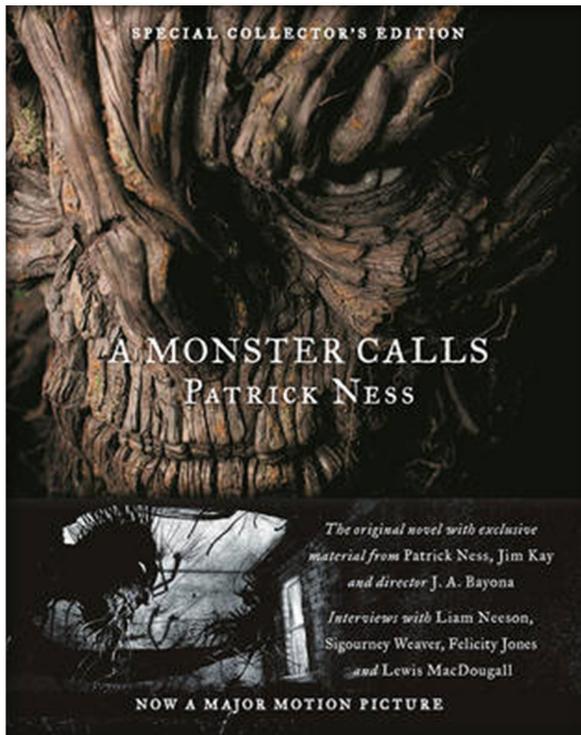
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your next book



WALKER
BOOKS

LoveReading Reader reviews of **A Monster Calls** by Patrick Ness

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Catherine Bryce

A truly fantastic emotional book which will enthrall the reader from the first page to the last! A must read for fans of any genre!

If you only read one book a year then it must be 'A Monster Calls -- The Special Collector's Edition'. A truly emotional story that will delight readers from all genres as this book that does just that.

Conor, his relationships, his life all come to the forefront when he starts meeting the Monster who helps him as Conor deals with the many emotional aspects that are

happening in his life and how to deal with them.

A great story, well written and the author will have the reader's emotions on a rollercoaster. It is not a heavy read as there are many aspects in this book that the reader will have experience of that makes the storyline more realistic.

In addition the book has many illustrated drawings which adds emphasis to the story and also contains a detailed section on the story of the book and the making of the film and both sections are a delight to read.

Humaira

Wow. Words can't describe how good this book is. It's no wonder 'A Monster Calls' has one so many awards and honestly it deserves them all. I just

hope now that the film does it justice. **Siobhan Dowd created a world that Patrick Ness built and I'm so grateful and indebted for that. It's a wonderful story.**

Sophia Moss

“Sometimes people need to lie to themselves most of all.”

*A Monster Calls is a thoughtful and intelligent book which does not attempt to talk down to its YA audience. **This is not a light-hearted book for children, rather it is an emotional roller-coaster which uses twisted fairy stories to help explain some of the most horrible things that can happen in real life.***

This is one of the deepest and most thought-provoking books I have read (YA or otherwise) and this is because the author delves into complex and painful topics with an impressive amount of understanding. He understands how isolated his main character Conor feels, how coming to terms with his mother's terminal illness is only made worse by how unnatural everyone else acts towards him. How Conor starts to almost look forward to being beaten up by the school bully because it is the only thing that still feels 'normal'.

Best of all Ness understands that the world is far more complicated than many good vs evil books would have us believe, and he uses fairy tales to show us that seemingly good people can do horrible things and how seemingly bad people can do good things. He shows that things are not always what they seem and that humans are complicated creatures whose thoughts don't always match our actions. This is an important lesson that adults and children can both learn from, and this is why I think everyone needs to read this book.

<http://sophestry.novelblogs.com/>

Lizzy Dingemans

***An astonishingly imaginative book which I would recommend to anyone who is over 13 years old!** This book was so thoughtfully written! The language used is simple and uncomplicated, but it delivers a very powerful message. There's a continual undercurrent of threat but it's not until the end when Conor's secret is revealed, that you realise what was really eating at him. **I was gripped by the whole book**, even though I am an adult. I would recommend it to anyone of any age.*

Lauren Hill

This was a compelling book that I devoured in one sitting. A story about a young boy who is coming to terms with the fact that his mother is losing her battle with cancer. For a young adult novel this tackles the heart-wrenching topic of cancer and its impact on families in a poetic and sensitive manner. I think the reason why this book is so encapsulating is that it confronts the issue head on and in a way to which all ages, young adult or otherwise can relate. The main protagonist, Conor is an accessible and likeable character despite the often cruel way with which he deals with the decline of his mother as her illness develops. I particularly admired the way in which the writer used the monster as a way in which to bring to life the stages of grief through which Conor passes throughout the development of the book. ***I would say that this is a novel that both teenagers and adults should read.*** I was moved to tears yet, despite the poignancy of the topic, came out the book with a real feeling of the love that Conor and his mother shared. The book is all the more powerful given the circumstances under which was written, an original idea by an author who sadly passed away due to breast cancer before being able to bring her story to life. I would highly recommend this as a book which sheds light on the struggles of not only the cancer patient but their family, specifically their children, of which I feel we should all be aware.

Joy Isabella

One of the most emotional books I have read. Ness creates in Conor a character who could be any of us - someone experiencing the darker side of life and struggling to make sense of it.

Conor is a young boy who's having to cope with more than his fair share of trauma, with his mother being seriously ill. As the target of bullying and having a grandmother keen to make her presence felt, life is very uncertain. Whilst Conor doesn't talk much about what he's thinking, he has nightmares that speak of his thoughts - threatening and dark. At 12:07am, a "monster" outside his window tells Conor that he will be helped with three stories, but, as a consequence, he must tell his own story.

'A Monster Calls' rates as one of the most emotional books I have read. Ness creates in Conor a character who could be any of us - someone experiencing the darker side of life and struggling to make sense of it. It is a grief-ridden, as one would expect given its focus on mortality, but its hopefulness comes in the relief Conor's own words bring to him. He finds

strength in telling his story. Patrick Ness hasn't sugar-coated life, nor has he denied the emotions that can arise in difficulty, but he provides a pathway through.