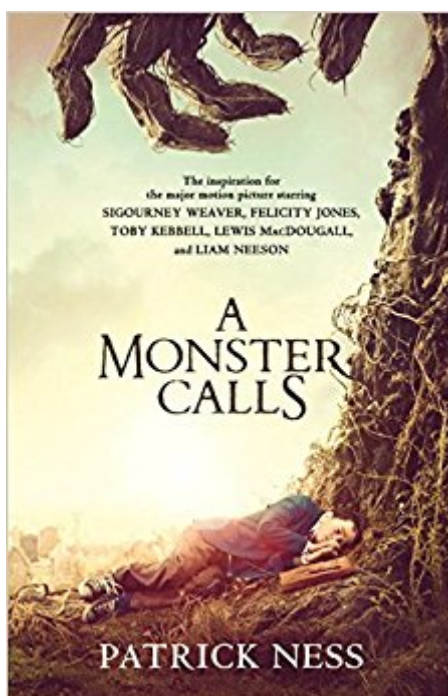


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# A Monster Calls: A Novel (Movie Tie-in): Inspired By An Idea From Siobhan Dowd



## Synopsis

Patrick Ness's #1 *New York Times* bestseller now in a movie tie-in version with a striking new cover. 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.

## Book Information

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*Fantasy > Fantasy > Contemporary*

## Customer Reviews

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. Kay's 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)

Patrick Ness is the author of *A Monster Calls*, *More Than This*, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*, and the critically acclaimed and best-selling *Chaos Walking* trilogy. He has twice been awarded the prestigious Carnegie Medal and has received numerous other awards, including a Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, a Book Trust Teenage Prize, and a 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.

*A MONSTER CALLS* is beautiful, terrible and profound. I have not been this emotionally invested in a story in many years and savored each page of this story that draws you in so completely that you find yourself totally at the mercy of the narrative. Each of the four stories in *A MONSTER CALLS* evoke real emotion and a sense of love and loss that is truly poignant as Conor, a young boy trying to deal with his mother's terminal cancer, is visited each night by a monster who insists that it is Conor who has summoned him. The monster says he will tell Conor three true stories after which Conor must tell a true story of his own or face the wrath of the monster. The stories told by the monster are thinly veiled representations of characters and situations Conor is confronting and attempting to cope with. Each of the stories contains a life lesson in the

complexities of people's behavior, the judgement and punishment for one's foibles while ultimately revealing that it is being truthful that is the most important gift we can give ourselves. This review is just a brief glimpse into a wonderful book that can be enjoyed by the YA crowd and as well as adults. We can all learn from this insightful book.

Well written story that draws you in. A hard look into a young boy's trials. It will be a hard movie to watch.

This is a fantastic story, and helpful for children who are dealing with issues, such as death, that are much more than what they need be dealing with at a tender age, although sometimes life just doesn't give options...we have to deal with whatever is dealt to us. Many cheers to Patrick Ness and his keen insight and imagination for the expression of one such matter in *A Monster Calls*.

ok... so a few days ago i saw the trailer as a add on youtube... then i clicked the link that sent me to the website for the book/movie.... liam neeson read the first chapter... and i was HOOKED ... i NEEDED to read this book..... and oh man!!! i was soooo not disappointed!!

I wasn't sure about this book considering it was in the Young Adult category, and was about a monster and a tree. What could I get from this book? Let me tell you. Everything. While it was mainly plot driven, you begin to connect with the protagonist, and even the tree/monster. The plot pulls at your heartstrings, and I was sobbing by the end. Such a good message for young adults and adults alike. One of my faves!

I am a breast cancer survivor so it really touched home for me. Great read.

This excellent book is the novel, *A Monster Calls*, and has interviews about the novel and the film. The film is a beautiful story of a boy growing up as he faces the loss of his Mother. If you like to read, then read the book. If you enjoy movies, then the film is magnificent. See it!

For anyone who has lost a loved one to cancer, or has a loved one fighting cancer now, I cannot recommend this book enough. I hope the motion picture matches the quality, and insight, provided by this book.

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