Staff Recommends

‘A Monster Calls’
by
Patrick Ness

Category: Teen
ISBN: 9781406336511

Patrick Ness has won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the Costa Prize, the Booktrust Teenage Prize and this year the Carnegie Award for the second consecutive year, for his latest book for teenagers and young adults.

A Monster Calls
is a disturbingly touching story of Conor trying to deal with his mum’s cancer as he witnesses the inevitable fight she faces to try and beat this cruel illness. He has to struggle with his emotions and find the strength and courage to deal with what is happening to him and to the people he loves.

He knows things are bad when his dad turns up out of the blue from America where he has a new life and a new family.

At school he is being bullied and treated as if he doesn’t exist by his classmates; while the teachers keep on treating him differently because of his special situation.

At home he’s haunted by a monster every night. At 12.07 it comes walking.

And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor.

It wants the truth.

As I read this book I felt as though I wanted to jump in and rescue Conor from all the terrible things he was going through but somehow Patrick Ness turns the end into something quite different and strangely positive.

Brilliant writing that, as one reviewer said perfectly: ‘It would make a stone doorstep weep.’