



Run

By Ann Patchett

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Since their mother's death, Tip and Teddy Doyle have been raised by their loving, possessive, and ambitious father. As the former mayor of Boston, Bernard Doyle wants to see his sons in politics, a dream the boys have never shared. But when an argument in a blinding New England snowstorm inadvertently causes an accident that involves a stranger and her child, all Bernard cares about is his ability to keep his children—all his children—safe.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

SignatureReviewed by Andrew O'HaganNovelists can no longer take it as an insult when people say their novels are like good television, because the finest American television is better written than most novels. Ann Patchett's new one has the texture, the pace and the fairy tale elegance of a half dozen novels she might have read and loved growing up, but the magic and the finesse of *Run* is really much closer to that of *Six Feet Under* or *ER* or *The Sopranos*, and that is good news for everybody, not least her readers. Bernadette and Bernard Doyle were a Boston couple who wanted to have a big lively family. They had one boy, Sullivan, and then adopted two black kids, Teddy and Tip. Mr. Doyle is a former mayor of Boston and he continues his interest in politics, hoping his boys will shape up one day for elected office, though none of them seems especially keen. Bernadette dies when the adopted kids are just four, and much of the book offers a placid requiem to her memory in particular and to the force of motherhood in lives generally. An old statue from Bernadette's side of the family seems to convey miracles, and there will be more than one before this gracious book is done. One night, during a heavy snowfall, Teddy and Tip accompany their father to a lecture given by Jessie Jackson at the Kennedy Centre. Tip is preoccupied with studying fish, so he feels more than a little coerced by his father. After the lecture they get into an argument and Tip walks backwards in the road. A car appears out of nowhere and so does a woman called Tennessee, who pushes Tip out of the car's path and is herself struck. Thus, a woman is taken to hospital and her daughter, Kenya, is left in the company of the Doyles. Relationships begin both to emerge and unravel, disclosing secrets, hopes, fears. *Run* is a novel with timeless concerns at its heart—class and belonging, parenthood and love—and if it wears that heart on its sleeve, then it does so with confidence. And so it should: the book is lovely to read and is satisfyingly bold in its attempt to say something patient and true about family. Patchett knows how to wear big human concerns very lightly, and that is a continuing bonus for those who found a great deal to admire in her previous work, especially the ultra-lauded *Bel Canto*. Yet one should not mistake that lightness for anything cosmetic: *Run* is a book that sets out inventively to contend with the temper of our times, and by the end we feel we really know the Doyle family in all its intensity and with all its surprises. Andrew O'Hagan's novel *Be Near Me* has just been published by Harcourt.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Ann Patchett writes about families—from *The Patron Saint of Liars* (1992), in which young, unwed mothers become family, to *Bel Canto* (2001), in which hostages and their kidnappers forms unexpected bonds. Beautifully written, *Run* again explores family, this time through the lenses of birth, class, and race. While mainly a domestic drama, *Run* also touches on larger themes—such as social exclusion, privilege, and obligation; politics; and religion and the afterlife. Critics overall lauded Patchett's thematic depth, though a couple of reviewers noted her failure to delve deeply enough. And while most characters—particularly Kenya—captivated them, a few also described them as unrealistically sympathetic. Despite these minor complaints, *Run* is, at best, that rare, mature work that exquisitely dissects human relationships and possibilities.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The question of what makes a family is central to this luminous novel, Patchett's first since her award-winning *Bel Canto* (2001). Boston lawyer and ex-politician Bernard Doyle has nurtured his three sons—Sullivan, 33, and African American Tip, 21, and Teddy, 20, brothers adopted 20 years earlier—since the death of his beloved wife, Bernadette, some 15 years ago. Then, one snowy evening, Tip, inattentive and

annoyed at his father, is pushed out of the way of an oncoming vehicle by a woman, herself hit and badly injured, who turns out to be the boys' birth mother and who's been watching the boys for years, along with her 11-year-old daughter, Kenya. The drama of a single day is given an unreal quality by the snow that curtails normal activity, as these vividly portrayed characters struggle with their circumstances: Sullivan, the prodigal whose mistake his father lied about; smart Tip; sweet Teddy; speedy runner Kenya; and her mother, Tennessee, whose dreamlike sequence in her hospital room reveals another twist in the family muddle. In extraordinarily fluid prose, Patchett unfolds this story to its epiloguelike final chapter as she illuminates issues of race, religion, duty, and desire. Leber, Michele

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shane Ward:

What do you regarding book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Every person has many questions above. They need to answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this kind of Run to read.

Carlos Pollard:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Run as the daily resource information.

Roxie Gregory:

Precisely why? Because this Run is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Russell Howell:

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