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Opening Extract from...

A Monster Calls

Special Collector's Edition

Written by Patrick Ness

From an original idea by Siobhan Dowd

Illustrations by Jim Kay

Published by Walker Books

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A MONSTER CALLS

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

A novel by Patrick Ness

From an original idea by Siobhan Dowd

Illustrations by Jim Kay

With additional material from

J.A. Bayona, Liam Neeson, Sigourney Weaver,

Felicity Jones *and* Lewis MacDougall

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J.A. BAYONA'S VISION OF PATRICK NESS'S *A MONSTER CALLS*



J.A. Bayona

A Monster Calls is chock-full of layers and psychological riches. One of its main themes is the universally difficult transition from childhood to adulthood, a journey that can never be about a particular or objective age. It's not that you turn thirteen and suddenly morph into an adult. To become another year older is simply to age. To grow up is something altogether different; it is to realize that life is not perhaps what you expected or hoped it might be, that it isn't always fair or predictable or controllable. It is to know that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. Crucially, you understand that you might win and lose at the same time. To truly grow up is to accept the uncertainty.

And growing up can be frightening, all the more so in Conor's circumstances. He is so scared of growing up that when the monster appears Conor isn't frightened of him. In fact, the opposite is true. Conor is so scared of being alone that he doesn't want the monster to leave.

J.A. Bayona and the monster

"I wanted the monster to have a real sense of mass and contained power. I feel it has this quality in the image where it is sat on the garden shed." – *Jim Kay*











Jim Kay developed many different ideas for the monster and explored various directions.





