



Edward's Eyes

Patricia MacLachlan

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Jake is a part of an extraordinary family. He has a life filled with art, music, and long summer nights on the Cape. He has hours and days and months of baseball. But, more than anything in this world, Jake knows he has Edward. From the moment he was born, Jake knew Edward was destined for something. Edward could make anyone laugh and everyone think. During one special year, he became the only one in the neighborhood who could throw a perfect knuckleball. It was a pitch you could not hit. That same year, Jake learned there are also some things you cannot hold.

Patricia MacLachlan, one of the most beloved children's book authors writing today, has painted a deeply stirring, delicately lyrical portrait of a child, a son, a family, and a brother. Through Edward's eyes, we see what gifts all of these things truly are to those around them, and how those gifts live on and grow.

Edward's Eyes Details

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Author : Patricia MacLachlan

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From Reader Review Edward's Eyes for online ebook

Thea says

A great book. Feelings and emotions- extremely strong. When Edward died at the end, I completely had a mental breakdown. Jake loved his little brother so much. Edward and him had a very STRONG connection. Got so much anecdotes in the book. Plus, Edward was going to give Sabine a hat the shows Edward's love for baseball. My classmates and I loved it!

Marinda says

At first I thought this book was trying too hard to make me read between the lines, but I did like how it wrapped up. I think it is one of those where you know what is going to happen in the end, so the middle becomes painful because you know what's coming. I got a little teary reading this one, but it left me with a happy feeling. I look forward to reading it with my children when they are a bit older--I think it will give us the opportunity to talk about important topics (organ donation, family relationships, death, grieving, etc).

Razan Yaqoub says

great book!!*spoiler* i truly expected the ending in which Edward died, really. though it is really a great story from Patricia MacLachlan!!

Rachel says

This is my first book by Patricia MacLachlan, and I enjoyed reading it, and although it is sad, it teaches a good lesson. I didn't like the ending very much, but then I read the epilogue and I liked how that wrapped the story up.

This book was intended for grades 3-7 because it is a quick and easy read, but I don't think this is the kind of book that a 8-12 year old would enjoy or want to read. I think mature/older readers would enjoy this more, but I would encourage anyone to read this if they were looking for a nice short book.

Erin Reilly-Sanders says

I loved this one too- it's very short and the story is very simple, but also profound. It deals with the death of a child, introducing it from the beginning so that it's not a shock but almost a relief when it inevitably arrives. Also, the author demonstrated a lot of skill by not dwelling on the death but on the set up of his life and then the resolution. Additionally, while non-conventional and large, the family is completely believable. One last thing to hit- the subject of organ donation is something that doesn't appear in children's literature often but could be a good time to introduce it in the interests of encouraging becoming a donor and understanding

what happens when someone donates. All this in less than 150 pages is a miracle!

Lilly says

It was a so-so book but the ending was sad... I love a good emotional book but... I like happy endings more. I know I'm talking fairytale stories but it feels good when you know that a book has a happy ending...

Rachel says

I don't really understand this book. I feel like this reads more like a first draft than a finished book.

There are so many names flying around that it's hard to keep track of the characters. Jake calls his parents and all other adults - even police officers and nurses - by their first names, which means it's just a flurry of names. I'm still unsure of who Trick is. I don't know any of the neighborhood kids, despite having a list of their names in just about every chapter. Other than the fact that Albert is black, I don't know what any of the characters look like.

The characters are all very one-dimensional. Edward is perfect. He's clairvoyant or something, always looking for signs and the like. He never does anything wrong and his parents let him do pretty much anything he wants. When his parents brought him home from the hospital, everyone just *knew* he was special. Since he was born, he seemed to always know more than anyone else. I just couldn't find a reason to like him, honestly. I thought from the summary of the book that Edward would have autism or Down Syndrome, but if he does, it was never mentioned.

None of the kids ever argue. The parents are always happy and madly in-love - which is not a bad thing - but even when tragedy strikes, they're not mad. Just sad. No one but Jake seems to show any emotion.

The familial dynamics were odd. Like how each of the older children "raises" one of their younger siblings. I don't know the ages of any of the kids, and, except for Sola being the oldest, I can't keep track of who's older and who's younger.

The ending is sad, yes, but since none of the characters ever seemed real to me, I really didn't care that much. Overall, it was just a poorly written story that needed more fleshing out.

Rosie says

Patricia MacLachlan was one of my favorite authors as a kid and still is. Her books tend to be short but you don't forget about them. This book has a little bit of everything: music, books, family, friends, summer, and baseball. Actually, make that a lot of baseball. Edward is an avid baseball player who learns how to master a knuckle ball pitch. Jake, Edward's big brother, knows how special Edward is. Once you read the book, you'll start to understand how special Edward is, too. The tragedy that strikes Jake and his family is a bit obvious, but all in all, this book was great. It's a good reminder to pay attention to the little things in life.

Lavender911 says

Jake is lucky. He has a life filled with art, music, books, and long summer nights on the Cape. He has months of baseball. But, more than anything in this world, Jake knows he has Edward. From the moment he was born, Jake knew Edward was destined for something. Edward could make anyone laugh and everyone think. And Edward's eyes. They were so beautiful, you could spend hours staring at them. During one special year, he became the only one in the neighborhood who could throw a perfect knuckleball. It was a pitch you just could not hit. That was when Jake learned there are also some things you cannot hold.

This was one of the most sensitive and personal books I have ever read. It made me feel like I was there with Jake and Edward, and I almost cried at the end. I think this book had good word choice and pulled me in so much once the story started to make sense. The thing I didn't like about this book was that the prologue was not easy to understand and it started the story of on the wrong foot. I think Ms. MacLachlan was trying to say was that there are some things that you just can't hold on to, and that some things you just have to let go.

I think this was more of an adult book, but I would recommend this to pretty much everybody.

Susan Dunn says

Just read this one for SSBRC - the newest Patricia MacLachlan. So good! Ever since his little brother Edward was born, Jake has taken care of him. There is a large family and the siblings look out for one another as much as the parents do. Jake toilet trains Edward, teaches him to read, and instructs him in the rules of baseball. Edward LOVES baseball, and the summer he is 8 he teaches himself to throw a knuckleball that none of the neighborhood kids can hit.

I don't want to give away the ending - suffice to say that it's very sad. Not all kids will enjoy this book, as there's not a lot of action, but the right kind of reader will love it.

Roxanne Hsu Feldman says

MacLachlan's language is always beautiful -- such dexterity and skills! Like someone else wondered on Goodreads, I, too, wonder whom this book is for. When Marylou Harris and James Taylor are mentioned without any explanation (making them sound like they are characters "in the kitchen" with Maeves,) you know that some nostalgia is behind these scenes. The story is set near now since there is the easy and powerful internet for the 90 year-old Trick, but the household feels very quaint. (I did like that quaintness, though.)

Emma Grace says

I heard it was sad. But that?! Help me! :(

Zane Jones says

My poor heart. ?

Macey J says

this is a story about a boy named Edward. He plays baseball and is one of the best in his town. But, then everything went downhill.

One thing i liked about Edward is that he isnt conceded like most people that are really good at something. Something that bothered me is that, i was really confused about which character was who. This is a really sweet story. Until Edward had to be rushed to the hospital. They took Edwards eyes. People who like to read realistic fiction books about sports would like this story because its about baseball. Its also an emotional story.

Bennett says

Warning: MAJOR Spoilers ahead! Do not read unless you have read this book, or are at least past page 85

That was a really quick read. Literally took me 45 minutes or so. And wow, was it emotional.

At first I was ticked off. There's this kid who everyone practically worships! "He's so perfect!" they say, "Look at his eyes!", they say. I was like, "He's just a kid! He's not *that* great!". But then I was under Edward's spell like everyone else. Wow!

And then IT happened. Edward died! (I *did* say major spoilers) I was horrified. I had no idea this book was about death. This took me minutes to get over. Tears were shed, I admit. A few minutes before I was scoffing at him, now I'm like "He was such a perfect boy! Why did it have to be him?!". Yah, that's what an author can do to you.

Edward's death seemed a little odd. Running into a tree? If he was riding his bike on the road, there shouldn't have been any trees in the middle of the road. So...how did he run into one? And they said he died instantly, but I don't see how. Did he just ram into the tree head first, snapping his neck? Who knows.

This book started off a little boring, but i got used to it and now I love it. SO. EMOTIONAL. Even now I can't keep a straight lip (I just finished the book seconds ago).

Things tend to happen quickly in this book, as if the author was trying to make it as short as possible. But I like this quick, short read. It will literally rip your heart to pieces, and leave it ripped in the end. No healing here, people. Sadness to the bone. Seriously, this depressing sadness it torture. I'm dying here, as if I've lost on of my own family members. I want to sob my eyes out (Did I mention the part about the donated corneas was awful?).

This book is like WENNY HAS WINGS (by Janet Lee Carey) times 1,000. You will hate yourself for reading this book because it's so darn sad, but love the book after the trauma has worn off. WAH!

P.S. The bad part is that I keep crying each time I look at the book.

Alternate rating: A+
