ann patchett new book

ann patchett new book has captured the attention of literary enthusiasts and critics alike, marking another significant milestone in the acclaimed author's career. Known for her evocative storytelling and intricate character development, Ann Patchett's latest work continues to explore themes of human connection, resilience, and identity. This article delves into the details surrounding Ann Patchett's new book, providing insights into its plot, themes, and the inspiration behind it. Readers will also find information on the author's background, critical reception, and what sets this release apart from her previous novels. Whether you are a longtime fan or new to her writing, this comprehensive overview offers a thorough understanding of what to expect from Ann Patchett's newest literary contribution. Explore the sections below to learn more about the book's significance and its place within contemporary literature.

- Overview of Ann Patchett's New Book
- Plot and Themes Explored
- Author Background and Writing Style
- Critical Reception and Anticipated Impact
- Publication Details and Availability

Overview of Ann Patchett's New Book

Ann Patchett's new book represents a fresh chapter in her distinguished literary career. It is a novel that weaves intricate narratives with profound emotional depth, characteristic of her storytelling style. The book has already generated considerable buzz in the literary community, praised for its compelling characters and thought-provoking themes. This release showcases Patchett's ability to craft stories that resonate deeply with readers, blending realism with subtle literary elegance. The novel is positioned to appeal to a broad audience, including fans of contemporary fiction and literary fiction alike.

Synopsis and Central Focus

The narrative centers on complex interpersonal relationships and the pursuit of identity amidst challenging circumstances. Patchett's new book explores the nuances of love, loss, and redemption through a multi-layered story that spans various settings and timelines. The author's skillful use of language and character insight creates an immersive reading experience that encourages reflection on human nature and societal influences.

Significance Within Patchett's Body of Work

This book marks a notable evolution in Ann Patchett's oeuvre, building upon themes she has explored previously while introducing new dimensions to her storytelling. It reflects a maturation of her narrative voice, with a refined focus on emotional complexity and social commentary. The new book is both a continuation and a departure, offering fresh perspectives while maintaining the literary qualities that have defined Patchett's career.

Plot and Themes Explored

The plot of Ann Patchett's new book unfolds through a series of interconnected stories that reveal the intricate dynamics of family, friendship, and personal growth. The novel's pacing balances moments of quiet introspection with dramatic developments, engaging readers throughout its length.

Major Themes in the Novel

Several key themes stand out in the narrative, each contributing to the novel's depth and resonance. These include:

- **Identity and Self-Discovery:** Characters grapple with their sense of self amid external pressures and internal conflicts.
- **Family and Connection:** The complexities of familial relationships and the bonds that sustain or challenge individuals are central to the story.
- **Resilience and Healing:** The novel examines how people recover from trauma and adversity, emphasizing the human capacity for endurance.
- Change and Transformation: Characters experience significant growth, reflecting broader themes of change in life and society.

Setting and Narrative Structure

The setting spans multiple locations and time periods, enhancing the thematic richness of the story. Patchett employs a non-linear narrative structure that allows for a deeper exploration of character backstories and motivations. This approach adds layers of meaning and invites readers to piece together the connections that drive the plot forward.

Author Background and Writing Style

Ann Patchett is a celebrated American author known for her evocative prose and insightful exploration of human relationships. Her previous works have earned numerous accolades, positioning her as a prominent voice in contemporary literature. Understanding her background

provides context for the themes and stylistic choices evident in her new book.

Career Highlights and Previous Works

Patchett's literary career spans over two decades, with notable titles such as "Bel Canto," "Commonwealth," and "The Dutch House." Her novels often explore complex emotional landscapes and the intricacies of interpersonal dynamics. She is also recognized for her essays and nonfiction works, which showcase her versatility and depth as a writer.

Distinctive Writing Style

Ann Patchett's writing style is characterized by clear, elegant prose and a keen attention to detail. She excels at creating vivid characters and immersive settings, allowing readers to engage fully with the narrative. Her use of metaphor and symbolism enriches the text, providing layers of interpretation and emotional impact.

Critical Reception and Anticipated Impact

Since its announcement, Ann Patchett's new book has been met with positive critical anticipation. Early reviews highlight the novel's emotional depth and narrative craftsmanship, suggesting it will be a significant addition to contemporary fiction.

Critical Acclaim and Reviews

Critics have praised the book for its nuanced character portrayals and thematic sophistication. The novel is noted for balancing accessibility with literary richness, making it a strong contender for literary awards and recognition. Reviewers particularly commend Patchett's ability to evoke empathy and insight through her storytelling.

Potential Influence on Literary Trends

The release of this book may influence trends in literary fiction by reaffirming the value of characterdriven narratives and emotionally resonant themes. It underscores a continued interest in exploring the human condition through nuanced and thoughtful storytelling. Ann Patchett's new book is positioned to inspire both readers and writers in the literary community.

Publication Details and Availability

Information regarding the publication and distribution of Ann Patchett's new book is essential for readers eager to access the novel. Details about the publisher, release date, and formats provide clarity on how to obtain the book.

Publisher and Release Date

The book is published by a major literary press, known for supporting high-quality fiction. The official release date has been scheduled to maximize availability in bookstores and online retailers nationwide. Pre-orders have been available ahead of the release, indicating strong demand.

Formats and Editions

Ann Patchett's new book is available in multiple formats to accommodate diverse reading preferences. These include:

- Hardcover edition for collectors and traditional readers
- Paperback edition offering a more affordable option
- eBook version compatible with various digital readers
- Audiobook narrated by a professional voice artist, providing an immersive listening experience

These options ensure that the novel is accessible to a wide audience, whether readers prefer physical copies or digital formats.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the title of Ann Patchett's new book?

Ann Patchett's new book is titled 'Tom Lake.'

When was Ann Patchett's new book released?

Ann Patchett's new book 'Tom Lake' was released in February 2023.

What is the main theme of Ann Patchett's new book?

The main theme of 'Tom Lake' revolves around family, memory, and the complexities of relationships, set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where is the setting of Ann Patchett's new book?

The story in 'Tom Lake' is set on a cherry orchard in Michigan, where the protagonist reflects on her past and her relationships.

How has Ann Patchett's new book been received by critics?

Ann Patchett's new book has received positive reviews from critics, who praise its lyrical prose and

Is Ann Patchett's new book available in audiobook format?

Yes, 'Tom Lake' is available in audiobook format, narrated by Ann Patchett herself.

Additional Resources

1. Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

This novel explores the complexities of blended families and the repercussions of a chance encounter at a christening party. Spanning five decades, it delves into the intertwined lives of two families and the secrets that shape their destinies. Patchett's rich storytelling captures themes of love, loss, and forgiveness.

2. Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Set in a South American country, this novel centers on a hostage crisis during a lavish birthday party. The story beautifully intertwines music, politics, and human connection, highlighting how art can bridge cultural divides. It is a poignant exploration of hope and humanity amid turmoil.

3. The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

A compelling family saga about siblings Danny and Maeve and their complicated relationship with their childhood home. The novel examines themes of memory, inheritance, and the impact of the past on the present. Patchett's prose is both elegant and emotionally resonant.

4. State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

This novel follows a pharmacologist's journey into the Amazon jungle to investigate the mysterious death of a colleague and the development of a miraculous drug. It combines adventure, ethical dilemmas, and the clash between modern science and indigenous knowledge. The narrative is suspenseful and richly atmospheric.

5. The Magician's Assistant by Ann Patchett

A beautifully crafted story about a woman coming to terms with her late husband's secrets. As she uncovers his past, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and healing. The novel explores themes of love, loss, and the magic found in everyday life.

6. Run by Ann Patchett

This novel explores the lives of two half-brothers and their complex relationship with their father, a charismatic senator. It delves into themes of family loyalty, political ambition, and personal identity. Patchett's narrative is both intimate and socially aware.

7. Truth & Beauty: A Friendship by Ann Patchett

A memoir that chronicles Patchett's deep and sometimes turbulent friendship with fellow writer Lucy Grealy. It offers an intimate look at love, creativity, and the challenges of sustaining a lifelong bond. The book is heartfelt and candid, revealing the power of friendship.

8. This is the Story of a Happy Marriage by Ann Patchett

A collection of essays reflecting on Patchett's life, career, and the meaning of marriage. The essays are insightful, humorous, and poignant, providing a window into the author's personal experiences and literary journey. It's a celebration of love, work, and artistic dedication.

9. The Patron Saint of Liars by Ann Patchett

Set in a home for unwed mothers in Kentucky, this novel explores themes of redemption, secrets, and self-acceptance. The story follows a young woman who abandons her past to build a new life, only to confront the truths she left behind. Patchett's storytelling is compassionate and richly detailed.

Ann Patchett New Book

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ann patchett new book: Tom Lake Ann Patchett, 2023-08-01 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers. "Patchett leads us to a truth that feels like life rather than literature." —The Guardian In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew. Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.

ann patchett new book: This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage Ann Patchett, 2013-01-01 A compelling combination of literature and memoir revealing the big experiences and little moments that shaped Ann Patchett as a daughter, wife, and writer

ann patchett new book: Commonwealth Ann Patchett, 2016-09-13 "Exquisite. . .Commonwealth is impossible to put down." — New York Times #1 New York Times Bestseller | NBCC Award Finalist | New York Times Best Book of the Year | USA Today Best Book | TIME Magazine Top 10 Selection | Oprah Favorite Book | New York Magazine Best Book of The Year The acclaimed, bestselling author—winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize—tells the enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives. One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, Commonwealth explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them. When, in her twenties, Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, ultimately forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal

connection they feel for one another. Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, Commonwealth is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together.

ann patchett new book: Truth & Beauty Ann Patchett, 2004-05-11 What happens when the person who is your family is someone you aren't bound to by blood? What happens when the person you promise to love and to honor for the rest of your life is not your lover, but your best friend? In Truth & Beauty, her frank and startlingly intimate first work of nonfiction, Ann Patchett shines a fresh, revealing light on the world of women's friendships and shows us what it means to stand together. Ann Patchett and Lucy Grealy met in college in 1981, and, after enrolling in the Iowa Writers' Workshop, began a friendship that would be as defining to both of their lives as their work was. In her critically acclaimed and hugely successful memoir, Autobiography of a Face, Lucy Grealy wrote about losing part of her jaw to childhood cancer, the years of chemotherapy and radiation, and then the endless reconstructive surgeries. In Truth & Beauty, the story isn't Lucy's life or Ann's life, but the parts of their lives they shared. This is a portrait of unwavering commitment that spans twenty years, from the long, cold winters of the Midwest, to surgical wards, to book parties in New York. Through love, fame, drugs, and despair, this book shows us what it means to be part of two lives that are intertwined. This is a tender, brutal book about loving a person we cannot save. It is about loyalty, and about being lifted up by the sheer effervescence of someone who knew how to live life to the fullest.

ann patchett new book: These Precious Days Ann Patchett, 2021-11-23 The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays. The elegance of Patchett's prose is seductive and inviting: with Patchett as a guide, readers will really get to grips with the power of struggles, failures, and triumphs alike. -Publisher's Weekly "Any story that starts will also end." As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth in these wise essays that afford a fresh and intimate look into her mind and heart. At the center of These Precious Days is the title essay, a surprising and moving meditation on an unexpected friendship that explores "what it means to be seen, to find someone with whom you can be your best and most complete self." When Patchett chose an early galley of actor and producer Tom Hanks' short story collection to read one night before bed, she had no idea that this single choice would be life changing. It would introduce her to a remarkable woman—Tom's brilliant assistant Sooki—with whom she would form a profound bond that held monumental consequences for them both. A literary alchemist, Patchett plumbs the depths of her experiences to create gold: engaging and moving pieces that are both self-portrait and landscape, each vibrant with emotion and rich in insight. Turning her writer's eye on her own experiences, she transforms the private into the universal, providing us all a way to look at our own worlds anew, and reminds how fleeting and enigmatic life can be. From the enchantments of Kate DiCamillo's children's books (author of The Beatryce Prophecy) to youthful memories of Paris; the cherished life gifts given by her three fathers to the unexpected influence of Charles Schultz's Snoopy; the expansive vision of Eudora Welty to the importance of knitting, Patchett connects life and art as she illuminates what matters most. Infused with the author's grace, wit, and warmth, the pieces in These Precious Days resonate deep in the soul, leaving an indelible mark—and demonstrate why Ann Patchett is one of the most celebrated writers of our time.

ann patchett new book: The Dutch House Ann Patchett, 2019-09-24 Pulitzer Prize Finalist | New York Times Bestseller | A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick | A New York Times Book Review Notable Book | TIME Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of the Year Named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR, The Washington Post; O: The Oprah Magazine, Real Simple, Good Housekeeping, Vogue, Refinery29, and Buzzfeed From Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Commonwealth, comes a powerful, richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. The Dutch House is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of

inheritance, love and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are. At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakeable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures. Set over the course of five decades, The Dutch House is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested.

ann patchett new book: Tom Lake Ann Patchett, 2023-08-01 The breathtaking new novel from Ann Patchett – a Sunday Times and No. 1 New York Times bestseller 'Filled with the moments I live for in a story' BONNIE GARMUS, author of Lessons in Chemistry '[Tom Lake] has it all ... Young love, sibling rivalry and deep mother-daughter relationships' REESE WITHERSPOON 'One of the most beloved authors of her generation' SUNDAY TIMES There's more to every love story than what we choose to tell... It's spring and Lara's three grown daughters have returned to the family orchard. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the one story they've always longed to hear – of the film star with whom she shared a stage, and a romance, years before. Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents lead before their children are born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. 'One of our greatest living chroniclers of love and marriage ... Expect wonder; Patchett always delivers' ELLE * SHORTLISTED FOR WATERSTONES BOOKS OF THE YEAR 2023 ** A REESE WITHERSPOON AND BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB PICK ** A 2023 BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR THE TIMES *

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ann patchett new book: State of Wonder Ann Patchett, 2012-05-10 LONGLISTED FOR THE ORANGE PRIZE FOR FICTION 2012 There were people on the banks of the river. Among the tangled waterways and giant anacondas of the Brazilian Rio Negro, an enigmatic scientist is developing a drug that could alter the lives of women for ever. Dr Annick Swenson's work is shrouded in mystery; she refuses to report on her progress, especially to her investors, whose patience is fast running out. Anders Eckman, a mild-mannered lab researcher, is sent to investigate. A curt letter reporting his untimely death is all that returns. Now Marina Singh, Anders' colleague and once a student of the mighty Dr Swenson, is their last hope. Compelled by the pleas of Anders's wife, who refuses to accept that her husband is not coming home, Marina leaves the snowy plains of Minnesota and retraces her friend's steps into the heart of the South American darkness,

determined to track down Dr. Swenson and uncover the secrets being jealously guarded among the remotest tribes of the rainforest. What Marina does not yet know is that, in this ancient corner of the jungle, where the muddy waters and susurrating grasses hide countless unknown perils and temptations, she will face challenges beyond her wildest imagination. Marina is no longer the student, but only time will tell if she has learnt enough.

ann patchett new book: Taft Ann Patchett, 2011-03-30 A New York Times Notable Book "As resonant as a blues song. . . . Expect miracles when you read Ann Patchett's fiction."—New York Times Book Review An ex-jazz drummer wants nothing more than to be a good father in this moving family novel by the New York Times bestselling author of The Dutch House. When John Nickel's lover takes away his son, Nickel is left only with his Beale Street bar in Memphis. He hires a young waitress named Fay Taft, who brings with her a desperate, dangerous brother, Carl, and the possibility of new intimacy. Nickel finds himself consumed with Fay and Carl's dead father—Taft—obsessing over and reconstructing the life of a man he never met. A stunning artistic achievement, Taft confirms Ann Patchett's standing as one of the most gifted writers of her generation and reminds us of our deepest instincts to protect the people we love.

ann patchett new book: Run LP Ann Patchett, 2007-09-25 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 Doyle cares about is his ability to keep his children—all his children—safe. Set over a period of twenty-four hours, Run shows us how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from each other, and how family can include people you've never even met. Suspenseful and stunningly executed, Run is ultimately a novel about secrets, duty, responsibility, and the lengths we will go to protect our children.

ann patchett new book: These Precious Days Ann Patchett, 2022 Any story that starts will also end.' As a writer, Ann Patchett knows what the outcome of her fiction will be. Life, however, often takes turns we do not see coming. Patchett ponders this truth as she explores family, friendship, marriage, failure, success, and what it all means. A literary alchemist, Patchett plumbs the depths of her experiences to create gold: essays that are both self-portrait and landscape, each vibrant with emotion and rich in insight. Ranging from the personal - her portrait of the three men she called her fathers; unexpectedly falling into a life-changing friendship with Tom Hanks; how to answer when someone asks why you don't have children - to the sublime - exploring the Harvard Museum of Natural History before its doors open; the unexpected influence of Snoopy; the importance of knitting - each essay transforms the particular into the universal, letting us all see our own worlds anew. Illuminating, penetrating, funny and generous, These Precious Days is joyful time spent in the company of one of our greatest living authors.

ann patchett new book: Bel Canto LP Ann Patchett, 2009-02-17 Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country's vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman Mr. Hosokawa. Roxanne Coss, opera's most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is a perfect evening -- until a band of gunwielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different, a moment of great beauty, as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds and people from different continents become compatriots, intimate friends, and lovers.

ann patchett new book: Bel Canto Ann Patchett, 2024-11-07 A beautifully designed edition of number-one New York Times bestselling author Ann Patchett's prized classic, annotated and with an introduction by the author herself. 'A book that works both as a paean to art and beauty and a subtly sly comedy of manners' New York Times

ann patchett new book: Escape Goat Ann Patchett, 2020-09-22 From the international bestselling author of Bel Canto and The Dutch House, Ann Patchett, and the bestselling illustrator of the Fancy Nancy series, Robin Preiss Glasser, comes a hilarious and heartwarming story about a

goat who keeps getting all the blame, but ultimately teaches one family about the importance of honesty and owning up to your mistakes. The Farmer family has a big problem! Every day their goat escapes, and every day, Mr. Farmer brings him back. So when things start to go awry on the farm, it must be the goat's fault. Who's to blame when Mrs. Farmer's petunias are trampled? Or when all the cupcakes for Archie's party disappear? And when the whole bucket of paint is spilled? Of course, everyone blames the goat! But is it really his fault? Find out in this epic collaboration between Ann Patchett and Robin Preiss Glasser, who create this perfect picture book about telling the truth.

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ann patchett new book: Run Ann Patchett, 2008-06-02 It is just a few weeks after Christmas, and the unforgiving New England weather has taken a turn for the worse. Doyle has dragged his reluctant sons, Tip and Teddy, to a speech by Jesse Jackson. Though his own political career is over, dealt a fatal blow by a family scandal, Doyle is still fired by Jackson's rhetoric and perplexed by his sons' indifference. The two boys, both adopted, are close enough in age to be taken for twins, but in character they couldn't be more different. Teddy - open, affectionate, the gentle dreamer - thinks he has found his calling in the Catholic Church. The elder by a year, Tip is more serious, reserving his own passionate interest for ichthyology- he is happiest alone in the warmth of his lab, labelling and categorising fish specimens. When they are involved in a violent accident on the treacherously icy road, the family are forced for the first time to confront certain truths- about how the death of Bernadette, Doyle's beloved wife, has affected the family, and about the anonymous figure, never discussed, who is the boys' real mother.

ann patchett new book: <u>Truth and Beauty</u> Ann Patchett, 2004 Bestselling author and Orange Prize winner Ann Patchett's first work of non-fiction is a book about her long friendship with the critically acclaimed, and recently deceased author, Lucy Grealy.

ann patchett new book: *The Patron Saint of Liars* Ann Patchett, 2003-03-18 Rose, a beautiful and mysterious woman living at St. Elizabeth's home for unwed mother, has no intention of telling her mother or her husband about her pregnancy, until a healing spring near the home changes her mind.

ann patchett new book: Summary of Ann Patchett's This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage Everest Media,, 2022-03-19T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 I have never liked Christmas. In my family, there were happy Thanksgivings and tolerable Easters, but Christmas was a holiday we failed at with real vigor. I blame this on my parents' divorce. #2 Christmas was a bad day for expectations and heart's desires. My father's presents were always the saddest because they were so consistently wrong. I never liked the presents, but I loved Christmas. #3 My father wanted me to be a dental hygienist, unlike my sister, who was shooting the lights out in school. He thought I should be realistic about my chances of inheriting Disneyland. #4 I loved the story, and I understood it was fiction. I knew that the narrator was a made-up person, but I still felt her pain. I understood that writers did not have to be confined by their own dull lives and petty Christmas sadness.

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