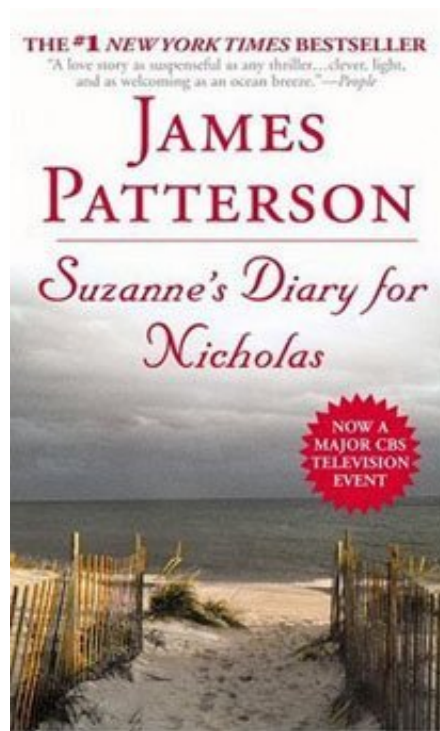




Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas

James Patterson

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Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas James Patterson

Beautifully captures the joys of a new family as it builds to an overwhelmingly moving climax. This is an unforgettable love story, at once heartbreaking and full of hope.

James Patterson has written a love story!--a powerfully moving and suspenseful novel about families, loss, new love, and hope.

Katie Wilkinson has found her perfect man at last. He's a writer, a house painter, an original thinker--everything she's imagined she wanted in a partner. But one day, without explanation, he disappears from her life, leaving behind only a diary for her to read.

This diary is a love letter written by a new mother named Suzanne for her baby son, Nicholas. In it she pours out her heart about how she and the boy's father met, about her hopes for marriage and family, and about the unparalleled joy that having a baby has brought into her life. As Katie reads this touching document, it becomes clear that the lover who has just left her is the husband and father in this young family. She reads on, filled with terror and hope, as she struggles to understand what has happened--and whether her new love has a prayer of surviving.

Written with James Patterson's perfect pitch for emotion and suspense, Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas captures beautifully the joys of a new family as it builds to an overwhelmingly moving climax. This is an unforgettable love story, at once heartbreaking and full of hope.

Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas Details

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From Reader Review Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas for online ebook

Vanessa says

Predictable garbage trying to be deep and passionate. NO! Truly awful writing. Never cared an ounce for the characters. Patterson has written about 800 books. He should really think about quality first. AVOID!

Phrynne says

I know opinions vary hugely about this book but I have got to say I really enjoyed it! I must also admit I only read it for a Xmas Challenge - read a book with the name Nicholas in the title:)

In my opinion Patterson took his skills at writing suspense and applied them to a romance instead. There were his short, choppy chapters which always end in such a way that you are forced to go straight on to the next one. Then there was the actual suspense - the fact that the reader has to wait until the very end to find out what happened. And of course there was the final twist which always comes just when you think you know it all.

It is a very sad book too with many tear jerking moments. Of course it was a bit corny and the characters a bit too perfect but most of the best romances are a bit that way. Only perfect people have perfect romances after all. That's why us ordinary people like to read them!

Anyway it turned out to be a very pleasurable read and I am very glad that taking part in challenges often delivers me these little gems I would otherwise never have read.

Caroline says

I still rue the day I picked up this book from the library and even more, reading the first page. The overly-contrived plot contains unbelievably "perfect" characters and comes off as just hokey and ridiculous. Oh, how I regret reading to the end. The sappy sentimentality. The over-the-top crude attempts at "tear-jerker moments." I resent James Patterson's theft of the three hours of my life it took to read this (although it would have been less had I not kept putting it down to debate whether to invest any more time). When the book ended, I hated the characters. My contempt for this book ranks right up there with the movie "City of Angels", which I still regret going to see. Any tears I shed were from rage and frustration.

Fathima says

This book is my ALL-TIME favourite book :) I absolutely love it. James Patterson has done a brilliant job with the story and its presentation. I've read this book a thousand times. It makes you think about a 101 things related to life and its twists & turns. The story helped me understand that life is not always sweet, not always fair and things do not always turn out the way we want them to. But if we are patient and just keep going - we'll eventually find things that are sweet, that are fair and somewhere along the way true love as well :)

Licha says

This was a very fast read. I wanted to read a sappy book, and this was sappy at its worst form. However, that being said, I like my sap to be a little more realistic. I want sap that resonates with real life, not one that is so full of perfect people that it never comes across as true.

There were so many things wrong with this book. I hate reading books that I am picking apart as I read them and this book was like that from start to finish.

The book title was a bit misleading for me. I thought this book was going to be about a dying mother (Suzanne) who writes her son (Nicholas) a diary so he can have something to remember her by, but really what this story is more about is the love story between Suzanne and Matt...and Katie. But back to picking the book apart:

--You can basically throw out the diary part of this. Why? Nobody writes in their diary like this. Not that I keep one, but I definitely cannot see anyone writing in their diary like this. Mental dialogue is written down, descriptions of sex (I thought this was a diary for your son, Suzanne) are noted, narrative descriptions of objects (such as a car speeding down the road). It would have rang more true if the author had stuck to a narrative-type format.

--Every character is simply beautiful. And even when the character claims they are not beautiful, you know the reader is supposed to think they are and that the character is even more beautiful on the inside because they possess a humility about their looks. I can't stand this in a book. There's an art about being subtle in describing characters in a book, but I really hate when a book starts off by letting you know you will be reading about gorgeous people who's only flaw is the drama they will be faced with as the story goes on.

--I hate quirkiness that sounds contrived. People here quote Walt Whitman in normal conversation, have dogs and cats named Gustavus and Guinevere (and yes, it's two separate owners). One can't help but roll their eyes when reading this.

The drama in the book was too manipulative for me. We were supposed to like both Suzanne and Katie and Matt. Oh, what a dilemma! There were no characters to really hate. None of the characters rang true and so I could never be brought to care about them.

Not quite sure why I gave this two stars. Maybe cause it read fast and so I'm grateful that I did not have to yawn through the story. These one teetered between a one and a two, closer to a one.

Book Concierge says

Book on CD narrated by Becky Ann Baker
ZERO stars (but I'll give Baker 1 star for her narration)

Quick, I need a blood glucose test to be sure I haven't developed diabetes! Think Nicholas Sparks and Robert James Waller, but nowhere near so good – and that's saying a lot, as they aren't all that great. This is just too awful for words. Patterson is shamelessly cashing in on the trend for male authors to write saccharine

tear-jerker love stories. Kate has just been dumped by her perfect boyfriend, Matt, without warning, but he sends her a package – it's his wife's diary and is supposed to explain why he's left Kate. The whole thing is predictable, melodramatic, and just plain stupid. Mercifully (for the reader) this is a quick read (or listen), so the pain doesn't last too long.

(view spoiler)

Connie says

Katie, a book editor in New York, has been left by the man that she hoped to marry someday. Matt, a poet from Martha's Vineyard, drops off a diary by Katie's door to help her understand his actions. His first wife, Suzanne, wrote this diary to their son Nicholas, telling him about her move to Martha's Vineyard, falling in love with his father, and the happiness she found in motherhood.

When Suzanne had health problems, a friend told her a story about getting better balance in one's life. Life is a game in which you are juggling five balls--work, family, health, friends, and integrity. You're trying to keep them all in the air. But work is a rubber ball that will bounce if it is dropped. The other four balls are made of glass, and will be harmed or shattered if they are dropped.

The author had the experience of losing a woman he loved when she developed a brain tumor. Years later he married his present wife. In the book Patterson shows that a person can fear to love again, wondering if they are setting themselves up for more heartache.

The book had some good messages about love, and about keeping balance in one's life. But it was overly sweet with a predictable plot. The author seemed to follow a similar formula as Nicholas Sparks, so fans of Sparks' romance novels would probably enjoy this story.

Shivani says

I've read more of James Patterson's novels than I care to admit, and from what I've observed, their general pattern is a little bit of exposition followed by some drama and suspense, which is mostly boring or unbelievably contrived (or both), followed by some sappy, overly-sentimental, unimaginative, and highly predictable denouement.

Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas is a deviation from Patterson's mode of operation in the following respect: it isn't suspenseful or even remotely thrilling. Not even if you stand on your head, squint your eyes, and read it backwards. While preparing to jump out of an airplane. Flying over the Marianas Trench. It's just plain cheesy, in a vomit-inducing kind of way. And that's a bold statement, coming from a cheese-lover.

On principle, I like to finish anything I start, but I couldn't even get through this one. This book is the sappiest, corniest, lamest, most boring and unromantic piece of crap since... well, probably since the Patterson novel that immediately preceded it. Love story? Please. Do yourself a favor and watch "The Notebook" instead.

Merphy Napier says

I get why so many people like this - so no shade to all the people who recommended it to me.

But it did not work for me at all.

I know the diary was supposed to make Suzanne endearing because of how positive, happy, and kind she was, but I ended up hating her and all the other characters in this book before the big reveal.

- Nicholas was a super baby. I kept thinking, "Suzanne's either crazy or a pathological liar and she's just writing crap down because NO baby can do this stuff this early" (this is coming from a new mom who's son has been early in almost everything. Nicholas made my kid look like an idiot)
- I like the kind love interest (never the bad boy) but [oh shoot, what was his name?] the guy was so inhumanly perfect that it started to drive me insane
- Suzanne's dilemma actually really tugged at my heart and I even stopped the book to discuss with my husband what we would do in her terrible and heart wrenching situation. But she was also inhumanly perfect and got on my nerves by the end.
- Katie was the only character that I liked to the end.

The plot was extremely slow and I understand why - the author was trying to make us fall irrevocably in love with these characters before the big reveal happens. But, as I said, I just ended up trudging through a boring plot only to hate everyone in the book.

And lastly, the reveal. When it happened (despite not liking anyone in the book anymore) I actually was feeling the emotion. It really did suck and I felt for the characters so much. But then the book ended and I got really mad. Because that was it. That was all there was. It honestly didn't feel like the author had a story to tell, it felt like he just wanted to make everyone cry, so he made infallibly perfect cast of characters and then came up with the worst thing he could think of to happen to them, and then he ended the book. It was like the goal wasn't to tell a story, the goal was to make a tear jerker. Which just bugged me.

Again, I get why so many people love this book, the big reveal is VERY emotional and if you love the characters, it would be even more so. But I just.... really didn't like it.

JT says

All I know is that it was a love novel written by a man. Yep, this didn't work out one bit. Basically it felt like a book written by one of the guys off of "This Old House." Damn they are good with building things but expressing love and the intricacies of the heart... yeah no. Stick to his crime novels because this one leaves you wanting to kick yourself in the balls for even had read it, if that was possible.

Elpida says

I read this one on a plane and at some point the stewardess came up to my row and gave me tissues. If a book is written well or talks about a touchy subject, I can be a tad emotional. This book did it for me.

Im used to Pattersons murder mystery novels so this was a definite change from the norm. I would say I probably prefer the murder mysteries over the sappy stories but he did a pretty good job with this one.

Amazon.com

James Patterson, author of such bestsellers-turned-blockbuster-movies as *Along Came a Spider* and *Kiss the Girls*, exposes his sensitive side in his new novel, *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*. Katie Wilkinson's boyfriend Matt dumps her; not a total cad, he leaves her a gift, a diary kept by Suzanne, his first wife, for their son Nicholas. Though it's not exactly the diamond ring Katie was hoping for, she's unable to make herself destroy the diary--against her better judgment, Katie begins to read.

Drawn against her will into the other woman's world, Katie learns of physician Suzanne's heart attack at age 35 and her decision to slow down, accomplished by a move to Martha's Vineyard and a new job as a simple country doctor. When love comes knocking, in the form of housepainter-cum-poet Matt Harrison, Suzanne is ready to listen to her newly repaired heart. Though painful for Katie, she begins to know and like Suzanne and her infant son Nicholas. Suzanne's devotion to Matt and their son shines through, as well as her plainspoken wisdom. While the journal helps Katie understand Matt, whether they can write a future together remains in question.

Tanya W says

Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas is an amazing love story, for me it was a page turner that I read in less than 24 hours (quite a feat with a nursing baby)! It is an incredible fictional love story set in New York and Martha's Vineyard. Part of the book includes experiences from the author's life.

It starts out with Katie, whose lover of 11 months, Matt, (from whom she thought a marriage proposal imminent), unexpectedly leaves with no explanation. He sends Katie an apologetic letter, saying he is to blame and that he hopes she can understand better by reading *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*.

We feel a tremendous amount of joy and heartache sharing in Katie's experience reading Suzanne's diary for her son Nicholas. Throughout the novel, one is anxiously reading on to find out the mystery of why Matt would leave, and what happened to turn upside-down a once picture-perfect life. There are so many interesting twists in the plot which capture one's interest. In addition, the book imparts some important life lessons along the way. Messages that come from it are the importance of a balanced life, the importance of finding the right person to be with, and the importance of family and love. As a mother to three young children, I wholly related to Suzanne's feelings toward her son, Nicholas. I also related to the loving relationship between Suzanne and her husband.

I think I might want to name my next son Nicholas after reading this book (if I have another)!

Here are sweet poems written to Nicholas which imparts the joy of having a beautiful, innocent, baby:

1)

You're my little Nicky Knack
I love you so, you love me back.
I love your toes, your knees, your nose,
And everywhere a big kiss goes.
I kiss you tons, and know what then?
I have to kiss you once again.

2)
Nickels and dimes
I love you in rhythms
I love you in rhymes
I love you in laughter
Here and ever after
Then I love you a million
Gazillion more times!

Here is the story of the 5 balls:

Imagine life is a game in which you are juggling five balls. The balls are called work, family, health, friends, and integrity. And you're keeping all of them in the air. But one day you finally come to understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. The other four balls- family, health, friends, integrity- are made of glass. If you drop one of these, it will be irrevocably scuffed, nicked, perhaps even shattered. And once you truly understand the lesson of the five balls, you will have the beginnings of balance in your life.

Other good thoughts:

"Life doesn't go on forever. Enjoy every moment of it."

"Isn't it lucky?"

"You are growing up before our eyes, and it is such a glorious thing to watch. I savor each moment. I hope all the other mommies and daddies are remembering to savor these moments and have the time to do so... I love watching you grow, but at the same time I don't like seeing this time fly by so fast. It's hard to explain; I don't really know how. But there's something so precious about watching your child day after day after day. I want to hold on to every moment, every smile, every single hug and kiss. I suppose it has to do with loving to be needed and needing to give love."

"It's late, and Daddy and I are being silly geese... We couldn't resist, so we sneaked into your room and watched over you for several moments. We held hands and blew you kisses... [we] hugged each other as we watched you sleep- which is one of the greatest pleasures in the world- don't miss watching your child sleep." [Eric and I LOVE to watch little Michael sleeping... we can't help going in to look at him several times between when he goes to bed and we go to bed.]

"Oh my dear little boy, my innocent little sweetheart, my baby son forever. I miss you so much...I miss you so much, I miss you so much, sweet baby. I always will. But isn't it lucky that I knew you, held you and loved you, for the [time] before God took you away? Isn't it lucky that I got to know you, sweet little boy, my darling, darling son?"

Noriko says

I might have become a bit cynical or too realistic, but this book didn't hit me as strongly as the last time. Although it's a quick read and it did make me well-up to some extent, the overall writing (except for Matt's diary part) felt rushed and inconsistent, the dialogues don't flow naturally at times.

I picked up this book for a reading challenge where I read a tear-jerker book, but this time around, it kind of fell flat for me.

Diana says

I have some pet peeves when it comes to books. One of my pet peeves is "perfect" (and therefore unrelatable) characters. But Patterson is quite a trickster- making you think that at least one of these characters has a fatal flaw. But nope. In the end we discover that all characters were perfect after all- perfect looking (well, there is the one girl who thinks she's too tall. Like a model), perfect acting (always thoughtful, always kind, always good-humored, open and loving and talented with good taste), rich, educated, sociable, beloved by all...

Sorry. I just puked in my mouth a little.

I mean the leading man, Matt, is not only tall and handsome and humble and handy, but he's also an emotionally sensitive poet that dances with his wife on the beach and makes love like a fierce tiger. He never gets mad, he never leaves his socks on the floor. He smells like the sun.

Sorry. Happened again.

The women aren't any better. Highly successful, gorgeous (but don't know it). Neither understand how to use birth control but FORTUNATELY they're both fabulous natural mothers- of course. Never a moment post-partum. Never a night when, going on two hours sleep she freaks out at her Ken-Doll husband in the middle of the night- yelling at him to get his sorry- arse out of bed and help her before she burns down their glorious beach house along with their yuppie CD collection, fresh produce, and romantic lighting.

Even the baby is perfect. Never fusses. Never poops all over the adorable crib crafted from beachwood by his perfectly toned and tanned father. Never throws a tired-tantrum in the middle of the family photo.

"Isn't it lucky?"

I'd say. The luckiest fabricated family in the friggin' world. But then, I've never been to Martha's Vineyard.

Having said that, there was one thing in the book that made me feel something- a mother's love for her baby- THAT felt real. THAT was touching. THAT was devastatingly sweet and sad. Still. It would have been more real and touching if mother and baby had been human.

Props to Patterson for attempting to write from a woman's perspective. It just wasn't this woman's.

Oana says

What's french for yuck? Eek. Or ew. Guys, this book is taking the cheese and the melodramatic Hallmark imprint to a whole new level. My God, my teeth hurt from all the saccharine, and I actually feel my pregnancy hormones getting pissed. This is why I shouldn't ever read another romance written by a man, even Nicholas Sparks in his worst moments is less sappy. Yuck. Mister Patterson, please, stay to the creepy mass murderers, thank you.

Shan says

I have never read any James Patterson books and after reading this one I don't think I'll ever read another. There were so many things wrong with this book I don't know where to begin. This book is a love story, and I usually love a good romance, but it was so saccharine-sweet it made it unbelievable! I didn't find it at all touching, okay, maybe when the second twist was revealed, but everything before and after that was so sappy and overly sentimental that it was hard to stand. Thank goodness this was a quick read! For me, a love story has to at least give me a good cry for it to be any good and this one left me unemotional.

Most of the story is about a woman writing a diary to her newborn son. The diary contains how her and her son's father met and their undying love for each other and their newborn son. I like this idea but even the way this was written made it unbelievable! There were times where I asked myself, "Who is she writing this diary to?", "Is she really writing in this diary about how her son's father unbuttoned her blouse, slipped her blouse off, put his hands on her hips and bed her?", "Really, is that something you would tell your son?" I was confused.

I think Patterson also meant for this book to me somewhat inspirational leaving us with cheesy metaphors and quotes, like those you'll find in fortune cookies, inspirational daily calendars or mass chain emails. Like I said, completely unmoved. I was left only with its sticky, syrupy sweetness that I can't seem to remove. Yuck!

Tea Jovanovi? says

Ovaj romanti?ni iskorak u Patersonovom opusu ne zaostaje za Nikolasom Sparksom... :)

Sharon says

I absolutely LOVED this book from start to finish.

Katie Wilkinson has found the love of her life and couldn't be any more in love with Matt if she tried. Matt is a writer and a house painter and he is also very much in love with Katie. But then one day out of the blue Matt disappears with no explanation and Katie is left wondering what went wrong when things were so perfect between the two of them. Then Katie finds a package on the front door step which turns out to be a diary left by Matt. With the diary Matt leaves a note which says, maybe this diary will explain things better than I ever could. If you have the heart, read it. It's about my wife and son and me. And so Katie begins to read the diary and she finds out so much more about Matt than she could ever imagine. At times whilst reading the diary Katie is overwhelmed with what she reads and learns about Matt's life.

Although this story was heart wrenching, touching and at times quite sad it was still a beautiful love story. I have no hesitation in recommending this wonderful page turner. Don't forget to have a box of tissues handy.

Kendall says

This book was the worst I've read. I actually felt less intelligent when I finished it. I feel empathy for people who think this is quality writing. Put it this way, the book was so bad that the movie was better. I actually liked the movie a lot, which means it wasn't the story, it was the author. Patterson needs to stick to mystery or whatever he does...

...Did I mention I didn't like this book at all?

Mischenko says

You can also see my review @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2018/...>

Katie and Matt had the perfect relationship. They had much in common and a completeness, but when Matt suddenly leaves the relationship, Katie is left with many questions and wonders what went wrong. Matt is someone Katie could've shared the rest of her life with. How could she have been so wrong about their relationship?

Not long after Matt's departure, she receives a package in the mail. She recognizes Matt's handwriting on the package instantly, and when she opens it, she finds a book titled Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas. As Katie reads the diary, she's shocked. All at once she learns about a woman named Suzanne and her son Nicholas. In the diary, Suzanne writes about her life before Nicholas, her journey through relationships, and the joyous times she had with Nicholas from his birth up through the first year of his life. She writes directly to Nicholas and shares memories with him about his father. She wants him to understand how much she loves him and his father, and just how special their life was together.

I first read this book in 2006 when I was pregnant with my second child. In hindsight, there's no doubt that hormones played a part in my reaction because I bawled and bawled over the book which is why I decided to read this one for my February #UltimateReadingChallenge—tear jerker. I can still remember gushing over it to everyone and influenced all my friends to read it. I honestly couldn't say enough about it. I think the majority of my emotions stem from the fact that it's a mother writing to her baby son about old memories and how her life was complete once he came into the world. It's something I've always wanted to do (write to my children about our time together so they can read about it later in life). Another reason I was moved was because I personally went through similar health experiences, just like Suzanne, and her story felt real to me. I know some might say the writing isn't spectacular, but I thought the narrative was, particularly Suzanne's writings. Just when you think you know what's happening, a surprising twist is thrown in—even at the end.

I was thoroughly involved in this story for the second time and flew through it, however, I don't think I was as emotional when reading it this time around. Don't get me wrong, I teared up for a bit, but I didn't feel as affected by it this time. There were parts that I forgot and the story felt quite fresh to me, but I prepared myself ahead of time for the end because I remembered how emotional I was after the first reading. There was one part in the book that felt a little confusing and maybe a little unrealistic to me, but it was easily overlooked. Regardless, it still gets five stars from me.

5*****
