



This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage

By Ann Patchett

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Blending literature and memoir, Ann Patchett, author of *State of Wonder*, *Run*, and *Bel Canto*, examines her deepest commitments—to writing, family, friends, dogs, books, and her husband—creating a resonant portrait of a life in *This is the Story of a Happy Marriage*.

This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage takes us into the very real world of Ann Patchett's life. Stretching from her childhood to the present day, from a disastrous early marriage to a later happy one, it covers a multitude of topics, including relationships with family and friends, and charts the hard work and joy of writing, and the unexpected thrill of opening a bookstore.

As she shares stories of the people, places, ideals, and art to which she has remained indelibly committed, Ann Patchett brings into focus the large experiences and small moments that have shaped her as a daughter, wife, and writer.

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This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage By Ann Patchett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review This is the story of how best-selling novelist Patchett (*State of Wonder*, 2011) became a writer. As a young child in California and, after her parents' divorce, Nashville, she knew she had to write, and she was fortunate, as she so warmly and vividly explains, in her writing teachers—Allan Gurganus, Grace Paley, and Russell Banks—and in her success supporting herself by writing nonfiction for magazines and newspapers, beginning with *Seventeen* and extending to the *New York Times Magazine*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, and *Gourmet*. Patchett now assembles a retrospective set of 22 sterling personal essays to form an episodic, piquant, instructive, and entertaining self-portrait. She reflects on her family, life on a Tennessee farm, literary discipline and inspiration, and her failed first marriage. Her second marriage is central to her hilarious account of an RV road trip, and the full measure of Patchett's toughness and daring surfaces in "The Wall," a riveting account of her father, a captain when he retired after 30 years on the Los Angeles police force, coaching her as she takes the grueling admission test for the Los Angeles Police Academy. A self-described "workhorse" who has even opened an independent bookstore, Patchett is a commanding and incisive storyteller, whether her tales are true or imagined. --Donna Seaman

Review

"I had been so engaged by Ann Patchett's multifaceted story, so lured in by her confiding voice, that I forgot I was on the job. [...] As the best personal essays often do, Patchett's is a two-way mirror, reflecting both the author and her readers." (New York Times Book Review)

"Patchett's mastery of nonfiction [is] every bit the equal of her skill as a novelist." (Shelf Awareness)

"All the essays were a joy to read...No matter your interest, you'll find words in this book that speak to you." (Real Simple)

"Each of the essays is its own delight and resonates with warmth and humor... If read straight through, the book presents a lovely and lyrical look at a life well lived." (Library Journal)

"Readable and candid, Patchett's collection is a joyful celebration of life, love and the written word." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Reading Patchett is like spending time with a deeply perceptive longtime pal, or a new friend that one instantly connects with." (USA Today)

"[A] sparkling collection." (The New Yorker)

"Happy marriage, compelling writing and all worthy endeavor requires hard work. That's Patchett's strength. And she does a fine job." (Miami Herald)

"Patchett ... is one of our best contemporary novelists. *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage* reminds us that she is an exceptional writer of nonfiction, too. Her prose is a pleasure to read, regardless of genre." (Dallas Morning News)

"Novelist Ann Patchett's excellent essay collection ranges from dogs to writing to white-knuckled air travel." (Christian Science Monitor)

“While being an artistic crafter of words, Patchett also has a storyteller’s ability to sketch a moment so vividly you can’t fail to see how her own writing life was developed.” (Aspen Daily News)

“In this heartfelt collection of autobiographical essays, the novelist opens up about love, friendship, and family, exhibiting the compassionate voice that is a hallmark of her fiction.” (O, the Oprah Magazine)

“It is a feat that Ann Patchett remains so lovable as a narrator, and so engaging as a storyteller, when writing about her excellent career, personal life, dog, and husband.” (Newsday)

“Patchett’s is a no-nonsense voice: clear, sane, companionable... [T]he funny, frank and nervy ‘The Getaway Car’ (possibly worth the book’s price) plunges readers, roller-coaster style, into the story of Patchett’s writing life—essentially, this collection’s real subject.” (San Francisco Chronicle)

“[I]n this terrific, wide-ranging collection, Patchett demonstrates how a pro does it.” (NPR’s Fresh Air)

“All of the essays, which have been collected from her magazine work over two decades, are excellent. Patchett writes enviable prose—fluid, simple, direct, clear, and fearless...” (Esquire.com)

“Ann Patchett most definitely has something to say, in her fully realized and beautiful voice.” (Huffington Post)

“[A]ll of the periodical pieces collected are finely polished, worthy of their packaging between two hard covers.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“Writing of loss and of the complications of love, Patchett lets down her guard ... and opens both her sense of humor and her heart.” (Columbus Dispatch)

“Wit-filled and elegantly executed” (Entertainment Weekly)

“The best advertisement for Ann Patchett’s new collection of nonfiction is anything else Ms. Patchett has written...Ms. Patchett’s style is not overly confessional, but it is beguiling in ways that make her sound like someone you’d want to know.” (New York Times)

From the Back Cover

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *State of Wonder*, *Run*, and *Bel Canto* creates a resonant portrait of a life in this collection of writings on love, friendship, work, and art.

"The tricky thing about being a writer, or about being any kind of artist, is that in addition to making art you also have to make a living."

So begins *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage*, an examination of the things Ann Patchett is fully committed to—the art and craft of writing, the depths of friendship, an elderly dog, and one spectacular nun. Writing nonfiction, which started off as a means of keeping her insufficiently lucrative fiction afloat, evolved over time to be its own kind of art, the art of telling the truth as opposed to the art of making things up. Bringing her narrative gifts to bear on her own life, Patchett uses insight and compassion to turn very personal experiences into stories that will resonate with every reader.

These essays twine to create both a portrait of life and a philosophy of life. Obstacles that at first appear insurmountable—scaling a six-foot wall in order to join the Los Angeles Police Department, opening an

independent bookstore, and sitting down to write a novel—are eventually mastered with quiet tenacity and sheer force of will. The actual happy marriage, which was the one thing she felt she wasn't capable of, ultimately proves to be a metaphor as well as a fact: Patchett has devoted her life to the people and ideals she loves the most. An irresistible blend of literature and memoir, *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage* is a unique examination of the heart, mind, and soul of one of our most revered and gifted writers.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Diana Elliott:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage e-book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, dripping every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still uncertainty This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage as good book not just by the cover but also with the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its protect, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Mike Hodges:

The book untitled This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy approach. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice read.

Jack Nguyen:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to your account is This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage this guide consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book ideal all of you.

James Pitts:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that problem was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person just like reading or as examining become their hobby. You should know that reading is very

important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update concerning something by book. Many kinds of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them is actually This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage.

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