



# Patrick

*Kevin G. McGuire*

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## **Patrick** Kevin G. McGuire

In 1968, at the age of seven, I was struck by an intoxicated driver while playing baseball. This accident left me paralyzed from the waist down and has since forced me to use a wheelchair. Every summer following the accident, I was required to check into a New York City hospital for one week of physical evaluations and tests.

At this hospital, I was treated by the same physical therapists, nurses, and doctors; I was also assigned the same room. This room was invariably occupied with individuals who were from different ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. They were admitted to the hospital for various reasons.

I quickly realized that no matter how different my roommates were, the bonding that took place during these short visits was incredible. It was amazing both in celerity, as well as intensity. Our injuries, sicknesses, and the hospital room seemed to insulate us from the prejudices and hatred of the outside world.

I also discovered that as quickly as this bonding took hold in the hospital room, it left just as quickly as we returned to our natural environments. All the promises about visiting and keeping in touch vanished as soon as we were discharged. More importantly, the prejudices that dissipated within our hospital boundaries reappeared as we left our cocoon.

At the age of seventeen, I shared the most intense seven days of my life with three roommates at this New York City hospital. I will always love but will never see or talk with my roommates again.

I entered the hospital that week not yet an adult, but left no longer a child.

PATRICK is inspired by those seven days.

- Kevin G. McGuire

Note: This novel contains adult themes and strong language.

## **Patrick Details**

Date : Published May 22nd 2013 by CreateSpace (first published January 1st 2013)

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Author : Kevin G. McGuire

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# From Reader Review Patrick for online ebook

## Lisa Hansen says

I loved this book - it was recommended to me and as I don't usually read books in this genre I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed the story and characters. I found myself fascinated by Patrick's insights and struggles and I finished the book quickly - wishing the story continued. A great first novel and I hope the author continues to share the story of Patrick with us. I look forward to the next chapter!

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## Jessica says

Won through Goodreads First Reads.

"Patrick" is a touching coming-of-age story centering around a boy seeking yearly testing and treatment for his disability. He is completing this hospital stay with 3 roommates. The story follows the ups and downs of the week, focusing on the friendships established in the room as well as what can make or break a friendship or a person.

This was a quick read for me. The characters were interesting and compelling teenage boys grappling with individual issues. The story is full of youthful joy tandem with heavy decisions, and describes how the four boys deal with heavy problems individually and in a group. Patrick constantly has to deal with the aftermath of tragedy-- dealing with emotional scars as the rest of the world keeps on. It leaves the reader with the question, "Would you be able to handle \_\_\_\_\_?"

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## Lucia says

PATRICK is an engaging book that drew me in right away. The story is inspired by the author's life, providing palpable insight into life in a wheelchair, while dealing with the challenges of family, friends and relationships with medical staff. I enjoyed Patrick's sense of humor and the relationships he develops with people he encounters. The characters were well developed, and added depth to the story. PATRICK is amusing and refreshingly honest. There are situations described that made me wince with the discomfort Patrick experienced, and some that made me burst out laughing. My only disappointment about reading PATRICK, is that the life changing week at St. Jude's was over so quickly. I'm looking forward to reading Kevin McGuire's future books.

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## Joy says

This book was received from Goodreads giveaway. It should have contained a warning that it has "Adult Content". Maybe I missed that notation, because if I had of seen that information, I would never have requested it from Goodreads. Note: I detest swearing & this novel had way too much!

Four very different teens with a variety of medical problems spend a week at St. Jude's Hospital in New

York City where they drink, swear, deal with their medical problems and have sex - all while in the hospital...well the teens did escape to a bar one night where some of the alcohol was consumed. Many of the sentences seemed choppy with way too many adverbs. At one point, the reader is introduced to a toddler that has amazing thoughts for a toddler...okay, that part was kind of funny because the author obviously hasn't dealt with a lot of toddlers. While reading, I kept hoping for something profound or even inspirational from these teens that would redeem this novel but I failed to find it. Too bad the teens in this story didn't realize there is more to life than drinking and sex...yes, they had to deal with life changing experiences but a good novel helps the reader see beyond the things that happen in life to what really matters.

I was very impressed with the author's thoughtfulness via a personal note when the novel was delayed. I wish Kevin McGuire had of just written his own memoir instead of this story which was based on "his own coming-of-age experiences."

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### **Stacy says**

I won this book as a FirstRead.

Patrick had a really good premise, based on the author's experiences growing up: 4 teenage boys from different walks of life share a hospital room for a week, each with different illnesses/injuries. There were parts of the story that I liked, but other parts felt like they were things that would only show up in a Grey's Anatomy plot line, rather than a real hospital. The writing was sometimes choppy, and I wish the book description came with a warning that there are adult themes.

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### **Susan says**

It was a greatly written book.

It kept my attention with a lot of turns and curves I never saw coming.

Very touching book!

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### **Carmen says**

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway. I have mixed feelings about the book. It did keep my attention. I enjoy reading true stories and biographies, which I thought this would be. I was disturbed with the swearing, disrespect for women and meaningless sex. That being said, I also know how teenage boys are, so I took it for what it's worth. I love the fact that Kevin did not let his disability get the best of him and he's become a talented successful man. Kudos to him.

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### **Diana Donnelly says**

I really loved this book. I'm one who enjoys TV series of teenagers and their trial and tribulations. I grew so fond of Patrick as he struggled with his disability and his father who was not accepting at all of the fact that he might always be wheel chair bound. Patrick's life had a true awakening when he had a hospital stay with 3

other patients. I think this opened his eyes to the fact that although he had difficult issues to deal with there were others who had it worse. He was a jovial young fellow with the personality that makes one a winner.

I understand the author is wheel chair bound. I'm sure because of this he was able to make this character so real to the reader. This was a Goodreads win. I'm so pleased to have read the book.

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### **Amy Wexler says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this 1st novel written by my childhood friend.

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### **Mary says**

I really wanted to like this book. The idea behind it is excellent, four teen from different walks of life coming together for a week in the hospital, but its execution was rather poorly done. I understand it must have been hard for the author to write, given that it is based on his experiences, and I'm sure it was very cathartic, its just, he isn't the best technical writer. I would have been more interested in his actual story than this poorly written book.

The story jumped around a lot and it seemed the point of view changed after every paragraph. I had a hard time following who was thinking what and the book was so cluttered with the viewpoints of these minor characters I could barely find the story. Some characters had popped in for a thought only once, which was just annoying and others more consistently. It was too many viewpoints and it wasn't done in a clear fashion. I think it was done to be rounded and give us an idea of their thoughts but it detracted so much from the story. There are other ways to show what is happening with side characters.

I like his Patrick's three roommates. They had a lot of potential to be interesting and fun. I liked that they made time to have a little fun in their shitty situation and be stupid teenagers.

However, the nurse. I work with kids and just, no. So unbelievable inappropriate and unprofessional. I really hope that was more fantasy than fact.

I received this book via goodreads giveaway

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### **Tracy says**

Coming of age story of a 17 year old on the brink of adulthood, coming to terms with the fact that he will most likely always use a wheelchair due to a drunk driving accident which occurred when he was 7. a courageous and strong person who learns about life and how it can be lived in a wheelchair just as well as not. Spending a week long visit in the hospital with 3 roommates in varying degrees of disability, he learns from them, and becomes friends with them all, even though they are from very different upbringings. Sometimes sad, and sometimes funny, this is a good read and an excellent first novel for this author.

(received in a goodreads giveaway)

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## **Samantha A says**

*Received through Goodreads first reads giveaway.*

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## **Ian says**

This is a very unusual coming-of-age story, about a disabled boy and his coming-of-age experiences, which were shared with a group of injured or ill teens in a New York City hospital in the 80s. Great dialogue. It was inspired by the author's own experiences -- he was struck by a drunk driver when he was just 8, and had to undergo years of physical rehabilitation and tests.

What makes PATRICK so special are A) the characters, who are really drawn out by the dialogue and the vignettes and B) the fact that these kids are growing up with issues that very few readers have ever experienced. This is a window into the lives of young people who have been dealt a different hand, and it's fascinating to see how they cope. Oftentimes, it's not much different than what "normal" kids experience, but at other times it's a new world.

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## **Wendy C says**

### **Patrick by Kevin G. McGuire**

Have you ever read a book that affects you in ways that you didn't think could be possible? Well, after reading **Patrick by Kevin G. McGuire**, you will have been presented with a superb, enriching story that can only make you want to be a better person and friend to the people you know and even those you don't. This book makes you realize that even that smallest gestures, the littlest words can be just what the other person needs.

Patrick faces what every teenage faces, insecurities, especially with himself. This story takes you on a beautiful journey sharing Patrick's experiences with other patients and how that bonding experience helped him. It helped Patrick understand that even though he was in a wheelchair, it would not define the type of person he can become.

Through McGuire's talented writing style, he enables the reader to feel and understand the characters feelings and sorrows. It allows the reader to learn from their own lives and grow.

I enjoyed this book a great deal and hope others really give this book a try. It is a great book.

**4.0 Stars**

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