

THE LAST STOP

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

Publisher's Weekly

Street's debut is a heartrending chronicle of her son's addiction, which rocked their family for over a decade and eventually ended in tragedy. David, the product of what Street describes as "an average suburban family," had a penchant for testing limits beginning in his early years, but she characterizes him as "an adorable and inquisitive child." Red flags started to appear after David's serious foot injury on the job at age 15, when he was administered morphine to cope with the pain of several surgeries. His substance use spiraled from that point, starting with alcohol, and eventually bloomed into a full-blown heroin addiction.

Although she powerfully outlines the course of David's addiction so readers can grasp its devastation, Street offers more than a conventional life history. Her desire to help families recognize warning signs early is evident throughout, as she highlights the behaviors she missed alongside her exhaustive efforts to help, and she never shies away from recounting even the most shameful aspects of addiction—or the pain it causes loved ones. Heartbreaking stories include David stealing valuables from his family to sell for cash, becoming physically dangerous, and his rocky relationship with wife Circe, a fellow addict, who contributed to his multiple relapses.

Though there are moments of hope, readers take heed: Street offers a brutally honest look at the harsh reality of addiction. David transforms from a promising young adult into an emaciated addict, plagued with life-threatening physical illnesses all stemming from his constant needle use. Street shares what worked, what failed, and what she wishes she had done, in candid language that will be equal parts sobering and useful for families facing similar circumstances. She also honors David's goal of being an author by sharing his writing (including the rough draft of a novel she discovered after his death) that illuminates his agony, as he records "the words come from the despair inside me."

Takeaway: A mother's devastating story, chronicling the ravages of addiction.

Great for fans of: David Carr's *The Night of the Gun*, Cat Marnell's *How to Murder Your Life*.

Production grades

Cover: **A**

Design and typography: **A-**

Illustrations: **N/A**

Editing: **A**

Marketing copy: **A**



Foluso Falaye

Patricia Street's *The Last Stop* details the heartbreaking experience of a mother who lost her son to addiction and his exploration of writing and philosophy. After years of drug abuse, David passed away at the age of 39 due to complications that arose from opioid addiction. In addition to narrating her own experiences as she dealt with David's addiction, Patricia Street takes us through her son's abuse of drugs from his own viewpoint by employing a collection of

David's writings—including letters, messages, poems, stories, and essays—and the conversations he had with her and others. *The Last Stop* includes several lessons for mothers, friends, and families of people dealing with addiction, including how to stop enabling addiction and how to grieve over losing someone to either death or addiction.

As someone who knows what it's like to have a family member that's addicted to drugs, the book's deeply poignant revelations helped me to unearth some buried emotions and made me feel like someone understood what I experienced. Patricia Street's highly descriptive and detailed writing is such an immersive experience that I felt as if I witnessed the events in person. *The Last Stop* gives readers an in-depth insight into how powerful addiction can be and other noteworthy things David and his mother endured during their tumultuous experience with addiction, including unprofessional policemen, manipulation, shame, incarceration, divorce, and more.

Everyone who knows someone who struggled or is currently struggling with addiction should make sure to read this book. In today's visual world, where everything seems perfect on social media, we need more real stories, like *The Last Stop*, that reveal sincere, painful struggles to console people dealing with similar issues and to help them avoid some costly mistakes.



Sefina Hawke

The *Last Stop* by Patricia Street is a memoir that would most appeal to a diverse audience of parents and professionals looking to assist others dealing with addictions and who do not mind some explicit language. Patricia lost her son David to addiction and then later to death when he passed away at the young age of thirty-nine. Patricia shares the story of her struggles with her son, who almost became a stranger to her due to his habit. This raw account of the pain-filled impact of addiction is designed to help others cope with the pain of having a loved one who struggles with dependency.

The *Last Stop* by Patricia Street is a well-written account that took me on an emotional rollercoaster ride as I followed Patricia while she dealt with her son's manipulation and deceit following his drug addiction. As a psychology professional, I found this book to be a treasure trove of information on the realities of addiction. It proved more useful to me than any textbook in understanding the emotional impact and the toll it takes on loved ones. I felt connected to Patricia throughout her journey and I could not help but feel her pain and loss. I enjoyed the second part of the book, which featured David's writings. Reading his essays and poems, his talent and his writing made me feel his loss quite keenly. Overall, while this book was not always easy to read due to the pain within its pages, I feel that it has helped me to become a better psychology professional and that I am now better equipped to help those touched by addiction in their lives.



Vincent Dublado

The *Last Stop* by Patricia Street is a powerful story of one mother's journey through pain and grief after losing a son to substance abuse. Her son David was only fifteen when he experienced morphine after injuring his foot in the hydraulics of a Bobcat. That first shot gave him such a profound feeling and he loved it. This becomes the start of his descent into addiction, as he begins to experiment with alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs. He gets hooked on heroin and battles with this addiction for most of his adult life. This caused a deterioration in the quality of his relationships that largely affected his family. In 2014, David passed away, leaving his mother devastated at such a difficult time. A memoir in two parts, the first is an account of how David succumbed to his addiction, while Part 2 is an anthology of his writings.

As Patricia Street opens her heart with this raw and bold account of her family's tragedy, *The Last Stop* is a roadmap to dealing with loss as the result of losing someone to drug addiction. Street's writing is very candid yet it has a maternal tone that embraces you and feels reassuring as if to say that everything will be all right. What impresses me the most is David's collection of writings that reflect the heart and soul of a tormented poet-philosopher. Above all, this memoir becomes a good real-life example of how to cope with grief and trauma. As the world suffers from a serious drug problem, this is a timely memoir of loss and healing that we all need to read.



Asher Syed

The *Last Stop* is a book that no parent would ever want to write. Patricia Street shares the unimaginable realities of parenting a beloved son who has a soul-crushing, body-battering, mind-destroying heroin addiction. The voice and tone Street uses when letting us into her life is not tempered or sugar-coated by any stretch of the imagination and readers are given a coarse tour of uncomfortable truths and crushing emotional weight. What do you do when your child cannot be trusted to even sleep under the same roof? When he breaks in, steals, lies, and then finally

commits to recovery, only to do the same again? And again. And again. The timeline of the book is non-linear and Street's retelling is punctuated by David's writing in many forms, with Street accomplishing a dream for her son by publishing *The Last Stop*.

There is no easy way to trust the general population with our personal struggles because they almost always let us down, and as I read through *The Last Stop* it was Patricia Street's bravery that sat in the forefront for me. For a reader, that trust has to be present, also because so many memoirs written on the topic of addiction, and especially when their loved one did not survive the disease, tell their story with kid gloves. As if the memory of who that person became is outweighed by how that person started out, instead of accepting that they were both, in equal parts. Street is a gifted writer and a powerful first-person narrator. Her son David was the same, so far as we can tell from what has been published in Street's book. The next reader will have to formulate their own opinion on *The Last Stop* but mine is firm: this is a must-read.

OnlineBookClub, Nqobile, 4* out of 4*

At the tender age of 15 years, Patricia Streets' son, David, had an accident that led to him having one of his toes cut off. The hospital administered morphine to relieve the physical pain of the amputation, and that was how he was introduced to opiates. He began experimenting with other drugs and settled on heroin as his drug of choice in his twenties.

David loved writing and desired to become a published author. Throughout the years, he wrote short stories and journaled regularly. His journal entries are featured in the first part of this book alongside Streets' experiences. The second and final part of the book comprises David's short stories. Patricia wrote this book to share the day-to-day struggles that she, David, and the rest of the family went through because of David's addiction. She used this book as her grieving outlet. She wrote it to find closure and honor her late beloved son, David.

The impact of substance abuse is not limited to the abuser only. Substance abuse affects family members, communities, and nations. This book offers a glimpse into the life of an addict and their immediate family. Imagine your child being expelled at school for almost killing another pupil or being called by your child in the middle of the night, begging you to pick them up after being kicked out. How about having to attend court cases so much that you lose count? This was Patricia Streets' reality. In the book titled *The Last Stop*, she shares her and her son's story.

The book has many positive aspects; it is authentic and unfiltered. The author shared the good, the bad, and the ugly. She laid it all bare for readers to learn from her successes and shortcomings as a parent of a child who abused drugs. Readers are exposed to the innermost thoughts and struggles of an addict through his own words. This vulnerability drew me closer and caused me to reflect. There was nothing to dislike about this insightful book, and I am delighted to award it a rating of 4 out of 4 stars.

The editing of the book was impeccable, and I was thoroughly impressed as I only found one typographical error in this 494-page offering. The book contains sexual and violent scenes. However, they are not graphic or overly detailed. The language used is mostly clean, with a few profane words.

This book is written from interesting viewpoints and shares real people's experiences. It is relatable, informative, and offers guidance and pointers to parents, guardians, and addicted individuals. I strongly recommend it to parents of addicts, as they will find comfort and hopefully learn how to overcome their predicaments. Individuals who are currently battling with addictions will also find this book beneficial.

Readers' Favorite, Jamie Michele, 4*

The Last Stop by Patricia Street is a non-fiction memoir in which the author details the heart-breaking addiction cycle of her son David, and her experience as a mother in the eye of its storm. The book begins with a backstory from Street on the family, their dynamics, and a brief overview of what David was like "before" and how the progression of drug use escalated to where it could no longer be denied. Street and her ex-husband, a former police officer and David's father, are forced to make difficult decisions. David's addiction continues to spiral out of control, in and out of rehab, courtrooms, jail, treatment, relationships, and work. Interspersed are journal entries,

letters, poems, and essays written by David. "As the mother of an addict, I had become accustomed to being treated with suspicion that there surely must be something wrong with me to produce a drug-addled son."

The first thing that intrigued me about *The Last Stop* is the fact that it is not a guide. Patricia Street makes this clear right off the bat and instead gives a no-holds-barred account of her story, which is also David's story, although David is actually given the chance to speak for himself in the pieces that bear his signature. There is a raw, profound honesty to Street's writing and she touches on some of the actions of an addict that only someone who has a loved one will know, such as him admittedly juggling multiple women. Meanwhile, his wife Circe is in a constant state of enabling and David becomes more delusional, genuinely believing "I am better off alone than to be continuously persecuted." Street's story is compelling enough to take us into the deepest, darkest depths of addiction. Recommended.

Online Book Club, DPADGETT1, 4* out of 4*

The Last Stop is a memoir by Patricia Street, written about the life of her son, David. David, a troubled adolescent, is drawn into alcohol and drugs, trying and using whatever is available. In his mid-20s, David becomes addicted to heroin and enters the vicious addiction/recovery/relapse cycle. David's personal journal, letters, emails, and Facebook messages are used along with Patricia Street's memory to create a timeline of David's life.

By using David's personal writings, the author was able to give us a first-person perspective into the life of a drug addict, which I enjoyed. The use of different fonts for different things allowed me to immediately identify if it was a letter, email, or Facebook excerpt that had been added to the story without any added confusion, which was nice. Street was able to include the strong emotions she felt as heroin addict's mother, but she did not let them overshadow the story she was telling, which is praiseworthy. Her ability to shine a light on how substance abuse deeply affects family members and friends of the addict gave me an eye-opening view of the true destruction of addiction that I had not thought of before. I truly enjoyed the addition of David's work at the end of the book. Knowing he wanted to be an accomplished and published writer, it was nice to see the types of things he was working on. The parallel between his real life and that of his main characters is incredibly transparent and almost painful to see.

I wish more context was added to some of the excerpts, especially from David's Facebook messages. There were times that I wanted to know more about the message itself, or more from the conversation that the message came from. This addition would have allowed me to more understand the intent behind the original messages and possibly David's thought process while writing them. Besides this, I had no other negatives about this book.

I give this a 4 out of 4. The amount of detail the author used to give the readers a full picture of heroin addiction and its effects was incredible. Patricia Street invokes empathy and a connection with readers, even if the reader does not have a personal connection with addiction. The book was exceptionally well edited, with no errors found. I only had one negative, and it did not impact my enjoyment of this book enough to affect my rating.

I recommend this book to readers that are interested in a raw look at addiction. The author's honesty with her feelings of failure, disappointment, and anger is sure to connect with readers who have been in a similar situation. I recommend this to family members or friends of addicts who could use this book as both a comfort and a tool to help them. There is some profanity and violence, so I would not recommend this to younger readers.

Online Book Club, Lisa Thomason, 4 out of 4*

The Last Stop is a memoir of Patricia Street's experiences with her drug-addicted son. In this moving story she includes her feelings and experiences, as well as excerpts from her son's Facebook posts and his journals. David, the author's son, is addicted to heroin. As his journey as an addict unfolds, we are brought into his life and the struggles. This disease not only affects the user, but also the family. As David's life story of addiction unfolds, it is riddled with time spent in treatment centers and jail. It was very interesting to watch the cycles happen in his life. David would go from being apologetic and remorseful, to being belligerent and angry, with everyone. He participated in dangerous and unlawful activities, hence his time in jail. As David tried to set his life on the right course, his wife and his mother tried to help him and therefore, their lives were impacted as well. As everyone in

David's life tries to help him, does he finally get sober and stay that way? What is the final impact of addiction in David's life?

There are so many things I liked about this book. The author shares such insight into the family struggles when one member is an addict. All that they go through at the different stages of addiction, was truly eye-opening. The format of the chapters showed exactly when the author was sharing what David had written. At the end of the book in Part II, you find his short stories and writings. Through his writings, I could see the cycle of his addiction.

My dislikes for *The Last Stop* were non-existent. This book was well-written and without errors. I found it very easy to be captivated by her story. The ending part of *The Last Stop* was very well done. The compilation of David's writings was brilliant.

I give this enlightening memoir of an addict's life a four out of four stars. It was very enjoyable to read. The author opened up her life and shared her struggles of being a mother of an addict, as well as sharing about David's life and struggles. There are no grammatical errors which shows a professional editing job.

The recommendation of the audience for this book would be for everyone. This was very helpful to read what worked and what didn't, as far as the family members of an addict adjust. I have alcoholics in my family and I was intrigued by reading this as I was thinking about my family struggles.

The Book Club, "Superbly Written," Frances Oatley, 5*

So well written. A parent and child struggling with drug addiction. So heartfelt yet very informative.

The Book Club, "Harrowing Read," Greta Halliday, 5*

A harrowing, heartrending story, one which everyone should read in the hope of stopping someone taking the downward spiral of drug abuse. I so admire this mother's courage in telling this story and hope it gave some relief from the heartache and grief she must be feeling. Thanks to TBC and the author for giving me the opportunity to read this book.

Reedsy, "Loved it! 😊," Rachel Deeming

A candid book about addiction related by a mother, drawing on her experiences, emails, Facebook posts, and the writings of the addict.

The Last Stop is a book that candidly sets out the experience of the author, Patricia Street, in her dealings with her son, David, an addict of many years. What she presents us with is a story of many years where she tries to deal with someone who she loves dearly but she trusts little; who she wants to believe but is always wary that what she is being told is not the truth of the matter; who she wants to help but is reluctant to enable. It is an emotional tightrope that seems to stretch perpetually into the future - a "crazy addiction train" which feels like it is never going to stop and reach "The Last Stop" or which you feel like you can never get off...unless it derails.

The depiction of David's addiction is dealt with pragmatically by Street as she describes the incidences from what she believes to be the beginning of his relationship with heroin and we lead from this point through the years of court appearances, renewed promises, rehabilitation and rare peaceful periods.

Whilst the way that Street's experiences are related could be seen as emotionally understated, I liked the frank, almost factual way her story was related. It was not sentimental.

I felt for the author's struggle. This is something that no parent would ever want to have to face and on reading Street's book, it is clear that trying to navigate a relationship with someone dear to you who is an addict is exhausting and relentless but not free of hopeful moments. The overwhelming emotion that I gleaned from it is the waste of it all and this is reinforced by the second part of the book, which is an amalgamation of David's own writings, made of his philosophical musings, poems, stories or Facebook discussions. In the inclusion of his writings, a clear picture is given of Street's son as an intelligent man, worthy of deep thought and reflection, with ambitions in this direction - to become a published writer. One of his poems, "So Seldom My Thoughts Ring True,"

resonated strongly with me as a brief glimpse into David's viewpoint, full of candor and honesty, providing insight into a character full of contradictions.

I can't think of any better way for Street to show her love for her son than providing the means for his writings to reach the wider world.

Goodreads, Samantha Turley, 5*

Wow, a mother's account of her son's story and trials of his life. She really lays it all out there, she completely opens her life and experiences in a way that will be eye-opening to both those dealing with something similar or those who haven't had to deal with it. It's heartbreaking at times, and really sheds light on the lives of those who fall victim to addiction.

Kristen Heyl, "Heartbreaking & Honest," 5*

A raw, honest, heartbreaking account of a mother's journey watching her son's addiction and all the feelings that go with it. The format of journal entries, thoughts, and letters that make up the journey worked really well for this memoir. I voluntarily reviewed an advance reader copy of this book.

The Prairies Book Review, "Eye-Opening and Relevant," 5*

Street takes readers on her family's journey of pain and loss as she recounts their history dealing with her son's heroin addiction. What began as a prescription drug for pain management after he got his foot crushed in the hydraulics of a Bobcat, became an addiction for David and he got hooked on morphine. He was fifteen at the time. He soon began experimenting with alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs. During his twenties, his experimentation with various drugs came to an end when he found heroin and it became his drug of choice. Numerous traffic violations, court cases, jail time followed. Along came multiple relapses, which only added to the grief of Street and others in the family.

Told from her own viewpoint and passages from David's journal entries, Street's narration describes her son's behavior with unbiased perspective, and she is achingly honest throughout, particularly about how as an addict, David repeatedly drew his family into his dangerous orbit. Street's prose is crisp without any hint of melodrama as she describes David's relapses that never helped him gain distance from his addiction. Instead of emerging on the other side with a semblance of a life still intact as Street and other family members hoped, David lost his battle with addiction in 2014, leaving his family to bear the loss. He was thirty-nine at the time. Raw and heart-rending, Street's candid take on her family's experience is both eye-opening and relevant, particularly in today's time of the opioid epidemic.

Goodreads, C. Gonzalez, 5*

I found this to be both raw and honest, above all, an inspirational and heart-warming book. Patricia Street's words and David's story are powerful and beautiful. They show vulnerability and ultimately the power to overcome and become victorious. Street's writing style is smooth and effortless. Powerful and Emotional and Inspiring.

Texas Book Nook, "Eye-Opening"

The Last Stop ... it really deals with dark topics, but in a way that makes the reader appreciate the ups and downs of others. It's inspirational and unique. There are heavy themes with ultimately enlightening and uplifting outcomes. It's a wonderful read.

Novel News Network, gstamper

Impeccably written, relentlessly engaging, so intimate it hurts, Patricia Street's extraordinary tale is where the reader wants and needs to be. Over all else, it's touching and heartwarming and full of so much heart.