



Run

by Ann Patchett

Published 2007
295 pages

Characters

Bernard Doyle
Bernadette Doyle
Sullivan Doyle
Tip Doyle
Teddy Doyle
Father John Sullivan
Tennessee Alice Moser
Kenya Moser

Setting

Boston, Massachusetts

Point of View

Third person – alternating among characters

Author Info

Ann Patchett was born in 1963 in Los Angeles but was raised in Tennessee. She has a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA from the University of Iowa. She worked at Seventeen before publishing her first novel, *The Patron Saint of Liars*. She has since published four additional novels, including *Run*. Her bestselling novel *Bel Canto* won both the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize. She currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee with her husband.

Related Websites

[Ann Patchett](http://www.annpatchett.com) www.annpatchett.com

[Run](http://www.annpatchett.com/run.html) www.annpatchett.com/run.html

[LitLovers Guide](http://www.litlovers.com/guide_run.html) http://www.litlovers.com/guide_run.html

[NYT Review](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/books/review/Cohen-t.html) <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/30/books/review/Cohen-t.html>

Plot Summary

First Line: “Bernadette had been dead two weeks when her sisters showed up in Doyle's living room asking for the statue back.”

This is the story of Tip and Teddy, two black brothers, who were adopted by Bertram and Bernadette Doyle. Bernadette died when the boys were still young, and Bertram, the former mayor of Boston, embraced the job of raising the boys with the hope that either or both of them would follow his footsteps into politics. On the fateful snowy night around which the book centers, Tip, Teddy, now grown, and Bertram attend a lecture at Harvard. Afterwards, Tip is pushed out of the way of an oncoming SUV and all of their lives are changed forever.

Discussion Questions

- Discuss the title “Run.” On what different levels does it work? Why do you think it was chosen as the title?
- When asked, Ann Patchett stated that *Run* is primarily about politics. What do you think she means? What types of politics are dealt with in *Run*? Which character is would be the best politician?
- How are the differing races of the characters handled? Discuss the concept of nature vs. nurture. Do you think that Tip and Teddy would have turned out differently if they had been raised by their biological mother?
- Discuss the statue referenced in the first line. What significance does it have? How do you feel about it being passed on to Kenya?

