



Pennington's Last Term

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Patrick Pennington is a sullen yet compelling hero. He is inarticulate and insolent, yet fiercely loyal to those who have given him friendship. He will never back down from a fight and acts as if he cares about nothing, yet is passionate about two things: his music and his football. Although not very interested in teenage girls, his smouldering good looks attract them anyway.

In this story about his last term at secondary school, it clear that unless Patrick can master his temper and channel his talent, he will come to a bad end.

Pennington's Last Term Details

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Author : K.M. Peyton

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Brianna Clark says

This is a beautiful, inspiring, fantastic YA novel. When I was a teenager, I read another book about Patrick Pennington, "The Beethoven Medal". I had no idea there was a prequel---this book, Pennington's Last Term. I have found out there are also two sequels to "The Beethoven Medal". I plan on reading them too. The main character, "Penn" as his friends call him, is almost seventeen. He is a very troubled boy, with turbulent emotions and a "bad attitude". He comes from an abusive home and is treated like a "thug" by most of the adults in his life. He does a lot of bad things, but he gets blamed for even worse ones. The adults have formed an unfavorable view of young Penn, and he goes out of his way to live up to it. He is smart, but not motivated. He only has two instructors who stick up for him---his "games" teacher and his music teacher. The games are sports, esp. swimming and soccer, which Penn excels at. The other thing Penn excels at is music. He is very, very gifted on the piano. But his heart isn't in it, not in the beginning. Penn prefers the harmonica. His frustrated music teacher writes in his school report, "May God forgive this boy for abusing so unusual a talent." His teacher calls him a "technician", because he hits all the right notes but doesn't put his soul into it. As the novel progresses, Penn has a revelation. He actually starts to feel something while he's playing. He also starts to show some compassion and empathy for the two instructors who have gone out of their way for him, and who had faith in him. This book has a very satisfying ending. There is hope for Penn! BTW, this book is also very funny.

Rachel says

One of my all-time favorite books, it can always make me laugh.

Sincerae says

Patrick Pennington is a typical rebellious and morose teenager who is viewed with suspicion and dislike by many adults around him because of his long hair. At sixteen he appears older than his age. He gets no support from his parents at home. His father insults and bullies him, and his mother whines and nags. His music teacher Mr. Crocker and his best friend Bates are the only two people in his immediate circle who have a little bit of faith in and sympathy for him.

This is the fifth YA novel by K.M. Peyton that I've read. I really adored her Flambards tetralogy better than this the first in the Pennington series. Nevertheless, Pennington's Last Term is not bad. I didn't have much sympathy for Pennington at first, but by the last third of the book I did like his character a little better. Instead of appearing as little more than a hooligan, the better aspects of Pennington's character appears in the final part of the novel. While reading the novel early on I decided that I wasn't interested in completing the Pennington trilogy, but now I think i might.

Lee Pritchett says

I really enjoyed reading about Pennington's adventures, with his friends in the boat on on his fathers motorbike. The storyline about his piano lessons is inspiring and teaches a good lesson about hard work paying off.

Squeaky says

I read the American edition, *Pennington's Last Term*, which has been laying un-checked out for thirty years in my library. I was drawn to it because I've seen the *Flambards* miniseries on television and read the books. I loved the author's illustrations! I shall have to look for the rest of this series.

On page 154 I questioned the word "desert" as used. I am wrong, again, according to Snopes. Really, how many times must I look this up to learn it??

On page 92, I wondered what kind of motorcycle Penn's father had, it being a 600cc. I did not remember any 600cc bikes from back then, but I find there was a MV Agusta 600 known as the "Black Pig". Some more information on Bikeexif. What do you think?

Fi says

The correct title of this book is Pennington's Seventeenth Summer so not sure why it says otherwise here.

Probably one of the 5 books I most remember reading as a young tween/teen, I still own copies of all the Pennington books now.

Lucie Jane Miller says

Known here as Penningtons Seventeenth Summer

Richard Pierson says

A satisfying tale

A goof schoolboy tale, though a little dated now I fear. Rough tough Pennington is a talented enigma under that tough carapace. Possibly not rough and tough by today's standards and the Beehive school seems more like a public school than a sink comprehensive. But there is enjoyment and satisfaction as all works out well in the end

Tabitha Suzuma says

Favourite childhood author who read my first attempt at a book when I was 17, despite having never met me!

Alex Ankarr says

What a gorgeous glowering antihero Pennington is, Heathcliff-lite for adolescent girls everywhere. He conforms to all the stereotypes - troubled background, unintentionally charismatic, shy around the 'good girl', outrageously gifted and destined for disaster or greatness... Well, so what. Romance lovers like romance, they like the things they like, they know what they like, it's none of your beeswax. It serves as a good template for a lot of current YA, except with a bit less surrogate ego-fondling for the girlies, and considerably better-written.

PP could perfectly well serve as the adolescent version of 'A Word Child's Hilary Burde. No greater accolade exists.

There's just that soupçon of detachment in Peyton's sketching of all her characters, that's probably half the reason she can turn her hand to any genre and never fails to convince. I can't aspire to it - I don't really want to. Too invested, too excitable. But I can certainly admire it.

CLM says

This begins the Patrick Pennington series, and I have to admit this first book (but not the series, by any means, which I adore) may be more appealing to a male reader. The first time I got it out from the library, I couldn't even finish it. In addition, although much of it takes place in a school (usually a big selling point for me), it is a far from happy institution and there is one teacher in particular who is vicious to Patrick (who, admittedly, goads him unbearably).

At times, it seems as if the only redeemable aspect of Patrick is his incredible musical talent (acquired mysteriously, with minimal teaching and despite dreadful parents without culture or even humanity). However, this book is critical because it introduces the reader to Patrick, and he becomes extremely important to Peyton readers later in the series. Persevere, this is a story that gets better with every reread! Anyone with a sullen or underachieving adolescent boy in her life will particularly enjoy.

Sarah says

Read for That Was Then This Is Now post. One of my favorite books from my teen years. Read the full review at:

<http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2013/...>

Jean Mills says

The character of Patrick Pennington - gifted, misunderstood, constantly having to fight for survival against people trying to keep him from pursuing his musical talent - is so real, so head-shakingly right, so

compelling. I've never read another book that makes me root so hard for a character. Also, he's a musician, so I was hooked from the start. K.M. Peyton has the best writing style for YA - unadorned, direct and straight to the heart of the matter. Love this book, and the others in the series. Highly recommend.

Louise Culmer says

Patrick Pennington is a troubled and troublesome teenager in his last year at school. He is good at games, but otherwise indifferent to school. Surprisingly, though, he is good at playing the piano, however reluctantly, and his music teacher, Mr Crocker, hopes he will win an important competition at the end of June. But Penn is his own worst enemy, always in trouble, and runs foul not just of the teachers at school but the police as well. This is a gripping story with great characters; Penn himself, of course, and his friend Bates who sings marvellously, his preference being melancholy folk songs, but can only sing when drunk. K.M. Peyton is a superb writer, and it is always a pleasure to return to the world of Pennington and his friends (and enemies).
