

# BOOK REVIEW

by Michele Lonergan

## “So You’re Gonna Be a Dad - Now What?”

**A**s a mother of three boys, and a book-seller, I welcomed the debut book, “So You’re Gonna Be a Dad - Now What?” by local author, Scott Patchin, with excitement. Finally, a book for new fathers that is neither condescending nor filled with trite one-liners about changing dirty diapers. This slim book reads as if one of your best buddies was sitting next to you dishing out some hard-earned advice on everything from the importance of singing a bedtime lullaby to your child to how to watch the game and interact with your precious infant at the same time. Patchin’s short chapters focus on being a better dad, a better spouse, and surviving the “joys” of parenting. The author shares stories from his own experiences raising four sons which succinctly and poignantly illustrate the simple acts of love that lie at the heart of good parenting. Patchin includes questions at the end of each chapter for the reader to further ruminate on the topic and there is also room to journal one’s feelings. Planned as the first book in a series to be called “Moments Series for Fathers,” the book is abundant with humor, practicality, and emotional truth. Patchin’s advice is right on target (especially the ‘sharing duties’ chapter!) and his experience in the trenches qualifies him as a mentor to a generation of young fathers.

This would make the perfect gift for new dads for Father’s Day (or any day). It should be noted that this book could be read in one sitting, in between changing that diaper and getting up to pace the floor in the wee hours.



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