

Review

The Notebook, Nicholas Spark

Anagha Joy

Freelance Researcher, Telangana 500089, India

Abstract

'Romance, miracle and everlasting love'.

The Notebook by Nicholas Spark explores an enduring love story that captures the heart of the readers. The story is loaded with twists and turns, laughter, romance, tragedy and affirms in true love with an unusual climax. 'The Notebook' is a story of teens that loved each other but got separated on account of parents and World War II. Noah, 31 is haunted by his lost love along with the imprinted memories. Allie is about to marry an affluent lawyer, but her heart is for Noah. The confusion and dilemma in Allie for choosing her life partner is a treat of intrigue to the readers. It is one of the love stories that get you caught in, and you cannot put it down until the very end. This whole story is a backtrack of past love. The advancement of this love matures and imbibes the husband with care and compassionate love for his wife who has had a memory lapse. This book is a story which turns tragedy to triumph and highlights the power of the miracle. A love story that underwent varied circumstances but withstood the love for each other till the very end. The plot line of this novel is not about falling in love, but of the love that enables to overcome the adversities in their life. This book just renews and reinforces the faith of love.

Keyword: Love, backtrack, rendezvous, marriage

BOOK REVIEW

"You are, and always have been, my dream."

— Nicholas Sparks, *'The Notebook'*

Nicholas Charles Sparks' first published novel 'The Notebook' is on a feeling of excitement and mystery

associated with love. This book is about Noah and Allie's mesmerizing and everlasting love story. The story is set in North Carolina Coast; Noah comes home after the Second World War. Noah's true love started at the age of sixteen and his reminiscences his childhood love for nearly fourteen long years. After fourteen long years, Allie spots the picture of Noah in a local newspaper three weeks prior to her intended wedding. Her emotions are stirred, and she decides to meet Noah one last time before her wedding. She tells her family and fiancé she is stressed over the wedding plan, so she takes a break and drives to New Bern.

"The reason it hurts so much to separate is that our souls are connected."

The memory of Noah and Allie at Noah's house where they hung out, played and fell in love in the time of their teenage created a sentimental longing and wistful affection for one another. The rendezvous succeeding their fourteen years long waiting ultimately pave the way to resume their relationship. Allie is conscious she is betrothed to Lon, though the souls of Noah and Allie are united. The sight of one another stirred powerful emotion and fond memories and hence Allie had no hesitation in submitting herself to Noah physically as well as mentally. The relationship she holds with Lon is by cause of his social stature and she was loyal to her fiancé but at the bottom of her heart she holds an extra special space for Noah as she felt a sense of something missing in her relationship with Lon. Lon happened to be aware of her past relationship with a lower class young man, and her arrival at New Bern made him a skeptic. Anne her mother turns up earlier than the arrival of Lon, warns the two and hand over the letters which Noah has been writing after their separation. There is a confusion engulfed with curiosity for the readers whether to empathize with Noah or Lon or to

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sympathize with Allie who is caught in between the two to decide her life partner. Allie is in a dilemma to choose between the two young men. Lon knew her past relationship but was still willing to marry her. Allie realizes she belongs to Noah and eventually returns to Noah. The twists and turns in the plot bring an intrigue to the readers to proceed with the novel.

The commencement of the novel at the nursing home with an old man reading to an old lady, his wife, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer and doesn't recognize him. The whole novel is a back track of past teenage love and highlights the beginning of adult love resulting in marriage. With the advanced in years the love ripens into compassion and a caring husband's love for his wife who has had a memory lapse. She tries to recollect the story that is read to her every day by the old man at the same time she is clueless that it is their love story. One evening while they were dining she tried to recollect the story retold again and again by the old man and tries to arrive at a conclusion as to whom she chooses as her life partner at the spur of the moment; she smiled wistfully remembering the happy times and she embraced her husband which was transient for four hours. There is a panic followed by hallucination, and she forgets Noah again. The nurses sedate her and Noah has a stroke. When he recovers he goes to meet Allie late at night. She wakes up and recognizes Noah and they both kiss and fall asleep besides each other.

This book deals with a realistic view of love and not a fantasy. Mr. Sparks has a way of writing Prose with the inculcation of Poetry which exemplifies the quality of the book. Reading this give rise to the flavor of passionate and everlasting love; it is thought provoking to understand the struggle one goes through one's life but what so ever may be the circumstance the couple stayed supporting each other which made it very memorable and a wonderful read... A quote from the story sums it up: *"What are we after all our dreams, after all our memories?"* This book is a mixture of tragedy, laughter, love, and obstacles the couple face which enrich their love to grow stronger: a created long lasting memory to cherish for the characters as well as the readers.

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Notebook_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Notebook_(novel))

[2] The Notebook (Novel)