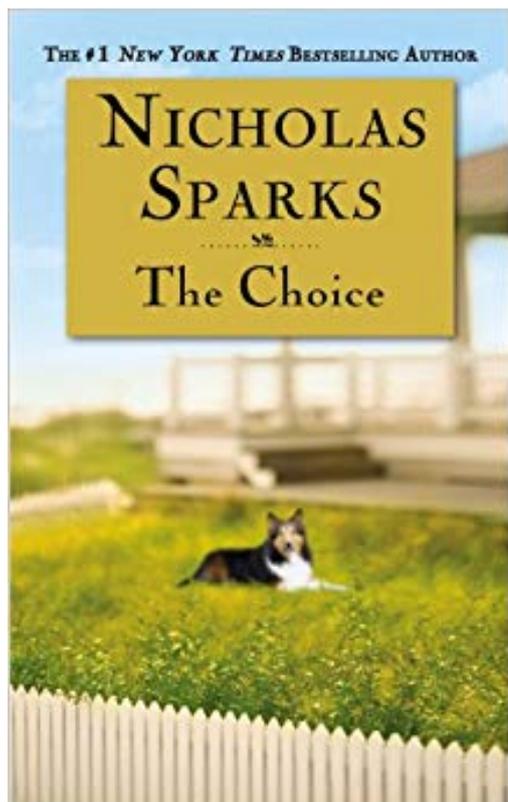


The Choice *by* Nicholas Sparks



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In this deeply moving #1 New York Times bestseller, Nicholas Sparks turns his unrivaled talents to a tale about love found and lost, and the choices we hope we'll never have to make. Travis Parker has everything a man could want: a good job, loyal friends, even a waterfront home in small-town North Carolina. In full pursuit of the good life - boating, swimming, and regular barbecues with his good-natured buddies -- he holds the vague conviction that a serious relationship with a woman would only cramp his style. That is, until Gabby Holland moves in next door. Spanning the eventful years of young love, marriage and family, THE CHOICE ultimately confronts us with the most heart-wrenching question of all: how far would you go to keep the hope of love alive?



Reviews of the *The Choice* by Nicholas Sparks

Goltizuru

I am rather mystified here by all the five star reviews. I know Sparks is a popular author and I have read a couple of his novels in the past and, as I recall, found them enjoyable. But this one fell flat for me. There was no attempt at a meet-cute or snappy dialog. Nothing interesting happened in the first half -- some internal angst, as in all romance novels, but the characters are rather bland and you

know where it is going and don't really care. Some potentially interesting parts of the story (e.g. a difficult confrontation or dealing with a batch of puppies), are left out completely -- you know what happened, but you don't see it. On the other hand, details of long day of doing nothing with several friends and having many rambling conversations are stretched to the breaking point. None of the friends or secondary characters are ever fleshed out beyond being tall or Italian or plump, and, in fact, I never felt either of the main characters had much depth, nor did I particularly like either of them. I considered giving up several times, but soldiered on. It was an easy read, yet it took me longer to read than most books just because I was so ambivalent about picking it back up. Then, at about the 60% mark, there is a change of pace and the story gets interesting, even though told in loops and stops and starts, but again, the style was so bland it was hard to really care. Overall I just wanted it to end. (Someone else remarked that the constant use of past perfect tense was tiresome. I didn't notice this specifically -- I am only barely aware of what past perfect tense even is -- but perhaps this is what made for the slobby feel of the prose.) I usually love seeing a movie after a book, but I think I'll skip it this time, even though the movie has GOT to be better.

Nkeiy

That pretty much sums up this book... before I delve deeper into what inspired me and what didn't and why I gave this book 3 stars, let me repeat that the book is worth reading although there is a lot of "filler" that I think could have been avoided had the author been more creative in telling a longer story. Toward the end, I found myself skimming a lot to get to the point... something I don't like to do!

***** Warning - Plot Spoilers from here on *****

I pretty much read this book straight through, but I did find myself putting it down more often than I normally would because there were a lot of parts that seemed to be simply extraneous bits to fill out the novel. Quite honestly, those parts became boring; especially toward the end of the novel where we needed the story to move forward.

That said, Nicholas Sparks is a great romantic writer... one of the best I've read and I found myself laughing, rooting for the protagonists, and more than a few times with a tear in my eye! At first you think the title "The Choice" is going to be about Gabby choosing between Travis and Kevin, but soon enough the reader realizes that it has to be Travis because there is hardly any character buildup of Kevin and what is mentioned is warm, but not enough to make you cheer for him in any way at all. The Prologue gives us a sense of this as well, though still leaving the reader uncertain. You wonder what exactly happened and did it have to do with Gabby's choice. The Author does a great job of creating suspense without being too cumbersome, however in this case, it is far too drawn out... particularly in Part II.

I'm a stickler for continuity of story as well... when there are glaring mistakes in a book, it distracts from my enjoyment and there are two huge holes for me.

1. When Travis first invites Gabby out with his friends and their kids, it's on Saturday and they spend the day parasailing on the boat, and then he and Gabby end up having a grilled shrimp dinner alone where he invites her on a motorcycle ride the next day (Sunday). After the ride which would be at minimum late afternoon considering all that happened, including lunch etc., he asks Gabby out to dinner for the following evening, which would be Monday. She counters by offering to cook dinner for him at her house which he accepts. Then...all of a sudden it's Sunday again... this is the type of thing that gets in my head in a novel and brings me out of the story because I'm stuck on the glaring fact that the weekend all of a sudden has three days, two of which are "Sunday."

2. This is minor, but still any author worth reading who wants a reader immersed in the story does adequate research on what they write about. In the novel, Travis is reminiscing about a vacation he and Gabby took to Cancun and he mentions they visited "Aztec" ruins. Most anyone who knows anything about Cancun and the Mayan Peninsula, knows it's just that... "Mayan" ruins. The Aztec Empire was located to the north in what is now Central Mexico and Mexico City.

Finally, an Epilogue is a final comment or conclusion to a book and in this case the epilogue should have been the final chapter. It doesn't read like an epilogue at all in my mind... it's a continuation of the story... not a comment or final conclusion. I'm not a writer nor a literary critic, but the obvious point in calling it that was to continue the suspense and buildup of the actual choice which was, as we find out, centered around Travis' decision to continue Gabby's life support instead of honoring her living will. This again is very predictable though... even if Gabby had ended up dying, it would not have been due to this choice as the book never really lead us to believe Travis would make that decision...there was only one choice for him and if Gabby ended up dying, it would not be because Travis chose to end her life support... this sort of took a lot of the intensity out of the book for me and lessened the final impact of her coming out of the coma. However... the title is "The Choice" so there it is!!

With all this said.... the one thing I enjoyed more than anything about this book was the way the author described the love between Travis and Gabby with such sweetness and emotion. Anyone who has ever been in love can relate! Nicholas Sparks is the master of putting that feeling into words with such a delicacy and intimacy that it stirs the heart like not many writers do... at least for me! The other part of the book I really enjoyed was the "push-pull" dialog between Travis and Gabby... it was very well written, undeniably witty, and you could see them falling in love bit by bit - or possibly realizing bit by bit how deeply affected or already in love they were.... And that is what makes this book definitely worth reading!!!

Erthai

Seems Taylor is always in the right place at the right time. As the story opens Taylor rescues Denise, whose car has skidded off the road in the swamp during a severe storm, but her four year old son is no where to be found near the car. With twenty men searching, Taylor discovers the boys several hours later. His relationships have been one rescue after another, only to drop the relationship when the next damsel appears in distress. The problem is Taylor needs to be rescued from his own past, and only he can do it.

Rindyt

I love Nicholas Sparks. So when I heard about there was another movie being made about one of his books, I had to get it and read it. I read the book fairly quick and I am sitting here trying to figure out what happen. It moves fast. They "fall in love" in like three days. And that's it for the first part. Then it moved on to telling about The Choice Travis is forced to make. And then the result of that. It's like a blink and it moved on.

I didn't feel there was good depth of the characters. And to be honest, I felt no chemistry. I have to say I am disappointed in the book, but I will watch the movie anyways.

EXIBUZYW

A beautiful love story like this happens only to a few people in this world. Nicholas Sparks is a wonderful author of great books which have been made into a lot of good movies - he makes you feel everything in your spirit and soul, which is rare in a author. He touches our souls with this movie, and several others like The Notebook. However, to me, this movie is better than the book. The actors selected for The Choice were perfect for their roles. Love them both. The town of Beauford, North Carolina is the perfect background setting and the scenes are awesome (sun setting on the lake, watching the moon and stars from his island). I've watched this movie three times and learn something different each time I watch it. Thanks for this beautiful movie. We need more like this one - especially in this day and age.

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