1. The Biography of Nicholas Sparks

Nicholas Sparks is an American screenwriter and novelist, born on 31st December 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. The second son of Patrick Michael (1942-1996) and Jill Emma Marie Sparks (1942-1989). His siblings are Michael Earl Sparks, and Danielle Sparks. Nicholas spent the early part of his childhood moving around with his family as his father finished up his graduate work. They lived in Minnesota, then Los Angeles, later Grand Island, Nebraska, and finally Fair Oaks, California, where the Sparks clan found a permanent home.
Nicholas went on to graduate from high school there in 1984, graduating valedictorian of his class and earning notice as a middle-distance runner. He accepted a full athletic scholarship to the University of Notre Dame and set a school record as part of a relay team, but he found himself hampered by an Achilles tendon injury the summer after his freshman year. With time on his hands and little to do but recover, Nicholas wrote his first novel, The Passing, which was never published. According to Nicholas, it will never be, but the experience began to hone his writing skills. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1988.

Nicholas Sparks and his wife Catherine, who met on spring break in 1988, were married on July 22, 1989. Sparks lives in New Bern, North Carolina with his family. They have five children — sons Miles, Ryan, Landon, and twin daughters Lexie and Savannah. He contributes to a variety of local and national charities, and is a major contributor to the Creative Writing Program (MFA) at the University of Notre Dame, where he provides scholarships, internships, and a fellowship annually. Along with his wife, he founded The Epiphany School in New Bern, North Carolina. As a former full scholarship athlete (he still holds a track and field record at the University of Notre Dame) he also spent four years coaching track and field athletes at the local public high school.

Nicholas Sparks is one of the world’s most beloved storytellers. All of his books have been New York Times bestsellers, with over 97 million copies sold
worldwide, in more than 50 languages, including over 65 million copies in the United States.

Sparks wrote his first novel in 1985 which never got published and another one in 1989, also not published. Sparks experimented with various careers trying to fit in but didn’t succeed. After trying his luck in publishing, law school, real estate and even waiting tables, he finally co wrote a novel named ‘A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding’ with Billy Mills Wokini. It sold about fifty thousand copies in the first year of being published. In 1992 he tried a business in pharmaceuticals and the next year moved to Greenville, SC. That was when he wrote his renowned novel ‘The Notebook’.

his books published with Warner Books/ Grand Central Publishing. All were domestic and international best sellers, and his work has been translated into more than 35 languages.

2. Summary of the Novel

Noah begins by saying that he is eighty years old, that he does not regret any of the paths he has chosen to travel, and that the paths today are more rocky than those of years ago. He describes his day in the nursing home. He says that he picks up a notebook that he has read many times and passes many doors. The people inside - like he - have gotten accustomed to being alone with only a television for company, and that a person can get used to anything. He reaches a particular room and goes inside where he is greeted by nurses caring for a woman who is obviously upset. Noah says mornings are always difficult and she will calm down later when the nurses have gone. Noah knows the odds and science are both against him, and that he simply hopes for a miracle. Believing in prayer as he does, he takes time to pray as he opens the book, puts on glasses and picks up a magnifying glass, and prepares to read.

The notebook is the story of Noah and Allie, two who were lovers as teenagers in a summer romance, but her family and the socio-economic realities of the time prevent them from being together. Then they were separated by Allie's parents who felt Noah wasn't the best man for her. Noah attempts to keep in contact
with Allie after they are forced to separate, he writes letters to Allie over the years, but Allie's mother with holds them and Allie assumes Noah has forgotten her. His letters go unanswered. Eventually, Noah professes his undying and eternal love in one final letter. Noah travels north to find gainful employment and to escape the ghost of Allie. He joins the military and eventually he goes off to war. inherits money from a previous employer that allows him to buy a historic house and repair it.

A newspaper article about his endeavor catches Allie's eye. 14 years after she last saw Noah, Allie comes to visit him. Three weeks from her wedding date but seemingly unable to marry without seeing Noah one more time. The only problem is she is engaged to another man, Lon. After spending two wonderful reunion days together with Noah, Allie leaves but realizes she can't love anyone like she loves Noah but she doesn’t want to hurt Lon because she loves him too. And Allie must decide between the two men that she loves.

This is the story Noah reads to Allie and occasionally she responds to him, though the medical professionals say her response is impossible. On a particular day, Noah reads the story and Allie asks which man the woman in the story chooses. She confesses that she doesn't know Noah and doesn't know her own name. They talk for hours with Allie later saying she knows which of the two the woman in the story picked, though she doesn't seem yet to equate that story with herself. Noah admits that it breaks his heart that she doesn't know him, but that these days are much better
than the days in which he tried to make her remember. He says that on those days, they'd both be exhausted with him answering questions and her anguish at having lost everything, including memories of her children.

Through their lives, the two have written letters to each other and these provide memories for Noah. He likens living this near Allie without ever again being able to fully possess her love to the relationship between day and night, combined at dusk but never quite touching.

Then Noah suffers a stroke and for a while it seems he might not survive. When he does return to the nursing facility where he and Allie have lived since the onset of her Alzheimer's, he wants to see her. It's their forty-ninth anniversary but it's also against the rules for him to visit her at night. He tries to sneak past the nurse station. He is confronted by a nurse who is touched by his love for Allie and who turns her head as he shuffles past. When he reaches her room, he finds Allie in bed in her room, asleep. He vows not to wake her but does anyway. When she sees him, there's a light of recognition in her eyes and tells him that she loves him. They kiss and fall asleep next to each other, believing their love will take them away together.