

The Last Song, the Lasting Song

The Last Song, by Nicholas Sparks, is one of the best books I have ever read. Sparks is an extremely experienced storyteller at describing love that works in all kinds of mysterious yet magical ways. Relationships are common, but having a feeling that you remember for the rest of your life is a rare thing. Being a teenager myself, I find this story especially meaningful because it shows us typical teenage behavior and the awkwardness between our family and ourselves during this period. It shows that teenagers and adults alike have all the more to learn than meets the eye. Sparks has indeed succeeded in reaching out to readers' tender hearts by spinning a moving story, tactfully adding a touch of family love.

The story revolves around Ronnie, who turned rebellious after her parents' divorce. She even refused to speak to her father for three years. Her mom decided it would be best for Ronnie and her younger brother to stay with their father for a summer, in North Carolina, U.S.

At the beginning of her stay, Ronnie still stubbornly ignores her father, and even more horrible, finds other horrid teenagers and hangs out with them. Luckily, she soon meets the good-natured Will, and as their relationship increases, Ronnie finds her heart slowly opening to things surrounding her, and is also more willing to talk to her father. But a day comes when she discovers her father's heartbreaking secret. Determined to stay with her father to the last moment, Ronnie desperately wants to make amends for all the wrong things she did. The story, though sad, comes to a stop at a more heartwarming conclusion.

The touching part in this book I like the most is that when Ronnie's father was dying, Ronnie played a significant song on the piano for him. It was the song he had been composing all along, and had meant to share with Ronnie, since he knew how much she had loved playing the piano in her childhood. Though he never finished the song, Ronnie knew about it and worked hard to give him something special, something that would make him feel his life was fulfilled. By miracle, she finished the song her father had been writing before he got sick, and played the precious piece that was father and daughter's "last song". I speculate that when Ronnie composed the song, it was not only a move to apologize to her father, but also a way to better forgive herself. I admire this part of Ronnie because it shows that she has taken full responsibility for her faults.

In this book, the last song represents the thing that has Ronnie and her father connected by the heart. In a way, it can also be seen as the “lasting song,” because Ronnie will surely continue her father’s memory.

Reading this book made me experience a flood of inexpressible feelings and caused my mind to light up with newfound realizations I had otherwise not known before. Teenagers, with all our vigor and simplicity, are still immature in every possible way. We know nearly nothing of the real world and its dangers, but danger will always find us first and evil will lure us into darkness when we are weakest. So often do we act on impulse that we are sure to make the wrong decisions and waste time regretting what shouldn’t have been. Instead, we should always keep a clear mind and think about our choices carefully. I see that now.

I really like this story, because the author understands our most feeble points. When growing up, we tend to be rebellious and act tough, and eventually we break the hearts of those who really love us. Although we sometimes think our family ignorant, we still know that deep inside our heart, we love them as always. This book is wonderful, because it describes family communication. Teenagers would read it, be touched, and be more than willing to interact with their family; parents would read it and be more understanding and loving to their children. I definitely recommend this book to those who desire both educational and touching stories to read.