**REVIEW OF A WALK TO REMEMBER**



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**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

A Walk to Remember is a novel by American writer Nicholas Sparks, released in October 1999. The novel, set in 1958–1959 in Beaufort, North Carolina, is a story of two teenagers who fall in love with each other despite the disparity of their personalities. A Walk to Remember is adapted in the film of the same name.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Nicholas Sparks waves his magic romance wand once again, this time over the ideal of transformational first love. In A**Walk to Remember**, Landon Carter narrates the flashback story of his senior year in the late 1950s at Beaufort High in Beaufort, North Carolina, when he first discovers the power of love.

The Carters are a family whose wealth was built on a grandfather’s profits from bootlegging. Compounding the lack of strong male figures in Landon’s life is his hypocritical congressman father, who rarely spends time at home. Neglect pushes Landon to develop a rebellious streak, and at the start of the story he is both adrift and certain, confident and susceptible to peer opinion in other words, a typical teenager. There is more than a touch of Holden Caulfield in his character when he encounters Jamie Sullivan, the daughter of a local minister and the goody-two-shoes of the school. Jamie is such social poison to Landon’s insecure circle that he avoids her at all costs, until, as the newly elected class president desperate for a date to the dance, he asks her, certain that she’ll be available. She accepts, and that night Jamie helps Landon out of an embarrassing bind, revealing a strong character that intrigues him despite her relentless and isolating Christianity.

After Jamie asks Landon to star in the school’s Christmas play, a town tradition which her father instituted, he develops a gradual and reluctant relationship with her. They rehearse, they walk home, they talk; when opening night arrives and Landon sees Jamie in an angelic costume, he realizes that he’s fallen in love. Bewildered and ecstatic, they nurture their feelings until Jamie reveals the secret that forces Landon to realize what he holds most dear despite what fate has handed them.

Sparks is a modern master of fateful love stories and road-not-taken fables written in uncluttered prose. **A Walk to Remember** is perfect autumn fiction, when thoughts turn to changes and life’s journeys, both mapped and unmapped.

I'm sure many of you know what the majority of Nicholas Sparks's books are: tearjerkers which aim to make the reader fall in love with the novel, only to cry at the end. A Walk to Remember was the first Nicholas Sparks book I had ever read, and it was just about perfect.

This novel is a bit of twisted take on your average romance novel. Instead of the good girl falling for the bad boy, it's more of the other way round. Landon Carter, your average high school ruffian is not in the slightest the kind of boy you would expect to like Jamie Sullivan, the quiet girl who always carries around a Bible with her school books. Nevertheless, destiny has a habit of bringing people who are secretly perfect for each other together.

What I found interesting is that it was written from Landon's perspective. Very few romance novels that I've read have been from the male perspective, let alone someone like Landon. Nevertheless, the way that Sparks has portrayed Landon through the first person narrative allows the reader to see how Landon really feels rather than the way he acts outwardly.

Jamie is a lovely character, the kind of person you'd want to have as a best friend, and by the end of the novel, Landon is the perfect gentleman. There are no two people in a novel that I have ever wanted more to end up together.

I admit I'd seen the 2002 movie before I read the book, so I already knew the story, but I knew the saying 'the book is always better than the film', so of course I had to read it too! I can't think of much to write for this review, because it's hard to criticize a book I enjoyed so much. It's such an easy book to get caught up in, and I didn't want to put it down until I'd found out what happened between Landon and Jamie.

A Walk to Remember truly is a beautiful book. It's a touching feel-good book with a bittersweet ending which is easy to fall in love with. I'm sure it's not the kind of book which will appeal to everyone, but I would wholly recommend it to anyone and everyone. I'm so glad I read this book, and will probably re-read it many more times!

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