

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE LAST SONG

By Nicholas Sparks

Grand Central Publishing Hardcover

Publication date: September 8, 2009

Price: \$24.99/ ISBN: 978-0-446-53489-5

FOR INTERVIEW CONTACT:

Edna Farley 954/772-0865

ednafarley@aol.com

CONTACT: Jennifer Romanello

212/364-1496

jennifer.romanello@hbgusa.com

Nicholas Sparks

THE LAST SONG

Nicholas Sparks' popularity as one of the world's most beloved storytellers continues to soar.

With eight #1 *New York Times* bestsellers and over 50 million copies of his books in print worldwide, fans everywhere eagerly await the publication of **THE LAST SONG** (Grand Central Publishing, \$24.99) on September 8, 2009. The movie version of **THE LAST SONG**, starring Miley Cyrus will be released by Disney on January 8, 2010. The project will be produced by Disney-based *Hairspray* directors Adam Shankman and Jennifer Gibgot.

THE LAST SONG is a compelling drama of family dynamics; a coming of age story exploring a rebellious teenage girl's romantic awakening and her first encounter with heartbreak.

Seventeen-year-old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller is still angry over her parents' divorce three years earlier when her father moved from New York City, where she lived with her mom, to Wilmington, NC.

-over-

GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

237 Park Avenue New York NY 10017

Tel 212.364.1100 Fax 212.364.0941

Hachette Book Group USA

NEWS FROM GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

She's even more upset when her mother says it would be best for her and her young brother to spend the summer with their father, a former concert pianist and teacher now living a quiet life in a beach town and creating a huge stained glass window to replace one that was the centerpiece of a local church destroyed in a fire. This visit reveals an unforgettable summer about the blossoming of love on all levels—a first love, the love between parents and children, love on the verge of self-maturity—that shows the many ways deeply-felt relationships and connections can break hearts and heal them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nicholas Sparks is the author of 15 *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Three Weeks with My Brother*, the memoir he wrote with his brother, Micah. His books have been translated into more than 40 languages and there are over 50 million copies of his books in print worldwide. Four of his novels have been adapted into major motion pictures, including *The Notebook*, *A Walk to Remember*, *Message in a Bottle*, and *Nights in Rodanthe*. The film adaptation of *Dear John*, starring Channing Tatum will be released by Sony on February 5, 2010. Warner Bros. is scheduled to release the film version of *The Lucky One* in late 2010.

Visit Grand Central Publishing on the Internet

Grand Central Publishing is a division of Hachette Book Group

www.hachettebookgroup.com

GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

237 Park Avenue New York NY 10017

Tel 212.364.1100 Fax 212.364.0941

Hachette Book Group USA

Nicholas Sparks – FORMAL BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Charles Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on December 31, 1965, the second son of Patrick Michael (1942-1996) and Jill Emma Marie (Thoene) Sparks (1942-1989). His siblings are Michael Earl Sparks (b. Dec. 1964), and Danielle Sparks (December 1966 - June 2000). As a child, he lived in Minnesota, Los Angeles, and Grand Island, Nebraska, finally settling in Fair Oaks, California, at the age of eight. His father was a professor, his mother a homemaker, then an optometrist's assistant. He lived in Fair Oaks through high school, graduated valedictorian in 1984, and received a full track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.

After breaking the Notre Dame school record as part of a relay team in 1985 as a freshman (a record which still stands), he was injured and spent the summer recovering. During that summer, he wrote his first novel, though it was never published. He majored in Business Finance and graduated with high honors in 1988.

He and his wife Catherine, who met on spring break in 1988, were married in July 1989. While living in Sacramento, he wrote a second novel that same year, though that novel wasn't published, either. He worked a variety of jobs over the next three years, including real estate appraisal, waiting tables, selling dental products by phone, and starting his own small manufacturing business which struggled from the beginning. In 1990, he collaborated on a book with Billy Mills, the Olympic Gold Medalist, and it was published by Feather Publishing before later being picked up by Random House. (It was recently re-issued by Hay House Books.) Though it received scant publicity, sales topped 50,000 copies in the first year of release.

He began selling pharmaceuticals and moved from Sacramento, California to North Carolina in 1992. In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote *The Notebook* over a period of six months. In October 1995, rights to *The Notebook* were sold to Warner Books. It was published in October 1996, and he followed that with *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True Believer* (2005), *At First Sight* (a sequel to *True Believer*) (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008) and a non-fiction memoir, *Three Weeks With My Brother* (2004), written with his brother, Micah. All of his books were 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. His newest book, *The Last Song*, will be released in September 2009.

The film version of *Message in a Bottle* was released in 1999, *A Walk to Remember* was released in January 2002, *The Notebook*, a New Line feature film, was released in June, 2004, and *Nights in Rodanthe*, starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, was released in September 2008. Two new films are in the works: *Dear John*, starring Channing Tatum, and *The Last Song*, starring Miley Cyrus. Both have tentative release dates of early 2010. Warner Brothers snapped up the rights to *The Lucky One*, with plans to begin filming in late 2009.

Nicholas' ancestry is German, Czech, English and Irish; he's 5'10" and weighs 185 lbs. He is an avid athlete who exercises daily. He attends church regularly and reads approximately 125 books a year. 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, and he spent five years coaching track and field athletes at the local public high school.

Nicholas lives in North Carolina with his wife and family.



Author: Nicholas Sparks
Photo Credit: Alice M. Arthur