

BOOK REVIEW OF NICHOLAS SPARKS' *A WALK TO REMEMBER*

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a creative activity, a series of work of art. In addition, literature, which have various characteristic features such as originality, artistry, beauty in content and expression. Novel, as a form of literature, is simply a fictional story that usually reflects human life, so the readers will get many of moral messages behind the story.

A Walk to Remember, a novel about romantic love story written by Nicholas Sparks, tells the reader how true love begins. The problem in this novel is when Landon started to fall in love for Jamie Sullivan, he began to learn the truth that the woman he dearly loved suffered from a pain. The story in this novel is very touching and has a lot of meaning in each story. The reason why the writer reviews the book for her final project is to introduce the readers about the meaning of true love through this novel.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to review the Nicholas Sparks' novel *A Walk to Remember*, and to explain three intrinsic aspects of the novel, namely character, theme and setting. In addition, the strengths of the novel, the theme of love its effects will also be discussed. With this review, the writer wants to give potrait of a love story to the readers.

1.3 Nicholas Sparks and His Works

Based on his official website in www.NicholasSparks.com/, Nicholas Sparks, an American best writer and novelist, that was received a full of track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.

A Walk to Remember was the third novel that Sparks wrote in 2000 which was published by Warner Books and Grand Central. He already published eighteen novels and two non-fiction books.

2. SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

When Landon was 17 years old, he met a girl named Jamie Sullivan, one of his friends at school and also the daughter of a pastor, Hegbert Sullivan in Beaufort. Jamie was the girl who always carried the Bible everywhere she went, she always wore a cardigan and skirt with her hair in a bun and ancient look that made none of the students in the school wanted to be friends with her, because Jamie had always been considered strange by her friends. Although none of her friends at school liked her, Jamie still became a good person, she would smile even if she got a strange look from her friends and always helped anyone in need. She was also active in helping children in orphanages.

Landon, the man who once often mocked the outside appearance of Jamie was now harboring feelings for Jamie after further recognizing the girl. He began to not care about the views and opinions of his friends about Jamie.

Jamie revealed that she suffered from leukemia disease. Since that time their happy days began to shroud in sadness. Landon then remembered with thanksgiving to Jamie that the most desirable in life is to get married and was attended by hundreds of people. Weddings were held and attended by hundreds of people who packed the church, that's what made the last days in the life of Jamie to be so perfect.

3. REVIEW OF THE BOOK

3.1 Intrinsic aspects

3.1.1 Theme

The writer founds that love is the main theme in this novel of *A Walk to Remember*. As romantic love lacks serious commitment, it is more prevalent in the teenage and young adult years. Romantic Love results from full of combination along the story where Landon start to fall in love with Jamie.

3.1.2 Plot

Plot is a sequence of events in a cause-effect arrangement of the novel. It is an essential element of a novel. *A Walk of Remember* uses the flashback plot that will further explanation in the strength of the book.

3.1.3 Character

Morner and Rausch define stated that character is “a person in a literary works” (1991:31). Describing character of someone figures can be viewed from many aspects, namely through: Dialog figures, Explanation of figures, and the physical depiction of figures as well as the responses of other characters. All of the characters that we see do not mean that they did antagonist for real in their real life. The characters of *A walk to Remember* discuss are;

3.1.3.1 London Carter

London is the main character in this novel. In the beginning of the novel, London is a trouble-making teenager who likes playing around with his friends. He often goes to parties and drunk. Before he met Jamie, he was a typical playboy who always teases and flirts many women. But once they know each other, the behavior of London changes drastically, even he is willing to sacrifice anything for Jamie. Through the humble and nice girl, Landon learns how to give

without wanting something in return and he also begins to understand what compassion and faith are. Now London becomes polite to everyone and someone that believes in miracles.

3.1.3.2 Jamie Sullivan

Jamie Sullivan is the minor character of this novel. She is devoted Christian and always carries the Bible wherever she goes. Jamie is not a popular girl, her tendency to not stand out makes her less attractive and interesting than any other girls in school. She is also full of compassion, understanding, positive and religious.

Though Jamie is the best student in the class, she will not be able to attend college due to her terminal illness. Her only dream is to having a joyful wedding before she dies. In the last year of her life, she helps other people to find the true essence of life, and spend her days surrounded by her family and friends.

3.1.3.3 Hegbert Sullivan

Hegbert Sullivan is Jamie's father and he is the local Baptist minister. He is very protective of Jamie and doesn't like Landon or his family. This man didn't like so much to London, because he know who London is. Everytime London comes to their house, Hegbert only allows London to sit and chat outside with Jamie, he is also always keeps an eye on movement of London from inside the house. As time goes by, London shows Hegbert that he is serious and responsible which is manage to soften Hegbert's heart and finally he is given the permission to take Jamie's hand in marriage.

3.1.3 Setting

Setting is needed in every part of story, because it is background for the story. Setting helps with plot, determines and describes character also provides a landscape that binds everything into context and meaning.

3.1.3.4 Setting of Place

The story's setting of a walk to remember is taken place in Beaufort High school, Beaufort, North Carolina. The second place is also intens mostly takes place in the orphanage. The third place is in the Jamie's house, where Jamie is treated and Landon who always faithful to accompany her.

3.1.3.5 Setting of Time

This novel about Landon telling of his past, in Beaufort, North Carolina forty years ago, in 1958, where in North Carolina is developing: roads narrow and some become gravel, suburban sprawl has been replaced with farmland. It was summer that occurred in the month of April to October.

3.1.3.6 Social setting

Social setting in this novel we can see from the life of Landon and Jamie who live in different environments. In the story shown that Jamie and Hegbert Sullivan comes from an ordinary family, in contrast to Landon who comes from rich family. Both Landon and his mother have a good sense of fashion. Landon's mother is also smart in choosing home properties. It can be seen from their nice and luxurious home property.

3.2 Strengths of the Book

Strength in this book lies on two things which are plot and moral value of the story.

3.2.1 Plot

The first strength of this book is the plot of the story is well described. The plot of this story is flashback. Appropriate to the title of the novel *a walk to remember*, at the beginning of the story, Landon who is fifty-seven years old recounted memories of his past while living in Beaufort.

3.2.2 Moral Value of the Story

There are many moral values that were so thoughtful, touching and very useful for readers, namely live in love and respect each other, loyalty and religious message.

4. CONCLUSION

A walk to remember is a romantic novel by Nicholas Sparks. This novel also known as best-selling and even have made the film version. In addition to the romantic, the story is truly touching novel where innocent girl, geeky, kindly, patient, full of compassion, understanding, positive and religious, named Jamie Sullivan for the first time falls in love with Landon Carter, the main character, who rich and famous that always making trouble.

Nicholas Sparks', *A Walk to remember*, has some strenghts. It presents an interesting plot and moral value. The plot in this novel is well described. The plot of this story is flashback. It is appropriate to the title of the story. At the beginning of the story tells how Landon Carter who remembers about how he meets with Jamie Sullivan until he falls in love with her. Landon always remembers about Jamie and never forgets his memories with her. In addition, *A walk to remember* by Nicholas Sparks having good moral value such as: teaching people to live in love and respect each other. Loyalty is the second moral that we can learn from this novel. Through this main character, Landon shows his sacrifice to Jamie. Although Jamie is dying, Landon still faithful to accompony her, even he marries Jamie. Beside, the religious message contained there in was very touching, where Jamie has been aware Landon to trust in God and miracles.

This romantic novel, is a recommended book to read by the readers. The novel has a lot of meaning messages that are very touching.

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