

Dear John

Nicholas Sparks

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I believe that this is another incredible piece of work by Nicholas Sparks, who happens to be one of my favorite authors. This book revolves around three main features – love, responsibility and sacrifice. One of the main characters, John Tyree, a rebellious, typical bad boy who made the decision to drop out of school and enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces. During John's leave at home, by pure coincidence he met a beautiful 22 year old woman, named Savannah Lynn Curtis. As they began to see each other more and more often, Savannah started to make John feel worthy again; he was able to be reassured that someone did care about him. He knew that she was nothing short of his dream girl. After a short two weeks of nothing but pure bliss and romance between the two, their time together had become to an end due to John having to go back to duty for another year. Savannah was so deeply in love with John, she knew that she wanted to wait for John to get back. They both had agreed to write each other letters the entire time, explaining everything going on in their lives, even the smallest of details; no secrets and no hiding anything. This explains where the title *Dear John* originated from. During the hardships encountered between the two while John was on duty, Savannah wrote John a devastating letter breaking up with him; John was heartbroken. After John returned home, the woman of his dreams was now married to a man that wasn't him, and he is faced with one of the hardest decisions of his life.

One of my favorite things about this book is how realistic it is to love. Love is very rarely a perfect fairy tale story, and *Dear John* does a great job at showing that. This book shows the good, the bad and the ugly – all aspects of raw love. The type of love John and Savannah had was passionate, genuine, and extremely wholehearted. I also recommend the movie *Dear John* that is related to the novel. I am very familiar with both.

I think the only thing that I disliked a little about the book, was the un-happy ending – which is typical with Nicholas Spark's books. I think when someone reads a love story, they expect a fairy tale ending; which is what I expected. However, it is nice to see a change in the typical type of romances that I read, with the usual happy endings.

I think that this book is aimed more towards teenager/young-adult girls, but it is a great read for anyone at any age. I believe that *Dear John* would be an absolutely wonderful gift to a young girl. Some similar books I would certainly recommend: *The Last Song*, *The Best of Me*, and *The Lucky One* – all written by Nicholas Sparks.