

# Biography



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*Photo Credit: Nina*

Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. All of his books have been *New York Times* bestsellers, with over 89 million copies in print worldwide, in over 50 languages, including over 50 million copies in the United States alone, and his popularity continues to soar.

Sparks wrote one of his best-known stories, *The Notebook*, over a period of six months at age 28. It was published in 1996 by Warner Books. He followed with the novels *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) and its sequel, *At First Sight* (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008), *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), *The Best of Me* (2011), and *The Longest Ride* (2013), as well as the 2004 non-fiction memoir *Three Weeks With My Brother*, co-written with his brother Micah.

*Safe Haven*, filmed in Southport, North Carolina is scheduled for release on February 14, 2013, and marks Sparks's eighth film adaptation, following *The Lucky One*, *Message in a Bottle*, *A Walk to Remember*, *The Notebook*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Dear John* and *The Last Song*, which thus far have a cumulative worldwide gross of nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars.

Sparks lives in North Carolina with his family. 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. As a former full scholarship athlete (he still holds a track and field record at the University of Notre Dame) he also spent four years coaching track and field athletes at the local public high school. In 2009, the team he coached at New Bern High School set a World Junior Indoor Record in the 4 x400 meter, in New York. The record still stands. [Click Here](#) to watch the Runner's World video with Nicholas.

In 2011, Nicholas and his wife launched the Nicholas Sparks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to improving cultural and international understanding through global education experiences for students of all ages. Between the foundation, and the personal gifts of Nicholas and Catherine Sparks, more than \$10 million dollars have been distributed to deserving charities, scholarship programs, and projects. Because Nicholas and Catherine Sparks cover all operational expenses of the foundation, 100% of donations are devoted to programs.

On April 19-22, 2012, he launched the inaugural Nicholas Sparks Celebrity Family Weekend and Golf Tournament in New Bern, North Carolina, a weekend devoted to raising awareness and funds for the Foundation. Sparks and his family hosted stars from the worlds of sports, music, movies and television, along with fans, for a full calendar of events, raising over \$500,000.

NICHOLAS SPARKS

