



A Bend in the Road

Nicholas Sparks

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Miles Ryan's life seemed to end the day his wife was killed in a hit-and-run accident two years ago. Missy had been his first love, and Miles fervently believes she will be his last. As a deputy in the North Carolina town of New Bern, Miles Ryan not only grieves for Missy, but also longs to bring the unknown driver to justice. Then Miles meets Sarah Andrews. The second grade teacher of his son, Jonah, Sarah had left Baltimore after a difficult divorce to start over in the gentler surroundings of New Bern. Perhaps it's her own emotional wounds that make her sensitive to the hurt she first sees in Jonah's eyes, and then his father's. Tentatively, Sarah and Miles reach out to each other. Soon they are both laughing for the first time in years . . . and falling in love. Neither will be able to guess how closely linked they are to a shocking secret -- one that will force them to question everything they ever believed in . . . and make a heartbreaking choice that will change their lives forever.

A Bend in the Road Details

Date : Published April 1st 2005 by Grand Central Publishing (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780446696135

Author : Nicholas Sparks

Format : Paperback 341 pages

Genre : Romance, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary

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From Reader Review A Bend in the Road for online ebook

Caroline says

Surely the Danielle Steele set must rejoice whenever Sparks churns out a new book. While this was not the worst Sparks book I've ever read (there, I've admitted it - I've read more than one), that is a pretty low bar. I cannot even believe I read this. Not only do I not remember why I picked this book up, I cannot remember the ending. Suggestion: skip this book and save a few hours of your life; put it to good use gardening, playing with your children, or better yet, choosing a good author who doesn't insult your sensibilities with his writing.

Ena Hase?i? says

3+

Svi znaju za Milesa i Missy. Srednjoškolska ljubav, divan brak i jedan sin, Jonah. No, jednog dana se sve mijenja. Miles ostaje udovac nakon što Missy pronalaze mrtvu pored obližnje ceste. Ne zna se ko je kriv za njenu smrt, a dvije godine nakon toga Miles još uvijek traga za krivcem. Jednog dana se u njegovom životu pojavljuje Sarah, Jonahom u?iteljica i on polako kre?e dalje... sve dok se ne pojave novi dokazi o po?iniocu.

Roman je vrlo jednostavno pisan, ima svega nekoliko likova i radnju koja te?e bez nekih pretjeranih obrata. U pojedinim dijelovima romana uba?ena su pisma po?inioca u kojima on pri?a svoju stranu pri?e. Moram re?i da sam oko polovine romana znala o kome je rije?, a kada je Sparks napokon otkrio ko je to, nisam se nešto posebno iznenadila :) likovi su prili?no mlaki, katakterizacija je mogla biti bolja, pa se zbog toga nisam nešto posebno zbližila sa likovima i njihovim životima. Pozitivna strana ovog romana je pitanje koje otvara: Šta uraditi kada ve? kao mlad ostaneš bez voljene osobe? Kako preživjeti i krenuti dalje?

Mislim da bi ovaj roman, kao i svi Sparksovi, bio odli?an predložak za film. Moram priznati da se on do sada pokazao kao odli?an pisac scenarija za filmove, a romana ve? manje-više. Lijepe su to ljubavne pri?e, ali u isto vrijeme veoma jednostavne koje u meni ne bude velike emocije.

Chipper says

This novel was like reading the Cliff Notes of an epic love story, MINUS the analysis and depth you might find in Cliff Notes and MINUS the well-developed and fascinating characters, settings and dialogue you might find in an epic love story. Based upon my reading of this book, nobody will be reading Nicolas Sparks 100 years from now and I refuse to waste any more of my limited time on Earth reading words slapped together by him and bound under the pretense of actually being a novel.

The SECOND BEST thing about A Bend in the Road is that it was only 368 pages (with medium-large type) and it was over quickly. In spite of this, I'm still surprised I finished it. The few times I did put it down, I threw it down disgusted by his formulaic writing style, predictable plot lines and pathetic dialogue.

The BEST thing about A Bend in the Road is that one month - maybe even one week - from now, I won't be able to remember a damn thing about it. No aspect of this book is memorable and essentially every aspect of it is utterly forgettable.

Maria Clara says

Más bien un tres y medio tirando a cuatro :)

A veces, sencillamente, lees lo que tu alma necesita en ese momento. Es una comunión única, una lazo invisible que anhela como un suave bálsamo esas palabras escritas, que tus ojos recorren. No voy a decir que esta sea una gran novela, ni que se me ha encogido el corazón, no, pero, como he dicho al principio, una a veces solo necesita una suave ola de calor.

Piyangie says

A weak plot but somehow the characters kept me going. I wonder it is the choice of his books that I have read or his writing that I cannot come to like his works.

Diane says

Great read! a romantic storyline with a twist also heartwarming and endearing (paperback!)

Christine says

What does a man do when the love of his life is killed by a hit and run driver while jogging? And this love of his life is not only his childhood sweetheart, but also his wife and mother of his son, Jonah. Sheriff Miles Ryan felt he died the night his wife Missy was fatally struck, but was determined to find her killer and spent the next two years focused on investigating every lead.

While Miles immersed himself with his search, seven-year-old Jonah suffered. He missed not only his mother, but also his father's attention, causing his school work to suffer. Sarah Andrews, Jonah's teacher, decided to step in to set things right by suggesting Jonah needed tutoring and to her astonishment offered to help him after school, which she wouldn't normally do. She develops a fondness for Jonah and feels an attraction to the handsome sheriff, whom she starts dating. Before long she realizes she is falling in love with Miles, though she knows a relationship is unlikely for he is still in love with his dead wife. But Miles is surprised to find himself falling for Sarah and plans to spend the rest of his life with her.

One night while on patrol, Miles arrests a local for drunk driving. Because this man is on parole, knowing he'll be sent back to jail, he tells Miles he knows who killed Missy, but won't impart that information unless Miles lets him off. Though it was wrong, but needing to know the truth about Missy's death, Miles goes against the rules to get this information. Only thing, the information is wrong and Miles goes after the wrong man--a man who has been a thorn in his side for years. While Miles is seeking vengeance, Sarah learns the truth and realizes she must tell him, but knows that by doing so would kill any chance for them. Sick at heart, she does the right thing, and Miles, feeling betrayed lashes out terminating their relationship.

Mr. Sparks grabs the reader's emotions, enabling them to feel his characters' pain. This is a story that sticks

long after the last page.

Aqsa says

I've enjoyed Nicholas Sparks books in the past (even in the recent months) but this wasn't much. You could predict so much before hand and there wasn't so much of a mystery left. I found out half the mystery by the middle of the book but perhaps I would've liked it better if I hadn't read similar books. Though it wasn't so bad as to be rated 1 or 2 stars, it also wasn't so good as to be 4 or 5 stars.

I believe it could have been much better in a number of ways though.

I won't recommend it but if you want, go for it. It's not a bad one but just not so great for me :)

S. says

Wish I had a dollar for each time a character ran their hands through their hair.

Fizah(Books tales by me) says

“If it’s over, then don’t let the past screw up the rest of your life.”

I read last Sparks book in January, I have watched all the movies and now I am reading books, Yeah cycle is inverted here, There isn’t movie adaption of A bend in the road so I was clueless. It took me 80 pages to feel the Nicholas vibes, It was so different from the other books, MCs were widower and divorcee so this story mostly tackles adults problem which I wasn’t expecting ?

“grown-ups always say that things are complicated.”

This story also had the fair amount of mystery which I kind of guessed after 80% but still, the mystery was well kept. I personally felt that the mystery eats that typical spark’s romance element, I expected a little bit more.

“Sometimes, things don’t work out the way we want them to.”

Characters were well-defined, I felt for both Miles and Sarah, anyone can get easily connect with Miles and Sarah’s past stories and their struggle, I never felt angry on Miles actions, his actions were justifiable, the writing was as usual beautiful.

Alaine says

Some stories don't have happy endings and some do. This one of course can't really have a happy ending because a wife and mother have died. But, this book tells the story of a man's journey through grief, and anyone who has been through the loss of a loved one knows that the pain never ends. Nicholas Sparks did a wonderful job of reminding us of that, it was not a week love story, someone dies, someone else comes along

and they live happily ever after. Instead it spoke clearly of the struggle and inner turmoil of a man wanting to get on with his life but never really being able to let go. He had the flashbacks and constant memories that we all have when going through grief. This aspect of the book was excellent and could not be faulted.

Whilst I loved the character of Sarah I struggled to make that emotional connection to Miles. For me I found him to be a little bit of a typical macho kind of guy and that at times annoyed me. I will say however that it is possible that I had this issue because I listened to this book on audio and sometimes the droning of characters can get on your nerves. This is however the reason I gave the book a rating of 3 (although, it would be 3 1/2 if it were possible) and not higher, I just didn't fall in love with the main character the way that I wanted to.

Miss Kim says

Offically dumped. My love affair is over. Whatever, Mr. Sparks.

M. M. Sana says

This is an awesome book. It has a little bit of romance and a little mystery. It will embed images in your mind that will be hard to escape. Love and forgiveness will have a new meaning in your life. Yes, it does have a little bit of everything. A husband's love, a father's love, a cop in action, romance, mystery... FORGIVENESS! I won't tell you what it is about, because I think you should read it. REALLY!!! Go get it and read it. I never thought a man could write LOVE so well. Love in its purest form.

Alaina Meserole says

A Bend in the Road is a tragedy and a love story. Miles is the police sheriff who also happens to be a young widower. His wife died in a Hit and Run, which he and Jonah (his kid) are still trying to recover from and deal with. When Miles meets Sarah, Jonah's teacher, he starts to think he could find love again. However, not everything is easy for Miles because he's so obsessed with trying to find his wife's killer.. which could somehow put strain on his new and developing relationship with Sarah.

This book was okay. I mean, I did get completely hooked by it because it is a Nicholas Sparks book.. and somehow this guy writes complete gold every now and then. It was pretty interesting until Miles go crazy.. and then it got weird (to me at least). Plus, every now and then you got a section or a chapter form the killer.. and the entire time I just wanted to know their name!

The relationship between Sarah and Miles was okay. It didn't really blow me away or make me smile like a creepy person. The ending kind of felt rushed to me.. or it just seemed like Miles chose Sarah to make Jonah happier in the end? OR SOMETHING? I don't know.. I'm tired and I need coffee!!

Overall, I liked the book. I guess I had higher expectations or just wanted more than what I got from this book. I'm glad that I read it. I wonder if I can read all of his books this year?? On to the next one!

Shana says

Ilse says

Mijn eerste kennismaking met Nicholas Sparks en al meteen een schot in de roos. Het boek werd me aangeraden door een vriendin, ook al ben ik meer gericht op thrillers.

Het boek biedt romantiek, maar niet zo zeemzoet, wel met diepe emoties die je echt kunnen raken. Maar toch kan je in het verhaal ook wel wat spanning terug vinden .. hoe dat juist in elkaar zit, ga ik hier niet vertellen ... dat zullen jullie dan maar zelf moeten ontdekken ?.

Het boek is zeer toegankelijk met een vlotte schrijfstijl en korte hoofdstukken. Ik wou altijd nog net die paar extra pagina's verder lezen ...

Kortom: mijn eerste boek van 2018 is een voltreffer met 5 sterren! Aangenaam verrast!

Syndi says

typical nicholas spark novel. it could be cut 100 pages shorter. i feel like the story line and the twist were build into nonsense with so many plot holes.

but again, it is nicholas spark. i enjoy it and it took me by surprise that i enjoy it. miles is a confusing character. sarah is facinating and jonah deserves a spin off.

Buggy says

Opening Line: *“On the morning of August 29, 1988, a little more than two years after his wife had passed away, Miles Ryan stood on the back porch of his house, smoking a cigarette, watching as the rising sun slowly changed the morning sky from dusky grey to orange.”*

Nicholas Sparks is like comfort food, I always know going in the kind of emotional love story I'm going to get and I can count on being sucked into the lives, loves and heartache of his small town characters. They're written realistically, I mean I feel like I know them, flaws and all and I usually want to move to whatever town it is he's describing. Sure sometimes the stories are predictable and I find that the couple de jour spouts the "I love you's" too soon for my liking or realism's sake but still his stories are always a pleasure to read, which is what keeps me coming back for more.

A BEND IN THE ROAD was a surprise in that it keeps a sense of mystery going throughout, often leaving the main couples love story and allowing us into the mind of the anonymous "bad guy". Slowly unravelling their story until the shocking big reveal at the end. I honestly didn't know how Sparks was going to wrap things up here, his couples doesn't always end up together and that too added to the mystery.

Sheriff's deputy Miles Ryan is still struggling to come to terms with the death of his beloved wife in a hit-and-run accident nearly two years ago. High school sweethearts, theirs was a love destined to last and Miles can't seem to let go of the grief or the fact that as an officer of the law he's been unable to find the person responsible. If it weren't for their young son Jonah it's unlikely that Miles would find the strength to get through the day.

Which brings into play Jonah's second grade teacher Sarah Andrews. When Jonah begins having trouble keeping up in school Sarah offers to tutor him and a tentative relationship begins to form. Sarah is running away from a bad divorce (is there a good one?) and has a few skeletons in her closet as well. Our couple fall in love pretty fast (from one page to the next) and are just beginning to see a real future together when Miles' past comes back, tearing everything apart. Unwilling to let go of his dead wife and obsessed with finding her killer and ultimately closure I can honestly say that I was surprised by events I didn't see coming.

As I hinted at earlier I really enjoyed getting inside the head of the hit-and-run driver and slowly discovering who it was, becoming very sympathetic towards their situation. However I could have done without spending so much time running around with county sheriff Charlie and subsequently the middle parts of this story lagged. Still a recommended read. Cheers!

Kereesa says

A Bend in the Road is about the intersecting lives of Miles Ryan, one of the town's deputies who's lost his wife in a hit and run accident about two years and is now raising his only son Jonah, and Jonah's teacher and recently divorcee Sarah Andrews. Obviously they fall in love, and obstacles, this would be where the 'bend' in the road occurs, fall in their way in this tale of forgiveness and romance.

gag

Right, so I was recommended this book by my co-worker who I made read the Hunger Games, and wanted to see what I'd think of a book she really liked.

Well.

So the book isn't absolutely terrible. The romance is overthetop cheesy, the writing makes me die, and I just didn't care throughout the whole thing. But there were moments where I was entranced, and I liked the book to some degree. I won't be reading anything else by Sparks, probably, but hey it was fun.

For entertainment purposes only, here are two things that I noticed were a bit abundant throughout the novel:

A. Everyone smells everyone's hair. Especially Jonah's. **SURPRISINGLY** they all smell like SHAMPOO. Who'd thunk it? Also, that's kind of weird, shampoo shouldn't be that strong, I think anyway.

B. **EVERY. SINGLE. PERSON. IN. THIS. DAMN. BOOK. RUNS. THEIR. FINGERS. THROUGH. THEIR. HAIR.** Seriously! Miles is the worst at it, I can't count the number of times he 'runs his fingers through his hair' and it fluffed up or something like that. I started imagining him with an afro just to get through those parts.

I know characters have ticks, biting their nails, etc... but, and my creative writing prof has told me this **SO MANY TIMES**, there's a limit. Please. Please. **PLEASEFORTHELOVEOFGOD**. Don't go over it.

So the story by itself isn't too shabby a piece of work. It pretty much follows the usual romance formula of getting together, evil story element involving past breaking them apart, and then forgiveness, etc... There's a good amount of mystery, and while it's pretty much predictable, it keeps the story flowing. The one thing that did bother me about the plot (and this has to do with the romance as well) is the fact it wasn't a harlequin novel.

I know, I usually rant about things that are too harlequin standard plot, but I felt there was a definite lack of a certain event that usual occurs in a harlequin.

Yes, people, I'm talking about the sex scene.

Maybe I should be a bit more specific. Yes, there was a sex scene in this novel, just like there was a sex scene in *Breaking Dawn*. Both of them sadly play that fade to black thing, and well..it kinda sucks. Cuz you know sex scenes are kinda fun to read, and also the reason why I read adult romances. :P Ha.

No, but seriously having that fade to black thing was a bit of a letdown for me. The whole romance in particular was actually kind of a letdown, not only because it was kind of cheesy and had lots of mushy stuff and more of that OMGSOHOT moments, but because the author kind of paints their relationship sort of saint like.

The best example of this is that they pretty much tell each other they love each other before they ever kiss.

Seriously? I think I've read more riskay stuff in YA novels. I'm an adult, I'm pretty sure I can handle a little lust. Please don't belittle me by making a romance seem so perfect. Relationships aren't like that, because people aren't like that, so don't take the time to make this a I'VE FOUND MY SOUL MATE, NOW WE CAN LIVE FOREVER AND EVER TWILIGHT STYLE. It isn't real. And I don't like it.

The writing, as I've mentioned, is perhaps in addition to the romance one of the worst things about this book. So most of the book is written in 3rd person and changes between characters, which isn't bad. At best it's decent, as they're nothing really special about it, and most of it is riddled with cliches. But it works, and keeps the story going, so I can't really condemn it. While I didn't care for the writing, I have to admit that it wasn't the 3rd person that drove me nuts, but the 1st person infrequent chapters told from the point of view of the hit and runner.

Sigh This is going to sound very very mean, but the 1st person writing really was some of the worst I'd ever read. I think I wrote better stuff when I was 13 or so. I don't know what it was, I can't pinpoint what I felt was wrong with it, but it was just awkward, and urk. I can't explain it, but as soon as I started to read it, I wanted to run away from the book as fast as I could. Odd, I know, but an utter turn off for me.

All in all, *A Bend in the Road* isn't a bad book. There's a good enough plot, and plenty to entertain. It's not, however, a great, or even possibly a good book. The romance is just lame, the writing is barely decent, and it makes me wonder why and how Sparks makes a living off this stuff. Then, again, *A Shore Thing* was a NY Bestseller, so go figure. 1.5-2/5
