Tribhuvan University

Struggle for Choice in Nicholas Sparks's The Last Song

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in English

By

Thaneshwor Paudel

Regd. No.: 9-2-29-1569-2004

December 2011

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled, "Struggle for Choice i	n Nicholas Sparks's The Last Song
submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Ra	njya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan
University by Mr. Thaneshwor Paudel has been a	pproved by the undersigned
members of the research committee.	
Members of Research Committee	
	Rudra Paudel
	Supervisor
	External Examiner
	Head
	Department of English
	Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus
	Tribhuvan University

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

The present work owes much to the scholarly guidance and encouragement from my respected teacher and supervisor Mr. Rudra Paudel, the Head of English Department, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University. My sincere gratitude goes to him for his valuable guidance to carry out this work.. I am also grateful to my respected teachers Professor Hrisheekesh Upadhaya, Devi Raman Pandit, Khem Guragain, Yadav Adhikari and Vinay Jha for providing me constructive guidelines, inspiration and other important hints.

I am really indebted to my parents Mr. Gayaneshwor Paudel and Mrs. Tara Devi Paudel, and sisters and brothers, who managed my financial and academic environment. I must not forget the encouragement of my friends Yamu Karki, Uday Bahadur Budhathoki, Arati Subedi, Krishna Bhandari, Kamal Bhattarai, Suresh Bartaula, Laxmi Sapkota, Ruku Kafle, Shyam Sundar Dulal and Shiva Lal Acharya who regularly helped me to bring this thesis into this being. Last but not least my sincere thank goes to Mr. Sunesh Shrestha (Sunesh Photocopy & Computer Service, Kirtipur) for computer typing.

Thaneshwor Paudel

December 2011

Abstract

The novel, *The Last Song*, is based on the theme of struggle for choice of the teenage girl, Ronnie Miller. Nicholas Sparks takes the protagonist, Ronnie as a violent and rebellious teenage girl, who is frustrated and alienated by her parents and friends. Ronnie struggles hard with her parents and friends to establish her individual choice and freedom. In spite of her immature age, she does not compromise with anyone for her choice and desire, rather she goes ahead in her destination. Time and again she faces many problems and obstacles on the way but she does not tire and never surrenders herself to others. Her life is full of miseries. But she becomes able to rob out all these miseries from her life. Whatever Ronnie does and chooses to do is for her individual choice, freedom and self pride. She takes the struggle as a ladder to reach her aim of life, through which she establishes her individual choice and freedom to create her meaning of life. She has a strong commitment and a determined goal, for which she struggles hard and finally becomes a mature, independent and successful teenage girl.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Contents	
Chapter I: Introduction	1-10
Nicholas Sparks as an Existential Writer	1
Chapter II: Historical Background of Existentialism	11-31
Meaning of Existentialism	11
History of Existentialism	16
Prominent Theistic Existentialists	18
Prominent Atheistic Existentialists	21
Link of Existential Theory with the Novel	30
Chapter III: Struggle for Choice in Nicholas Sparks's The Last Song	32-59
Ronnie's Choice:Struggle for Existence	33
The Struggle of Ronnie Miller with Self	40
The Struggle of Ronnie Miller with her Parents	46
The Struggle of Ronnie Miller with her Friends and Boyfriend	51
Choice and Struggle	56
Chapter IV: Conclusion	60-63
Ronnie Miller an Independent Teenage Girl	61
Works Cited	64-66