



BOOK REVIEW OF NICHOLAS SPARKS' *SAFE HAVEN*

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

For S-1 Degree in Linguistics

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

Maygananda Putriyani

13020110141129

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2015

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2 and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in the bibliography.

Semarang, March 19, 2015

Maygananda Putriyani

APPROVAL

Approved by
Advisor,

Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum
NIP. 196610041990012001

VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata I Final Project Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

on Friday, August 21, 2015

Chair Person

Dra.Lubna A.Sungkar, M.Hum

NIP.195211081986032001

First Member

Mytha Candria, S.S, M.A, M.A

NIP.197701182009122001

Second Member

Dra.Wiwiek Sundari, M.Hum

NIP.195906071990032001

Third Member

Dra.Christina R, M.Hum

NIP.195602161983032001

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“God the Most High says, ‘I am with my slave when he thinks of Me and I am with him when he mentions Me.’”

-Bukhari

“Through hard work, perseverance and faith in God, you can live your dreams.”

-Benjamin Carson

“Hope is a waking dream.”

- Aristotle

This final project is dedicated to those I love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to thank to Allah SWT, who always gives strength so that the writer could finish this final project entitled “Book Review on Nicholas Sparks’ *Safe Haven*”.

Secondly, the writer would also like to thank Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum., as her project advisor who has given her guidance from the beginning until the finish of this project.

The writer also like to thank people who have important roles in finishing this final assignment since without their support, encouragement and critics, the writer would not have finished this report. Furthermore the writer would like to thank:

1. Dr. Redyanto Noor, M.Hum., the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S, M.Hum., the Head of English Department Regular I study program of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, as well as my academic advisor, for helpful guidance and moral support during my study.
3. Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum., the Writer’s Academic Supervisor for her guidance.
4. All lecturers of the S-1 Degree English Department on Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University for sharing their knowledge, experiences and all their great lectures.

5. The writer's family, especially her parents Mr. Maryadi and Mrs. Retno Puspayani, the writer's older brother Jenzen Prasetyo Wahyujati, S.Kom., Kevin Priamukti Firmansyah and the writer's little brother Revian Akbar Yusuf Safiano. Thanks for the prayer, support, motivations and love.
6. The writer's boyfriend, Didin Muhamad Saputra, S.H., Thanks for the prayer, support, motivations, understanding and love.
7. All of the writer's special friends who always support and share with her. Thank you for the love and togetherness.

The writer would also like to extend her thanks to other that she cannot mention their name one by one. The writer realizes that this final project is far from excellent. Therefore, she would be happy to accept some criticism, suggestions and recommendations. The writer hopes this project will be useful for the readers.

Semarang, August 27, 2015

Maygananda Putriyani

TABLE OF CONTENT

PRONOUNCEMENT.....	i
APPROVAL.....	ii
VALIDATION.....	iii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	vii
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. SUMMARY OF THE BOOK.....	2
3. REVIEW.....	6
4. CONCLUSION.....	12
REFERENCES	
APPENDIX	

1. Introduction

Safe Haven (2010) is a novel written by Nicholas Sparks. It is a story about a woman who suffers from traumatic experience due to her abusive husband. She manages to escape to a safe place and find happiness in that place. The woman wants to start a new life even though the shadow of the past will always haunt her.

The main goal of this book is to find a true happiness. The author creates the main character as a strong person. It is something good to give a good impact to the readers. The book gives the readers strength and motivation in their life because same problem as the main characters may happen in real life. The book tells that people will find a way in solving their problem.

The writer chooses this novel because it is one of American best-selling novels and it has a lot of good lessons that can be taken. The readers may feel the struggle of the main character when this life gets problem through *Safe Haven*. The purpose of reviewing *Safe Haven* is to review both the strengths and weaknesses of the novel.

Nicholas Charles Sparks was born on December 31, 1965, in Omaha, Nebraska, United States. Sparks is a novelist, screenwriter and producer. In 1974 his family finally settled in Fair Oaks in Carolina where he graduated in 1984 as valedictorian from Bella Vista High School then enrolling at the University of Notre Dame with majored in business finance. Sparks got married on July 22, 1989 with Cathy Cote and moved to New Bern, North Carolina and has five children's (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Sparks).

In 1985 when he was still in school Sparks ever wrote a novel entitled *The Passing* and wrote another one in 1989 entitled *The Royal Murders*, but both of these novels were unpublished. Spark tried his luck in publishing, law school, real estate and even waiting tables. In 1990, Sparks co-wrote a novel entitled *A Lakota Journey to Happiness* and *Self-Understanding* with Billy Mills. Sales for this book approximated 50.000 copies in its first year after release. In October 1996 ‘*The Notebook*’ novel published and made the New York Times best-seller list in its first week of release. Following his several successful of his works, the novel became the international bestsellers. There were nine novels that had been adapted into films including *Safe Haven* (2013).

Sparks wrote the novels such as *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), *Three Weeks with My Brother* (2004), *True Believer* (2005), *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).

2. Summary of the Book

Katie, the main character of this novel lives in a cottage in Southport. She is twenty-seven years old, and has long blond hair. She has a neighbor called Jo, a mid-thirty woman with long, unruly brown hair who always wears sunglasses. Living in Southport, Katie tries to keep her past from the people around her. Alex Wheatley, the owner of an old-fashioned country store, where Katie usually buys

some groceries in there, is a widower with two children, Josh and Kristen. He is a criminal investigator in the Army, so he can notice things that other people do not. He knows Katie does not want to talk too much with him, but she builds good friendship with his daughter, Kristen. Alex has employees, named Joyce and Roger. Joyce is the only one he trusts to stay with the kids when he has to go out of the town.

Katie and Alex are getting closer. One day Katie is surprised because Alex gives her a bicycle. It is his wife's bicycle actually. She tells him that she does not want anything from him. Alex says that he does not want to remember about his late wife. He gives that bicycle to Katie because he wants someone to take care and use that bicycle. That day, he has a plan to go to the beach with the kids. Then, Kristen asks Katie to come and Katie agrees to join them. Then Alex comes with his jeep to pick her up soon after she parks her bike at her cottage. On the ride she thinks about Alex's loneliness matches her own loneliness. As the kids are playing at the beach, Alex starts telling about how he met his wife. The next day when Alex is cooking with Katie, he tells her about growing up in Spokane and how his in-laws starts the business. From his stories Katie realized that he is a good man and father who is different from man she ever meet before.

Katie also knows that Alex is a detective in the Army from his story when they go together watching kids playing the kites. He notices Katie is surprised and he is wondering what is going on with her past. Although Alex knows that Katie does not want to talk about it. She asks him about how his wife died, he says his wife died because of brain tumor. Katie tells him that her parents died in a car

accident when she was nineteen. Katie thinks that day is a happy moment she ever has. After at the beach, Katie and Alex are so busy with works so they cannot meet each other. However Alex thinks that he really wants to know more about her. He hopes Katie tell him the truth of her past. After several moments that they spend together, Katie starts to realize that she is interested with Alex and she is thinking that Alex is a man that she can trust.

Then because of his curiosity Alex is trying to asks about Katie's past and guessing that she has a problematic marriage and her husband is hunting her. Katie admits that is true. Alex says no matter what has happened to her he will still love her. Then from that point Katie fully trust him and she starts telling him about her husband's behavior. As Alex stays to listen Katie's stories about her abusive husband, Alex supports her that she has done right thing by leaving Kevin. Katie tells him that her father is also a drunker but he is not violent. Katie also tells him that she cannot call the police because Kevin is a detective in Boston Police Department. She also admits that her real name is Erin. She changes her identity, such as she is cutting her hair and colors it. At that moment Kevin Tierney, Katie's husband, is at a Memorial Day barbecue at his captain's house, Bill Robinson. Kevin's lying to Bill, saying that Erin's back again to New Hampshire, Manchester to help her friend who has a cancer. Kevin is tired about people asking about Erin. His friends, Coffey and Ramirez, are talking that Kevin's marriage has problem. Since Katie left him, his life and their house are messed up. Then Kevin start leaves hunting his wife, Katie. He is so mad and

frustrated to find her wife. Based on many clues and after visiting many places Kevin heads to Philadelphia.

When Alex is in his second weeks in Philadelphia, he stops in bar, restaurant and diner. The waitress, Tracy tells Kevin that Erin is working at a diner and called herself as Erica. She trusts to tell him because he is a detective. However Katie does not appear in the workplace that day and Kevin decides to go back to New York. Kevin misses his chance to meet his wife because Katie changes her shift into evening one at the restaurant.

In the morning when Kevin is sitting on the porch and drinking vodka, he sees a woman named Karen Feldman, she is child of his neighbors Larry and Gladys Feldman. That day is Gladys Feldman's funeral and he does not care about it. However it comes into his mind about what Karen ever says that Erin is looked alike her sister named Katie who died six years ago. Kevin notices Erin uses Katie Feldman as her new identity. When his neighbors are going to the Gladys' funeral, he takes this chance to breaks up into Feldman's house and he finds files about Katie Feldman who lives in Southport, North Carolina, and he directly goes to Southport to find Erin who uses Katie Feldman's identity.

While in another place Alex proposes Katie to be his wife, but Katie rejects and they end up in fight. However due to Jo's suggestion, Katie asked for apologize. However at the same time, Kevin reached Southport and finally finds Katie being together with Alex at a carnival.

Kevin is jealous watching them. He drinks vodka and plans to burn Katie's cottage, but fortunately Alex can stop it. Kevin and Alex are fighting. However in the end Kevin died because of drinking too much alcohol.

While Alex who gets into hospital because as that incident finally recovers, and when Kevin is fit enough Katie transfers him into Joyce's house. The next day, the sheriff visits them at Joyce's house to get their formal statements. Kevin tells the sheriff that the alcohol content in Kevin's blood is so high, so that it is poisoned him. Katie, who goes back into her house, shocks to see Jo's house has never been lived in. Katie tries to makes sense of what she sees. She thinks that Jo is completely her imagination. She realizes that Jo has never been there at all. Katie reaches for the letter that is given by Alex. It is a letter from Alex's late wife. The letter from Carly says that her friends called her Jo. Now she thinks that Carly looks a lot like Jo. Katie realizes that Jo has gone and that she will lose a friend who cares about her. Carly asks Katie to love Alex forever and taking care of her family.

3. Review of the Book

This chapter shows the strengths and the weaknesses of *Safe Haven*. The writer will describe the intrinsic elements of the story, such as characters, setting of place and symbol. Characters, according to Abrams (Nurgiyantoro, 1981:20), "are people who are raised in literary narrative or drama, which is interpreted by the reader who has certain moral qualities and tendencies as are reflected in the words and action." Characters are the most important elements of every story. In

this story, there is one main character and three supporting characters. The main character is Erin or Katie, who suffers from her husband's abusive behavior. The first supporting character is Erin's husband named Kevin, a police detective who treats Katie abusively. The second supporting character is Alex, a widower with two kids. Alex is also a man whom Katie falls in love with. The third supporting character is Katie's friendly neighbor named Jo. She comes to learn what Katie's problem is and gives support to Alex and Katie's relationship. In this book the characteristics of these four characters will be explained.

Erin is an obedient wife. She works hard trying to be a better wife for her husband, but she is always hit by her husband without any reason or because of a simple problem. It can be seen in the following line:

“I cooked for you and cleaned for you and none of it mattered! All you did was drink and hit me!” (Sparks, 2010:330), and

“You wouldn't let me drive or have any friends and you kept the money and made me beg you for it. I want to know why you thought you could do that to me. I was your wife and I loved you!” (Sparks, 2010:329)

It is clearly seen that she is a good wife for her husband. She always does what her husband wants without a fight.

Another characteristic of Erin is brave. She loves her husband, but her husband's behavior put her in dangerous situation that makes her want to escape and find a safe place. It can be seen in this line, “I just wanted a place where I could start over.” (Sparks, 2010:12). It can clearly be seen that Erin chooses to run away from her abusive husband. She runs away without being afraid of the future risks that could be happen when Kevin knows about her action.

Erin is also a smart woman. She does not call the police to tell what her husband does because her husband is a policeman. It can be assumed that it is useless for her because the police officers may not believe her. Meanwhile, when she is running away, she uses a new identity. She changes her name, from Erin to Katie. She also changes her appearance, such as cutting her hair short and changing the colour her hair from blond to brown. She is also pretending to be a pregnant woman. This all is done in order to avoid his husband, Kevin. It can be seen in the following line:

“With the scissors, she began to chop at her hair. Four inches of blond hair fell onto the garbage bag. She seized another chunk, using her fingers to pull it tight, telling herself to measure, and snipped. She pulled out the hair dye from its hiding place behind the sink. Dark Brown. She threw on a hat and her jacket, along with a scarf and gloves. She rounded the duffel bag and stuffed it beneath her sweatshirt, kneading and working it until it was round. Until she looke pregnant. She put on her long coat, one that was roomy enough to cover the bump.” (Sparks, 2010: 181)

The first supporting character is Kevin. He is an abusive husband and a drunker, a condition that makes Kevin’s mental is un controled. Kevin has a psychological illness since he likes to beat his wife and gets very angry but then suddenly changes his mood and says that he loves her wife and hates to hurt her wife. This fact can be seen through several lines of the novel:

“My only day off and you pick that day to get your damn hair done in the middle of the city! And then go grocery shopping!... . You’re so beautiful. You know I love you, right?” (Sparks, 2010:146-149), and

“Is it so hard? He reached out, he struck fast and hard, his fist a piston, firing at her lower back... . I’m sorry, he said. He swayed slightly... . I don’t like hitting you.” (Sparks, 2010:146-149)

Kevin is a smart person. He is a detective police, so he can notice something is going wrong or when he is eager to find something. It can be shown

from the way he thinks and acts to find his wife, Katie. This fact can be seen in the following line:

“She should have purchased her tickets from a woman, since Erin was pretty and men always remembered pretty women. Back at home, Kevin found a photograph of her on the computer and used Photoshop to change her hair from blond to brown and then shortened it. *That’s her*, the ticket seller confirmed.” (Sparks, 2010:200)

The second supporting character is Jo. She becomes Katie’s counselor. She also gives support to Katie’s relationship with Alex. It can be seen in this line:

“Every couple needs to argue now and then. Just to prove that the relationship is strong enough to survive it” (Sparks, 2010: 266), and

“I’m happy for you and Alex. And the kids. You’re good for them, you know.” (Sparks, 2010:252)

By the end of the story, Jo reveals that she is Katie’s imagination. Actually, this character is Carly, the spirit of Alex’s late wife, and only Katie that can see her figure as real. It is shown on the Carly’s letter, “My name, as you probably know, is Carly, but for most of my life, my friend called me Jo.” (Sparks, 2010:350)

The last supporting character is a widower named Alex. He is a man who treats Katie as a special person; he is a man who Katie is feeling comfortable to be with. She likes to share her story with him since he is also a good listener and she can finally trust him to tell him more about her past story. It can be seen in this line: “I want you to know that I value what we have right now, and more than anything, I want you to be comfortable. Whatever that means I’m sorry if you feel like I was putting you on the spot. That wasn’t what I was trying to do.” (Sparks,

2010:269). He accepts her no matter what happens with her before. He wants Katie to trust him that he will always make her happy. It is shown in this line:

“It’s not perfect, but trusts me, I’m not perfect, either, so maybe it’s best if we take all of this one day at a time. And when you’re ready, if you’re ever ready I’ll be waiting. I love you Katie. You might not be ready to say those words now, and maybe you’ll never be able to say them, but that doesn’t change how I feel about you.” (Sparks, 2010:135)

Another characteristic of Alex is that he is a good father. After his wife died he has to take care of his kids by himself an Alex does good job in doing that. It can be seen in this line: “The truth is that I spend time with them because I enjoy it. I enjoy them. I like watching them grow up and I want to be a part of that.” (Sparks, 2010:94)

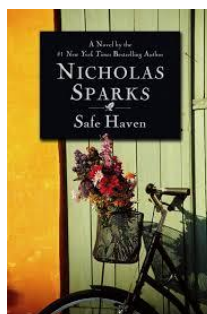
According to Abrams (Nurgiyantoro, 1981:175), “background or setting is the sense of place, time relations and social environment where the events narrated.” Something happens in this novel where we can find many places, times relation and social environment which support many important events in this story, so that the story can be understood easily and setting can help in giving more detail for the story.

In this story, the setting of place is clearly identified. It is in the Southport where Katie moves in. The setting of place of this story is located in a peacefully small town at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, right where it met Intracoastal. It is a place with sidewalk and shade of trees around there. We can clearly imagine about the place and the situation in which it could lead the reader to get the real atmosphere of the story.

The second setting of place is the cottage where Katie leaves in. It is shown in this line: “It was one of two identical structures located at the end of gravel lane, former hunting cabins with wooden-plank walls, nestled against a grove of oak and pine trees at the edge of a forest that stretched to the coast.” (Sparks, 2010:6)

Another strength of the book is that it has an unpredictable ending. The reader may be surprised with the character of Jo. She is being Katie’s counselor. However Jo actually is the spirit of Carly, the late wife of Alex. Katie finally realizes that Jo is not real that she is just her imagination even she believes at first that Jo is real and she is not her illusion. This unpredictable part is revealed by the Carly’s letter also from the Jo’s statement to Katie: “For most of my life, my friends called me Jo.” (Sparks, 2010: 350)

Symbol is another important element of the story. Symbol is figure out the story that is not stated expertly. The symbol of this story is the cover of the book. There is a colourful flowers in the basket. The flowers describe that life as beauty as flowers but it has many colours that reflects life has many circumstances like happy, falling love, sad, heart broken, fear. As Katie’s story in this book with her complex problem.



The weakness in this novel is the story line between one event to another goes to slow and some parts are told repeatedly, it can be seen in the story where Katie always retelling about her abusive husband, so it makes the reader bored and they do not read the whole novel. The reader may skip some pages on the novel. The author should makes the story more concise without diminish the important point of this story.

4. Conclusion

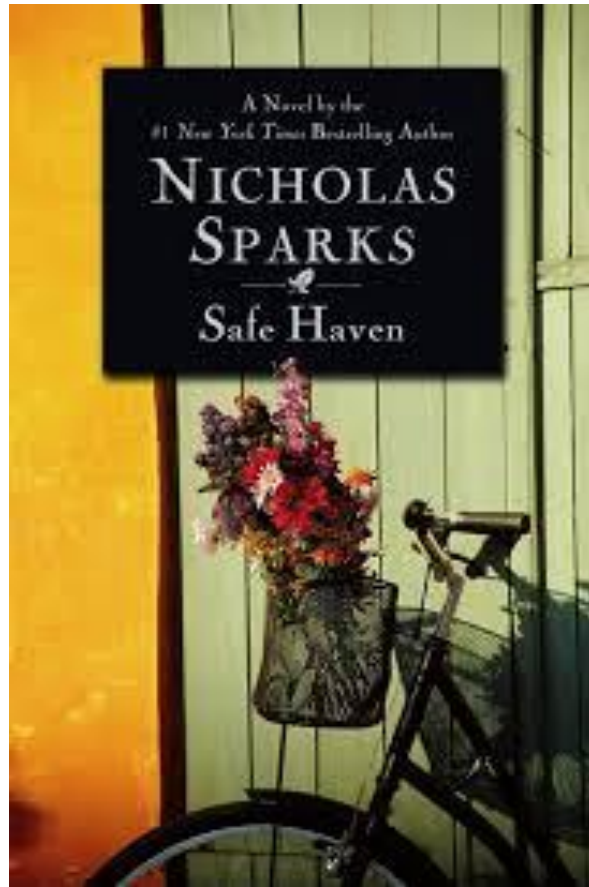
Safe haven is one of novels written by Nicholas Sparks. He is a successful American author with great sense of writing that could bring some of his works to be adapted into movies including this novel. In this book there are many positive messages that can be taken to the reader, such as how not to give up and find a way in solving the problem in life.

The most interesting part of this story is the characters of this book; there are some life lessons and positive messages that can be seen in the main character and the people around the main character which is motivating to the reader. The unpredictable ending is being one of the strengths of the book that can make the readers surprised. Whereas there are some parts of the novel's content that is boring and being the weakness of the novel.

REFERENCES

- BookRags, Inc. (2015). Retrieved from BookRags website:
<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-safe-haven/#gsc.tab=0>
- Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. (2012). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. 9th ed. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press
- Sparks, Nicholas. (2015). Retrieved from Wikipedia website:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Sparks
- Sparks, Nicholas. (2010). *Safe Haven*. US: Hachette Book Group, Inc.
- Tim, Jurusan Sastra Inggris. (2014). *Pedoman Penulisan Final Project*. Semarang: Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Diponegoro

APPENDIX



Front Cover