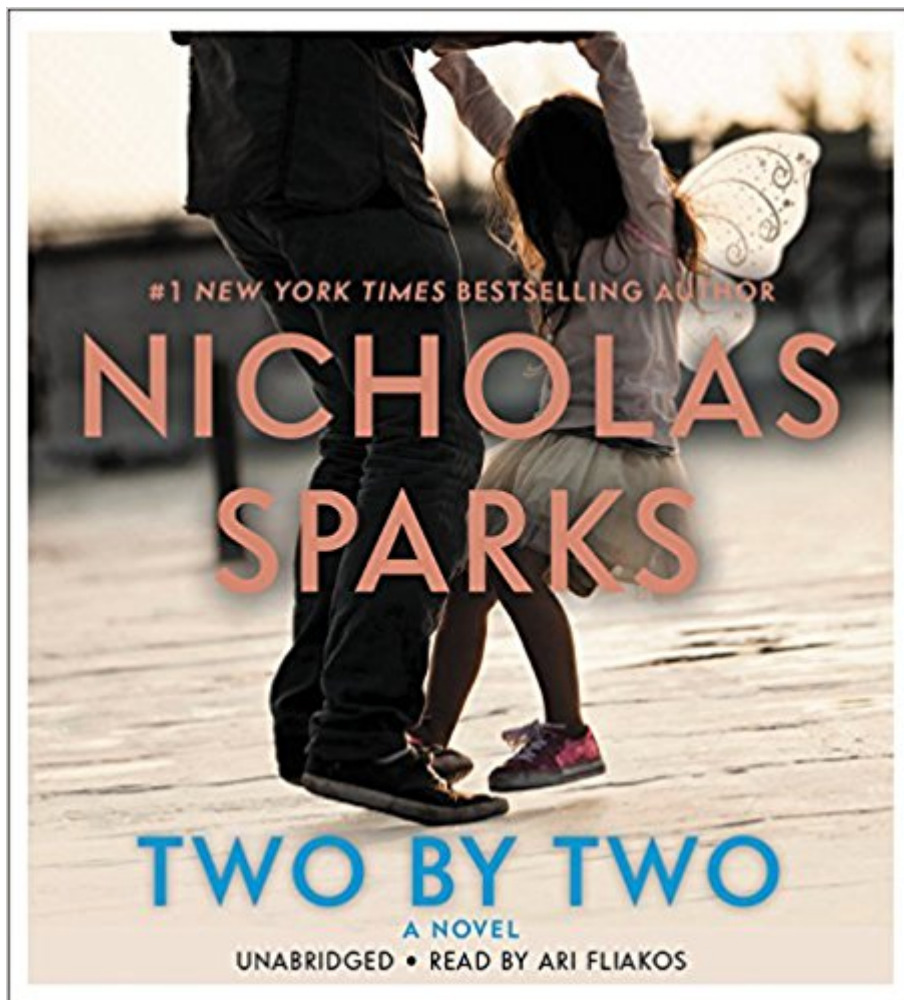




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Two By Two



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Nicholas Sparks returns with an emotionally powerful story of unconditional love, its challenges, its risks and most of all, its rewards. At 32, Russell Green has it all: a stunning wife, a lovable six year-old daughter, a successful career as an advertising executive and an expansive home in Charlotte. He is living the dream, and his marriage to the bewitching Vivian is the center of that. But underneath the shiny surface of this perfect existence, fault lines are beginning to appear...and no one is more surprised than Russ when he finds every aspect of the life he took for granted turned upside down. In a matter of months, Russ finds himself without a job or wife, caring for his young daughter while struggling to adapt to a new and baffling reality. Throwing himself into the wilderness of single parenting, Russ embarks on a journey at once terrifying and rewarding-one that will test his abilities and his emotional resources beyond anything he ever imagined.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With over 100 million copies of his books sold, Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. His novels include fourteen #1 > bestsellers, and all of his books, including >, the memoir he wrote with his brother, Micah, have been > and international bestsellers, and were translated into more than fifty languages. Eleven of Nicholas Sparks's novels-->, and >--have been adapted into major motion pictures.

I do not like writing reviews before I finish a book, but 1/3 the way into this book and I just cannot

take anymore.* Minor Spoilers *Russ Green and Vivian meet and fall in love. By the end of the first page I was sure I knew where the book was going. I was sure she would die in childbirth and Russ would have to raise their daughter alone. I could not have been more wrong, but I almost wish Mr. Sparks would go back to his old cliché. Instead the book comes off more like a Taylor Swift break-up song she writes for the sole purpose of revenge. At first Russ and Vivian are a happy newlywed couple. Very quickly their daughter London comes along and they settle into a typical middle class life with her staying home and him going off to his fancy PR job. But when he feels insecure at work he quits his job and starts his own company without getting a single client ready first. He then becomes bitter and feels insecure. Vivian gets a job with Walter Spannerman (read that as Donald Trump) and Russ is resentful. The next 7 chapters are from his point of view as he complains because he has to spend time with his daughter, taking her to her activities and doing household chores like grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, and laundry. As if that is not enough he grumbles because he is not getting enough attention in the bedroom. When the couple does spend time together they bicker and snipe at each other constantly. While reading it I start feeling agitated and cranky too. If all that is not enough the book is poorly edited. Words are missing and sentences repeat themselves. You can figure out what he was trying to say, but it feels like Mr Sparks is either just not interested in writing anymore, this book was rushed to release, or it was written as a way to get back at his wife after their divorce. I mean no disrespect to either of them, because it is horrible when any marriage ends, but this book is definitely in my top 5 worst books I have ever read. Update: Our power went out shortly after I wrote this review and the only light available was from my Kindle. I ended up reading the whole book. There is a further update in the comments section

Beyond disappointing! Not your usual Nicholas Sparks.

This was my first Nicholas Sparks book, and judging from other reviews, it was the wrong first impression. I almost didn't finish it. Honestly, I think the story and the characters have promise, but the book feels like a draft, rather than a polished product. For starters, there are some obvious nitty-gritty editing errors, at least in the ebook version. The book also asks for a bit more content editing, to pare down some of the passages that focus too much on the trivia of Russ' job or random memories/conversations that don't add enough to the story to justify their word count. Some of the dialogue, especially Emily's, isn't there yet. It feels too much like writing, and not enough like natural speech between characters. It's just too obvious which characters are in place to say what, in order to move Russ' character and the plot forward. These kinds of mechanics get smoothed and

polished and blended in later drafts. Likewise with those little explanatory sentences, usually at the end of a paragraph, that summarize what the reader should've inferred from the preceding text. The characters, too, needed more work. They were still mostly two-dimensional. They read as types, not as real, complex, unique individuals. Never once were we forced to challenge ourselves on what we thought of Vivian or Emily, or any of the other characters, for that matter. Also, so much of the story was told via internal monologue, it naturally defaulted to telling vs. showing, which keeps the reader at too far a distance. I don't doubt this could've been a sweet, engaging story. But it needed more work to get it there before it hit the prime time.

I hadn't read a Nicholas Sparks book in years and having just finished *Two by Two*, I wonder why. I found the book a little hard to get into but once I did, I couldn't put it down. This story of loss, redemption, first and second loves rang so true to my own experiences the past four years, it was uncanny. Mr. Sparks' ability to eloquently capture so many emotions is unsurpassed. The remarkable story line keeps you eager for the next revelation and doesn't disappoint at any level. The character portrayals are realistic, drawing the reader into their lives while cheering them on to survive, rebuild and getting their lives back on the right path. A good read all the way!

I must say this book started out slow for me... but I ended up not being able to put it down... it was hard to read because I could see where it was heading until the major plot twist. I ended up crying and laughing sometimes simultaneously!

This touched on so many real live family issues. I enjoyed the fact it was told through a father's eyes.

I just couldn't put this book down. Truly love Nicholas Sparks novels. He makes you feel as if you are right there living the story alongside the others in the story. The best way to escape the world as it is today, turn off the TV, cell phone, and slip into a Nicholas Sparks novel.

I haven't read a book by Nicholas Sparks book in a very long time, though I have watched his movies. This was a very good novel. Just make sure you have tissues handy...for you will laugh and cry throughout the book.

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