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# Safe Haven



## Synopsis

When a mysterious young woman named Katie appears in the small North Carolina town of Southport, her sudden arrival raises questions about her past. Beautiful yet self-effacing, Katie seems determined to avoid forming personal ties until a series of events draws her into two reluctant relationships: one with Alex, a widowed store owner with a kind heart and two young children; and another with her plainspoken single neighbor, Jo. Despite her reservations, Katie slowly begins to let down her guard, putting down roots in the close-knit community and becoming increasingly attached to Alex and his family. But even as Katie begins to fall in love, she struggles with the dark secret that still haunts and terrifies her... a past that set her on a fearful, shattering journey across the country, to the sheltered oasis of Southport. With Jo's empathic and stubborn support, Katie eventually realizes that she must choose between a life of transient safety and one of riskier rewards... and that in the darkest hour, love is the only true safe haven.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 4 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: September 14, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00435JD8S

Best Sellers Rank: #115 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Suspense #316

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary #2195 in Books > Romance > Romantic Suspense

## Customer Reviews

This certainly isn't a traditional sappy love story that Sparks usually writes. Sure it has the love story and it's set in North Carolina, but he puts in an element of danger. I have read all of his books and I love them all, however I am definitely tired of the "I love you" on the first date that practically occurs in all of his novels. The rest of this novel makes up for that quick love. It truly is impossible to put down. I made the mistake of starting it before bed, figuring I would read a few chapters and go to sleep - Well, I stayed up all night and finished it. The way it's written is strategic and effective in

keeping the reader wanting more (which is why I had to finish it in one night). Sparks has said that this is the next movie adaptation and I'm sure it will work well. There is something for everyone: love story, family life, internal conflicts, danger, and a twist at the end. Well worth the money (the physical book is more \$ than the Kindle version - so I don't know what everyone is complaining about; he's a best-seller, it came out yesterday - of course it's not going to be \$5!) Overall, I loved it and I don't regret my purchase at all. I'm just sad I finished it already! Can't wait for the next one!

When I pick up this sort of book, I don't expect my world view to be changed, or to become enlightened as if I'd just had a near death experience, what I expect is to safely escape reality and the cares of the world for a little while. *Safe Haven* is just that, a safe haven in the reading experience. I read enough non-fiction to find it very enjoyable to pick up a Nicholas Sparks and leave the cares of the world behind. *Safe Haven* may be a bit predictable, but what makes it stand out for me was delving into the mind of a control freak. Katie Feldman has a secret she's running from and it's a big one. She's found a safe haven in a small South Carolina town where she can just live life on her own terms, safe from fear. Of course it doesn't last because stories need endings, and too much happiness can ruin a good story like nothing else. The hero in this story is a man who does the right thing and loves his children. With only this guy, the story would be pure vanilla. Throw in a 'bad guy' who's good at his job and loves his wife, and you've got some swirls of chocolate thrown in that are delicious. I like that the main character of the story realizes that the world is full of shadows where things aren't as simple as they might seem. I won't give away anything else in the story because I read one review and it spoiled the ending for me. *Safe Haven* is just what you'd expect from Nicholas Sparks, but I think that's a good thing.

I am a huge Nicholas Sparks fan and have read all of his books. I have felt mad, happy, and sad, with some of his books, but they are all amazing. I think this is one of his best. DO NOT peek at the ending of this one. I have a friend that does this and to me it ruins the entire book....any book, but holds true especially for this one. I will not go into the story, as some do on here, because again that can ruin it. You will not be disappointed in *Safe Haven*. Many conflicts and battles within the characters, and you will most likely relate to at least one of them. Again the ending is awesome. This is one you will remember, I know I will. Sparks just keeps getting better and better.

There used to be a day I'd greet each new Nicholas Sparks book with excitement and an eager desire to put everything else aside until I'd read the book in its entirety. Then a pattern began to

emerge, leading up to my current feelings of quiet acceptance that, yes - the story would be engrossing and yes, I'd cry, but there was no hurry to get through it. This led me to the decision to listen to Safe Haven on audio during a long car trip to and from my folks house for the holiday. In some ways, I appreciated the book more this way. The story took longer to unfold and I felt less rushed to get to the "crying" parts of the book, but also, it showed some glaringly slow parts. I liked the characters of Alex and Katie, but found their interaction to be a little cliché. There were some pretty tired jokes made and the dialogue wasn't as witty as I remembered Sparks being.. all in all it felt just a bit transparent, which disappointed me since I loved the relationship in, for example, The Notebook. Overall, Safe Haven is a worthy addition to Sparks' list of books, but not one of my favorites. I wouldn't recommend the audio, even sitting in a car for 12 hours wasn't enough to keep my interest going at times and I found myself drifting off to sleep, or switching over to listen to music. I think I would have enjoyed the book more had I actually read it.

Lately, it seems Mr. Sparks is treading water. Maybe I've just outgrown him. Maybe he should stick to screenplays since that's where the money is and that's how he seems to be writing his novels lately. I haven't necessarily enjoyed every book he's ever written, but there have been a few that stand out. I enjoyed Message in a Bottle and Dear John. However, I'm beginning to wonder what's so great about his writing these days. I found Safe Haven slow, plodding and, my goodness, I honestly found most of the book boring and repetitious, especially where Kevin, Erin's husband, comes in. I did appreciate the relationship between Katie and Alex, that they were taking time to get to know each other. I'm weary of the jumping to the next intimate level so quickly after introductions. Anyway, simply didn't warm up to this book, or the characters, at all. It was not a "I can't put it down" read. Matter of fact, I had to force myself to finish it. When I have to do that, I know I'm not involved. I found the ending contrived and just plain too fantastical. While I enjoy a nice twist, and I'm all for things of a Heavenly nature, it just felt twisted the way Sparks worked it. Also, I guess I'm just tired of the beautiful woman/man who everyone can't take their eyes off of. Why can't a woman/man be OK but there's an essence about her/him that draws people. I'm tired of the beautiful people descriptions. Surely writers can use their imaginations to work believable characters, especially along the romance line, who are ordinary yet extraordinary? If you're a fan of Nicholas Sparks regardless of what he puts out, you'll most definitely feel rewarded. If you've always been lukewarm to the monotony he can often write up, I'd suggest steering clear.

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