A Book Review: *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks

Have you ever heard of an author called Nicholas Sparks? I have read his new novels *Dear John*, which lets us think about what true love really means.

The story is set in Wilmington, North Carolina in 2000. A 23-year-old angry rebel, John Tyree, dropped out of school and enlisted in the army. In the first leave from his service, he met his dream girl, Savannah Curtis. Their mutual attraction quickly grew into the kind of love that left Savannah waiting for John to finish his duty, and John longing to settle down with Savannah. During the period of separation, they started to write letters to each other to share their lives. However, just before the end of John’s duty, the 911 Attack changed their original plan and life journeys. John had to extend his duty for a couple of years. Sadly, the lengthened parting tempted Savannah to fall in love with someone else. In the last letter from Savannah to John, the words after ‘*Dear John*’ broke a heart and separated them. For four years, John lived with a hollow in his heart and tried to numb his anguish with continual service in the army. However, no matter how unwilling John was about returning to Wilmington, he went back to the town because his father suffered from a heart attack. He needed to take care of his sick father. Returning home, John recognized that his love for Savannah never faded even she was someone else’s wife.

*Dear John* is a touching novel. Although the ending of the story is bittersweet, I am completely mesmerized. When reading the book, don’t just focus on the relationship between John and Savannah, but that between John and his father. John hated his father’s quiet and routine life and they seldom talked to each other. It is moving when John’s father died, as that was the turning point for John to see his father’s role in his life. Another thing is when John knew Savannah’s husband suffered from cancer, he sold his father’s valuable mule coins collection for money to help Savannah’s family out anonymously. This act of kindness is what I see as true love! One should love and care about others without wanting anything back.

If you are interested in this book, go and buy one. Find the definition of ‘true love’ in this book. You will know it is not just moments of
passion, but long-lasting and never-fading care.