

Закрытый клуб

Читаем вместе по-английски

'The Longest Ride' by Nickolas Sparks



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Lesson 11

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4, Part 2

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4, Part 2



The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I’ve got a lot of **stuff** in the bed of my truck.”
- Of course he did. Didn’t everyone? Marcia would have **a field day with this.**
- By then, they’d reached the next fence, and the glow from the arena lights **was growing stronger.** Again, he **hopped over** it **effortlessly,** but **this time** the **slats** were placed too **narrowly** for her to squeeze through.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- Instead, she climbed up, **perching** on top before swinging her legs over. She **took his hands** as she jumped down, liking their **callused** warmth.
- They **trekked** to a **nearby** gate and **veered** toward the trucks. Luke **angled** toward a **shiny** black one with big tires and a **rack** of lights across the roof, the only one parked with the nose in the opposite direction.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- He opened the **tailgate** and **hopped up** into the back. Again, he **held out his hands**, and with a quick lift, she was standing next to him in the bed of the truck.
- Luke **turned around** and began **rummaging**, moving things aside, his back to her. She crossed her arms, wondering what Marcia was going to think of all this.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She could imagine her questions already: We're talking about the **cute** one, right? He took you where? What were you thinking? What if he was crazy? Meanwhile, Luke continued to **sort through** various items.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She heard a metallic **clunk** as he finally reappeared beside her with the chair, the kind that most people brought to the beach. After opening it, he **set it down** in the bed of the truck and **motioned toward** it. "Go ahead and sit. It'll be ready in **just a bit.**"

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She stood without moving—again picturing Marcia’s skeptical face—but then decided, Why not? The whole night had felt slightly surreal, so **finding herself sitting** in a lawn chair in the bed of a pickup owned by a bull rider was an almost natural **extension**.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She **reflected on** the fact that **aside from** Brian, **the last time** she'd **been alone with** a guy was the summer before she first came to Wake, when Tony Russo **had taken her to the prom.** They'd **known each other for years,** but past graduation, it **hadn't amounted to much.**

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- He was cute and smart—he **was heading to** Princeton **in the fall**—but he **was all hands by** their third date, and – Luke set the other chair beside her, **interrupting her thoughts.** Instead of sitting, however, he hopped down from the bed and went around to the driver’s-side door and leaned inside the cab. A moment later, the radio came on. Country-western.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- Of course, she thought to herself, **amused**. What else would it be?
- After rejoining her, he **took a seat** and **stretched out** his legs in front of him, crossing one leg over the other.
- **"Comfy?"** he asked.
- **"Getting there."** She **squirmed** a bit, **conscious of** how close they were to each other.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Do you want to **trade chairs?**”
- “It’s not that. It’s... this,” she said with an **all-encompassing** wave. “Sitting in chairs in the back of your truck. It’s new to me.”
- “You don’t do this in New Jersey?”
- “We do stuff. **Like** see movies. **Go out to eat. Hang out** at a friend’s house. **I take it** you didn’t do any of those things growing up?”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Of course I did. I still do.”
- “What was the last movie you went to?”
- “What’s a movie?”
- It took her a second to realize he **was teasing**, and he laughed at her rapidly changing expression. Then he motioned toward the rails. “They’re **bigger up close**, don’t you think?” he asked.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- When Sophia turned, she saw a bull **lumbering** slowly toward them, not more than a few feet away, **chest muscles rippling**. Its size **took her breath away**; up close, it was nothing like viewing them in the arena.
- **“Holy crap,”** she said, not hiding the wonder in her tone. She leaned forward. “It’s... huge.” She turned toward him. “And you ride those things? **Voluntarily?**”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “When they let me.”
- “Was this what you wanted me to see?”
- “Kind of,” he said. “Actually, it’s that one **over there.**”
- He pointed into the **pen** beyond, where a cream-colored bull stood, his ears and tail **switching**, but otherwise **unmoving**. One **horn** was **lopsided**, and even **from a distance** she could **make out** the web of scars on his side.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- Though he wasn't as large as some of the others, there was something wild and **defiant** in the way he stood, and she had the sense that he was challenging any of the others to come near him. She could hear his rough **snorts** breaking the silence of the night air.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- When she turned back to Luke, she noticed a change in his expression. He **was staring at** the bull, **outwardly** calm, but there was something else there, something she couldn't quite **put her finger on**.
- "That's Big Ugly Critter," he said, his attention still on the bull. "That's what I was thinking about when I was standing **out there**. I was trying to find him."

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Is he one of the bulls you rode tonight?”
- “No,” he said. “But **after a while**, I realized that I couldn’t leave here tonight without getting **right up close** to him. Which was strange, because when I got here, he was the last bull I wanted to see. **That’s why** I parked my truck **backwards**. And if I had drawn him tonight, I don’t know what I would have done.”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She waited for him to continue, but he didn't. **"I take it you've ridden him before."**
- "No," he said, **shaking his head.** "I've tried, though. **Three times.** He's what you call a **rank bull.** Only a couple of people have ever ridden him, and that was a few years back. He spins and kicks and **shifts direction,** and if he throws you, he tries to hook you for even trying to ride him **in the first place.**

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- I've had **nightmares** about that bull. He **scares** me." He turned toward her, his face half in shadow. "That's something almost no one knows."
- There was something **haunted** in his expression, something she hadn't expected.
- "Somehow, I just can't imagine you being afraid of anything," she said **quietly**.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Yeah, well... I’m human.” He **grinned**. “**I’m not too fond of lightning**, either, if you’re curious.”
- She **sat up straighter**. “I like lightning.”
- “It’s different when you’re out in the middle of a pasture, without any **cover**.”
- “**I’ll take your word on that.**”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “My **turn** now. I **get to** ask a question. Anything I want.”
- “Go ahead.”
- “How long **were you dating** Brian?” he asked.
- She almost laughed, **relieved**. “**That’s it?**” she asked, not **waiting for** an answer. “We started **going out** when I was a sophomore.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “He’s a big fellow,” he observed.
- “He’s on a lacrosse scholarship.”
- “He must be good.”
- “At lacrosse,” she admitted. “Not so much **in** the boyfriend **department.**”
- “But you still **went out** with him for two years.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Yeah, well...” She **pulled her knees up** and **wrapped her arms around** them. **“Have you ever been in love?”**
- He raised his head, **as if** trying to find the answers in the stars. “I’m not sure.”
- “If you’re not sure, then you probably weren’t.”
- He **considered** this. “Okay.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “What? **No argument?**”
- “**Like I said,** I’m not sure.”
- “**Were you upset** when it ended?”
- He pressed his lips together, weighing his response. “Not really, but Angie wasn’t either. It was just a high school thing. After graduation, I think both of us understood that we were on different paths.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- But we're still friends. She even invited me to her wedding. I had a lot of fun at the **reception, hanging out** with one of her **bridesmaids."**
- Sophia looked toward the ground. "I loved Brian. I mean, before him, I had these little **crushes**, you know? Like when you write a boy's name on your **folder** and draw little hearts around it?

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- I guess people tend to **put their first loves on pedestals**, and in the beginning, I was no different. I wasn't even sure why he wanted to go out with me—he's good-looking and a **scholarship athlete**, and he's popular and rich... I was so shocked when he **singled me out for attention**. And when we first started **going out**, he was so funny and charming.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- By the time he kissed me, I **was already falling for** him. I **fell hard**, and then..." She **trailed off**, not wanting to **go into the details**. "Anyway, I **broke up with** him right after school started up this year. **Turns out** he was sleeping with another girl from **back home**, all summer long."

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “And now he wants you back.”
- “Yeah, but why? Is it because he wants me, or is it because he can't have me?”
- “Are you asking me?”
- “I'm asking for your perspective. Not because **I'll take him back**, because I won't. **I'm asking you as** a guy.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- When he spoke, his words were measured. “A bit of both, probably. But from what I can tell, I’d guess it’s because he realized he **made a big mistake.**”
- She absorbed the **unspoken** compliment **in silence**, appreciating his **understated** ways. “I’m glad I got to watch you ride tonight,” she said, knowing she meant it. “I thought you **did really well.**”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I **got lucky**. I **felt pretty rusty** out there. It’s been a while since I’ve ridden.”
- “How long?”
- He **brushed** at his jeans, **buying time** before he answered.
- “Eighteen months.”
- For an instant, she thought she’d **heard him wrong**. “You haven’t ridden **in a year and a half?**”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “No.”
- “Why not?”
- She had the sense he **was debating** how to answer. “My last ride before tonight was a bad one.”
- “How bad?”
- **“Pretty** bad.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- At his response, Sophia felt it **click into place**. “Big Ugly Critter,” she said.
- “That’s the one,” he admitted. **Warding off** her next question, he focused on her again. “So you live in a sorority, huh?”
- She noted the **change of subject** but **was content to follow his lead**. “It’s my third year in the house.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- His eyes **glinted mischievously**. “Is it really like people say? All pajama parties and pillow fights?”
- “Of course not,” she said. “It’s more like **negligees** and pillow fights.”
- “I think I’d like living in a place **like that.**” “**I’ll bet.**” She laughed.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “So what’s it really like?” he asked with **genuine curiosity**.
- “It’s a bunch of girls who live together, and **most of the time**, it’s okay. **Other times, not so much**. It’s a world with its own **set of rules** and hierarchy, which is fine if you **buy into** those things. But I’ve never really drunk the Kool-Aid... I’m from New Jersey, and I grew up working in a struggling family business.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- **The only reason** I can even **afford** to go to Wake is because I'm on a full academic scholarship. There aren't a lot of people in the house like me. I'm not saying that everyone else is rich, because they aren't. And a lot of the girls in the house had jobs in high school. It's just that..."

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “You’re different,” he said, finishing for her. “I bet many of your sorority sisters wouldn’t be caught dead **checking out** a bull in the middle of a cow pasture.”
- I wouldn’t be so sure about that, she thought. He was the winner of tonight’s rodeo, and he definitely **qualified as** eye candy, in Marcia’s words. For some of the girls in the house, that would have been more than enough.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “You said you have horses at your ranch?” she asked.
- “We do,” he said.
- “Do you ride them a lot?”
- “Most days,” he answered. “When I’m **checking on** the cattle. I could use the Gator, but I grew up doing it **on horseback**, and that’s what I’m **used to.**”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Do you ever just ride for fun?”
- **“Every now and then.** Why? Do you ride?”
- “No,” she said. “I’ve never ridden. There aren’t too many horses in Jersey City. But growing up, I always wanted to. I think all little girls do.” She paused. “What’s your horse’s name?” “Horse.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- Sophia waited for the joke, but it didn't come. "You call your horse 'Horse'?"
- "He **doesn't mind.**"
- "You should give him a **noble** name. Like Prince or **Chief** or something."
- "It might **confuse** him now."

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Trust me. Anything is better than Horse. It’s like naming a dog Dog.”
- “I have a dog named Dog. Australian Cattle Dog.” He turned, his expression **utterly matter-of-fact**. “Great **herder**.”
- “And your mom didn’t **complain?**”
- “My mom named him.”

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- She shook her head. “My roommate is never going to believe this.”
- “What? That my animals have—in your mind—strange names?”
- “Among other things,” she teased.
- “So tell me about college,” he said, and for the next half hour, she **filled in the details** about her **daily life**.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- Even to her ears, it sounded **dull**—classes, studying, **social life** on the weekends—but he **seemed interested**, asking questions **now and then**, but for the most part allowing her to **ramble**. She described the sorority— especially Mary-Kate —and a little about Brian and how he'd been behaving since school started.

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Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- As they talked, people began to **drift** through the **lot**, some **threading** among the trucks with a tip of their hats, others **stopping to congratulate** Luke on his rides.
- As the evening **rolled on** and the temperature **dropped**, Sophia **felt goose bumps form on her arms**. She crossed her arms, **hunkering down** in her chair.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I’ve got a blanket in the cab if you need it,” he offered.
- “Thanks,” she said, “but that’s okay. I should probably be getting back. I don’t want my friends to leave without me.”
- “I figured,” he said. “**I’ll walk you back.**”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- He helped her down from the **pickup** and they **retraced** their earlier path, the music growing louder as they **approached**. Soon they were standing outside the barn, which was only slightly less crowded than it had been when she'd left. Somehow it felt **as though** she'd **been gone for hours**.

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Do you want me to come in with you? **In case** Brian is still around?”
- “No,” she said. “I’ll be fine. **I’ll stick close to** my roommate.”
- He studied the ground, then raised his eyes. “I had a nice time talking to you, Sophia.”
- “Me too,” she said. “And thanks again. For earlier, I mean.”
- “I was glad to help.”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- He nodded and turned, Sophia watching as he started away. It would have ended there—and later she would wonder whether she should have let it—but instead she took a step after him, the words coming out automatically.
- “Luke,” she called. “Wait.”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- When he faced her, she **raised her chin slightly**. “You said you were going to show me your barn. **Supposedly**, it’s more **rickety** than this one.”
- He smiled, flashing his dimples. “One o’clock tomorrow?” he asked. “I’ve got some things to do in the morning. How about if I **pick you up?**”

The Longest Ride

Chapter 4 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I can drive,” she said. “Just text me the directions.”
- “I don’t have your number.”
- “What’s yours?”
- When he told her, she dialed it, hearing the ring a few feet away. She **ended the call** and stared at him, wondering what **had gotten into** her.
- “Now you do.”

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