

Закрытый клуб

# Читаем вместе по-английски

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**'The Longest Ride'** by Nickolas Sparks



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# **Lesson 30**

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**The Longest Ride**

*Chapter 14, Part 3*

# The Longest Ride

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## Chapter 14, Part 3



# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- Those six paintings—which I **casually rolled** and stored in the backseat of the car for the ride back home—were the first of dozens, then hundreds, then more than a thousand paintings that we would eventually collect.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- Though everyone knows of Van Gogh and Rembrandt and Leonardo da Vinci, Ruth and I focused on twentieth-century American modern art, and many of the artists we met **over the years** created work that museums and other collectors later **coveted**.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- Artists like Andy Warhol and Jasper Johns and Jackson Pollock **gradually** became **household names**, but other, then less **well-known** artists, like Rauschenberg, de Kooning, and Rothko, also created work that would eventually sell at auctions at Sotheby's and Christie's for tens of millions of dollars, sometimes more.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- Woman III, by Willem de Kooning, sold for over \$137 million in 2006, but countless others, including work by artists like Ken Noland and Ray Johnson, also had **sales prices** that reached into the millions.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- Of course, not every modern artist became famous, and not every painting we bought became exceptionally valuable, but that was never a factor in our decisions about whether or not to buy a piece of art **in the first place**. These days, the painting I treasure most **is worth nothing at all**. It was painted by a **former** student of Ruth's and hangs above the fireplace, an **amateur** piece that is special only to me.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- The New Yorker journalist **ignored** it completely, and I **didn't bother to** tell her why I **treasured** it, because I knew she wouldn't understand. **After all**, she did not understand what I meant when I explained that the **monetary value** of the art meant nothing to me. Instead, **all** she **seemed to want to know was** how **we'd been able to select** the pieces we did, but even after I explained it, she didn't seem satisfied.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- “Why did she not understand?” Ruth suddenly asks me.
- “I don’t know.”
- “You **said to** her what we had always said?”
- “Yes.”
- “Then what was so difficult about it? I would talk about the **ways** in which the work **affected** me...”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- “And I would simply observe you as you talked,” I finished for her, “and know whether or not to buy it.”
- It wasn't scientific, but it worked for us, even if the journalist **was frustrated** by this explanation. And **on the honeymoon** it worked **flawlessly**, even if neither of us would fully understand the **consequences** for another fifty years.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- It isn't every couple, after all, who purchases paintings by Ken Noland and Ray Johnson on their honeymoon. Or even a painting by Ruth's new friend Elaine, whose work now hangs in the world's greatest museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 14 – Ira – Part 3

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- And, of course, it's almost impossible to **conceive** that Ruth and I were able to **pick up** not only a **spectacular** painting by Robert Rauschenberg, but two paintings by Elaine's husband, Willem de Kooning.

# The Longest Ride

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## Chapter 15



# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Although he'd **been preoccupied with thoughts** of Sophia since the night they'd met, they **didn't compare with** the **obsession** he felt **the following day**. As he worked on some **fencing** in the far pasture, replacing **posts** that had begun to **rot away**, he occasionally **found himself smiling** as he thought about her.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Even the rain, a cold autumn **downpour** that **left him drenched**, did little to **dampen** his mood. Later, when he had dinner with his mom, she didn't even attempt to hide a **smirk** that let him know she **was fully aware of** the effect that Sophia had on him.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- After dinner, he called and they talked for an hour; the next three days followed the same pattern. **On Thursday evening**, he made the drive to Wake Forest, where they finally had a chance to walk around campus. She showed him Wait Chapel and Reynolds Hall, **holding his hand** as they **strolled** through Hearn and Manchester Plazas.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- It was quiet on campus, the classrooms long since emptied of students. Leaves had already begun to fall **en masse, carpeting** the ground beneath the trees. In the **residence halls,** lights were blazing and he heard **faint strains of music** as students began readying themselves for yet another weekend.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- On Saturday, Sophia returned to the ranch. They **went for a short ride on horseback**, and afterward she followed him around as he worked, **lending a hand** whenever she could. Again they ate at his mother's place and then went back to his, the **glowing fire** as **welcoming** as it had been the week before.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- As had become usual, she **headed back** to the sorority once the fire began to **burn lower**— she wasn't yet ready to spend the night with him—but the following day, he drove with her to Pilot Mountain State Park. They spent the afternoon hiking up to Big Pinnacle, where they shared a picnic lunch and **took in the view.**

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- They'd missed the **pageant** of autumn color by a week or so, but beneath the **cloudless** sky, the horizon **stretched all the way to** Virginia.
- In the week **following** Halloween, Sophia invited Luke back to the sorority. They **were having a party** on Saturday night.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- The **novelty** of his profession and their **dating status** must **have worn off** since he'd **first shown up** at the house, since **no one paid him much attention** after the initial hellos. He **kept a wary lookout for** Brian, but he was nowhere to be found. On their way out, he **remarked upon** it.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “He went to the football game at Clemson,” Sophia told him. “Which made tonight an ideal night to visit.”
- The following morning, he returned to the **sorority house** to **pick her up**, and they walked around Old Salem, **taking in the sights**, before returning to the ranch for their third weekend **in a row** at his mother’s.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Later, as they were saying good night beside her car, he asked if she was free the following weekend—he wanted to bring her to the place where he'd **vacationed** as a child, a place where they could ride trails amid **brehtaking views**.
- Sophia kissed him then and smiled. "That sounds absolutely perfect."

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- By the time Sophia arrived at the ranch, Luke **had already loaded** the horses in the trailer and packed the truck. A few minutes later, they were heading west on the highway, Sophia **fiddling with** the radio. She **settled on** a hip-hop station, **cranking up** the volume until he couldn't take it any longer and switched to country-western.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “I wondered how long you’d **be able to last,**” she said, **smirking.**
- “I just think this **fits the mood better,** what with the horses and all.”
- “And I think you just never **developed an appreciation** for other kinds of music.”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- "I listen to other music."
- "Oh, yeah? **Like what?**"
- "Hip-hop. For the past thirty minutes. But it's a good thing I changed it. I could **feel my dance moves coming on**, and **I'd hate to lose control of** the truck."

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- She **giggled**. "I'm sure. **Guess what?** I bought some boots yesterday. My very own pair. See?" She **lifted** her feet, **preening** as he admired them.
- "I noticed when I was putting your bag in the truck."
- "And?"
- "You're **definitely turning country. Next thing** you know, you'll **be roping cattle** like a pro."

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “I doubt it,” she said. “There aren’t too many cows **wandering around** museums **as far as I can tell**. But maybe you’ll show me how this weekend?”
- “I didn’t bring my rope. I did, however, remember to bring you an extra hat. It’s one of my nice ones. I wore it in the PBR World Championships.”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- She looked at him. “Why do I sometimes **get the sense** you’re trying to change me?”
- “I’m just offering... **improvements.**”
- “You better be careful, or I’ll tell my mom what you said. Right now, I’ve **got her believing** you’re a nice guy, and you’ll want to stay **on her good side.**”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- He laughed. **"I'll keep that in mind."**
- "So tell me where we're going. You said you **used to go** there as a boy?"
- "My mom **discovered** it. She was out this way trying to **drum up business**, and she just **kind of stumbled on** it."

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- It **used to** be a struggling summer camp, but the new owners **got it in their heads** that if they opened it up to riders, they could **fill the rooms** all year long. They **made some improvements** on the **cabins** and added some horse stalls in the back of each one, and my mom **fell in love with** the place. You'll see why when we get there."

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “I can’t wait. But how did you **get your mom to agree to let you take off** the whole weekend?”
- “I **got most everything done** before I left and I offered José a little extra to come in to help **while I’m gone**. She’ll be in **good shape**.”
- “I thought you said there’s always something to do.”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “There is. But it’s nothing my mom can’t **handle. No emergencies pending.**”
- “Does she **ever get to leave** the ranch?”
- “**All the time.** She tries to visit our customers **at least once a year** and they’re all over the state.”
- “Does she ever **take a vacation?**”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “She’s **not big on** vacations.”
- “Everyone needs a break **now and then.**”
- “I know. And I’ve tried to tell her that. I even bought her cruise tickets once.”
- “Did she go?”
- “She returned the tickets and **got a refund.** The week she **was supposed to go,** she drove to Georgia to **check out a bull** that **was for sale,** and she **ended up buying** him.”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “To ride?”
- “No. For **breeding**. He’s still out there, **by the way**. **Mean cuss**. But he **gets the job done**.”
- She **pondered** this information. “Does she have friends?”
- “Some. And she still visits them **from time to time**. **For a while**, she was in a bridge club with a few ladies from town.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- But lately, she's **been trying to figure out** how to increase the size of the **herd** and that's **been taking a lot of her time**. She wants to **add** another couple hundred pair, but we don't have enough pasture, so she's trying to find a place for us to keep them."
- "Why? She **doesn't think** she's **busy enough already?**"

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- He **shifted hands** on the steering wheel before **sighing**.  
“Right now,” he said, “we don’t have much choice.”
- He could feel Sophia’s questioning gaze, but he didn’t want to talk about it and he changed the subject. **“Are you going to be heading home for Thanksgiving?”**

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “Yes,” she said. “**Assuming** my car makes it. There’s a loud **squeaking-whining** sound when I start it. The engine **sounds like it’s screaming.**”
- “It’s most likely just a **loose belt.**”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- “**Yeah, well,** it’ll probably be expensive to **fix** and I’m kind of on a budget.”
- “If you’d like, I can probably **take care of** it.”
- She turned toward him. “Why do I have no doubt about that?”

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- **It took a little over two hours to reach** the camp, the sky slowly filling with clouds that stretched to the blue-peaked mountains that **dotted** the horizon. **In time,** the highway began to rise, the air thinning and turning **crisp,** and they eventually stopped at a **grocery store** to **pick up supplies.** Everything went into the coolers in the **bed** of the truck.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Luke exited the main highway after leaving town, following a road that **curved steadily** and **seemed carved into the mountain itself**. It **dropped off steeply** on Sophia's side, the tops of trees **visible** through the windows. **Fortunately** there was little **traffic**, but whenever a car passed in the opposite direction, Luke **had to grip** the wheel **with** both hands as the trailer's wheels **skirted the very edge of** the **asphalt**.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Not having visited in years, he slowed the truck, **searching for the turnoff**, and just when he started thinking that he'd **gone too far**, he spotted it off the curve. It was a **dirt road**, even **steeper** in places than he remembered, and he put the truck into **overdrive** as he navigated slowly past trees that were pressing in from both sides.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- When he reached the camp, his first thought was that it hadn't changed much, with twelve cabins **spreading out** in a semicircle from the general store, which also **doubled** as the office. Behind the store was the lake, **sparkling** with the kind of crystal blue water found only in the mountains.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- After **checking in**, Luke **unloaded** the coolers and filled the **water trough** for the horses while Sophia **wandered off** toward the **ravine**. She **took in the view of the valley** more than a thousand feet below, and when Luke **finished up**, he joined her near the ravine, their vision wandering from one mountaintop to the next.

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- Below them was a collection of farmhouses and gravel roads lined by **oaks** and **maples**, everything looking miniaturized, like models in a **diorama**.
- As they stood together, he noticed the same wonder on her face he'd felt whenever he came here as a child. "I've never seen anything like this," she **murmured, awestruck. "It makes me feel breathless."**

# The Longest Ride

## Chapter 15 – Luke

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- He **stared at** her, wondering how she'd **come to mean** so much to him so quickly. Studying the **graceful** outline of her profile, he **was certain** he'd never seen anyone more beautiful.
- "I was thinking exactly the same thing."

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