

Закрытый клуб

Читаем вместе по-английски

'The Longest Ride' by Nickolas Sparks



Автор – Диана Семёнычева
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Lesson 6

The Longest Ride

Chapter 2, Part 2

The Longest Ride

Chapter 2, Part 2



The Longest Ride

Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Mary-Kate was the **chapter** president, and not only **did she ooze sorority** life, but she **looked the part as well** – with full lips and a slightly **turned-up** nose, **set off** by **flawless** skin and **well-defined bone structure**. With the added **allure** of her **trust fund** – her family, old tobacco money, was still one of the wealthiest in the state – to many people, she was the sorority.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- And Mary-Kate knew it. Right now, at one of the larger **circular tables** she **was holding court**, surrounded by younger sisters who clearly wanted to **grow up** to **be just like** her. **As always**, she was talking about herself.
- “I just **want to make a difference**, you know?” Mary-Kate was saying. “I know **I’m not going to be able to change the world**, but I think it’s important to try to make a difference.”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Jenny, Drew, and Brittany **hung on her every word.** “I think that’s amazing,” Jenny agreed. She was a **sophomore** from Atlanta, and Sophia **knew her well enough** to **exchange greetings** in the mornings, but **not much more than that.** **No doubt** she **was thrilled to be spending time** with Mary-Kate.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I mean, I don’t want to go to Africa or Haiti or anything like that,” Mary-Kate **went on.** “Why **go all the way over there?** My daddy says that there are **plenty of** opportunities to help people right **around here.** **That’s why** he started his **charitable foundation in the first place,** and that’s why I’m **going to work** there after graduation. To **help eliminate** local problems.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- To make a difference right here in North Carolina. Do you know that there are some people in this state who still **have to use outhouses?** Can you imagine that? Not having any **indoor plumbing?** We need to address these kinds of problems."

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Wait,” Drew said, **“I’m confused.”** She was from Pittsburgh, and her **outfit** was nearly identical to Mary-Kate’s, even **down to** the hat and boots. “You’re saying that your dad’s foundation builds bathrooms?”
- Mary-Kate’s **shapely brows** formed a V. “What are you talking about?”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Your dad’s foundation. You said it builds bathrooms.”
- Mary-Kate **tilted her head, inspecting** Drew **as if** she **were** a **mental midget**. “It provides scholarships to **needy** children. **Why on earth** would you think it builds bathrooms?”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Oh, I don't know, Sophia thought, **smiling to** herself. Maybe because you were talking about outhouses? And you made it sound that way? But she said nothing, knowing Mary-Kate wouldn't **appreciate the humor**. When **it came to** her plans for the future, Mary-Kate **had no sense of humor**. The future was **serious business, after all**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “But I thought you were going to be a **newscaster,**” Brittany said. “Last week, you were telling us about your **job offer.**”
- Mary-Kate **tossed her head.** “**It’s not going to work out.**”
- **“Why not?”**
- “It was for the morning news. In Owensboro, Kentucky.”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “So?” asked one of the younger sorority sisters, **clearly puzzled.**
- “Hello? Owensboro? **Have you ever heard of Owensboro?**”
“No.” The girls **exchanged timid glances.**
- **“That’s my point,”** Mary-Kate announced. **“I’m not moving to Owensboro, Kentucky.**

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- It's barely a **blip** on the map. And I'm **not getting up** at four in the morning. Besides, like I said, I want to make a difference. There are a lot of people out there that need help. I've **been thinking about** this **for a long time**. My **daddy** says..."

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- **By then,** Sophia was no longer listening. **Wanting to find** Marcia, she rose from her seat and **scanned** the crowd. It really **was packed in** here, and it was getting more crowded as the evening wore on. **Squeezing past** a few of the girls and the guys they **were talking to,** she began to **slip through** the crowd, **searching for** Marcia's black cowboy hat.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Which was **hopeless**. There were black hats everywhere. She tried to remember the color of Ashley's hat. **Cream colored**, yes? With that, she was able to **narrow down the choices** until she **spotted** her friends. She had started in their direction, squeezing past **clusters** of people, when she caught something **from the corner of her eye**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Or, **more accurately**, someone.
- She stopped, **straining** for a better **sight line**. Usually, his height made him easy to find in crowds, but there were so many tall hats in the way that she couldn't be sure it was him. **Even so**, she suddenly **felt uneasy**. She tried to tell herself that she'd been mistaken, that she **was just imagining things**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- **Despite herself**, she **couldn't stop staring**. She tried to ignore the **sinking feeling in her stomach** as she searched the faces in the moving crowd. He's not here, she told herself again, but **in that instant** she saw him again, **swaggering through** the crowd, **flanked by** two friends.
- Brian.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- She **froze**, watching as the three of them moved toward an **open table**, Brian muscling his way through the crowd **the way** he did on the **lacrosse** field. For a second, she couldn't believe it. All she could think was, Really? You **followed** me here, too?

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- She **felt a flush rising in her cheeks**. She was with her friends, off campus... what was he thinking? She'd **made it plain** that she didn't want to see him; she'd told him **point-blank** that she didn't want to talk to him. She **was tempted to** march right up and tell him – again, right to his face – that **it was over**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- But she didn't, because she knew that it wouldn't make any difference. Marcia was right. Brian believed that if he could just **talk to her**, he could **change her mind**. Because he thought that at his most charming and **apologetic**, he was **irresistible**. She'd forgiven him before, **after all**. Why not again?

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- **Turning away**, she worked her way through the crowd toward Marcia, thanking God she'd left the tables when she had. The last thing she needed was for him to **saunter up, feigning** surprise at finding her. Because **no matter** what the facts were, she'd **end up being painted** as the **heartless** one. Why? Because Brian was the Mary-Kate of his fraternity.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- An **all-American** lacrosse player **blessed with startlingly** good looks and a wealthy **investment banker** father, Brian ruled their social circle **effortlessly**. Everyone in the sorority **revered** Brian, and she **knew for a fact** that half the girls in the house would **hook up with** him **given** the slightest encouragement.
- Well, they could have him.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Sophia continued to **weave** through the crowd as the band finished one song and rolled into the next. She **glimpsed** Marcia and Ashley near the dance floor, talking to three guys wearing **tight jeans** and cowboy hats, who she guessed were a couple of years older than them. Sophia made her way in that direction, and when she reached for Marcia's arm, her roommate turned, looking almost **flustered**. Or, more accurately, drunk.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Oh, hey!” she **drawled, dragging out** the words. She maneuvered Sophia forward. “Guys, this is my roommate, Sophia. And this is Brooks and Tom... and...” Marcia **squinted** at the guy in the middle. “Who are you again?” “Terry,” he offered.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Hi,” Sophia said, the word automatic. She turned back to Marcia. **“Can I talk to you alone?”**
- “Right now?” Marcia **frowned**. She **cut her eyes** toward the cowboys as she turned to face Sophia, **not bothering to hide her irritation. “What’s up?”**
- “Brian’s here,” Sophia **hissed**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Marcia **squinted at** her, as if trying to **make sure** she'd heard her right, before finally **nodding**. The two of them **retreated** to a place farther removed from the dance floor. It wasn't quite as **deafening**, but Sophia still had to **raise her voice to be heard**.
- "He **followed** me. Again."

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Marcia **peered over** Sophia's shoulder. "Where is he?"
- "Back by the tables, with everyone else from school. He **brought** Jason and Rick."
- "How did he know you'd **be** here?"
- "It's not exactly a secret. Half the campus knew we were coming tonight."

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- As Sophia **fumed**, Marcia's interest **flickered** to one of the guys she'd been talking to, then she turned back to Sophia with a trace of **impatience**.
- "Okay... he's here." She shrugged. "What do you want to do?"

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “I don’t know,” Sophia said, **crossing her arms.**
- “Did he see you?”
- **“I don’t think so,”** she said. “I just don’t want him to start anything.”
- “Do you **want me to go talk to** him?”
- “No.” Sophia **shook her head.** “Actually, I don’t know what I want.”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Then just relax. Ignore him. **Hang with** me and Ashley **for a while**. We **don’t have to go back to** the tables. Maybe he’ll leave. And **if he finds** us here, **I’ll just start** flirting with him. **Distract** him.” Her mouth curved into a **provocative smile**. “You know he **used to have a thing for** me. Before you, I mean.”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Sophia pulled her arms tighter. “Maybe we should just go.”
- Marcia **waved a hand.** “How? We’re an hour from campus, and neither of us has a car here. We rode with Ashley, remember?”
- And I **know for a fact** that **she’s not going to want to leave.”** Sophia hadn’t thought of that.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- **“Come on,”** Marcia **cajoled.** **“Let’s get a drink.** You’ll like these guys. They’re in **graduate school** at Duke.”
- Sophia shook her head. **“I’m not really in the mood to** talk to any guys right now.”
- **“Then what do you want to do?”**

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Sophia **caught sight of** the night sky at the far end of the barn and suddenly felt the **overwhelming desire** to get out of this sweaty, **densely packed** scene. “I think I **just need some fresh air.**”
- Marcia followed her gaze, then looked at Sophia again. “Do you want me to come with you?”
- “No, that’s okay. I’ll find you again. Just **hang around** here, okay?”

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- “Yeah, sure,” Marcia agreed **with obvious relief.** “But I can go with you...”
- “Don’t worry about it. **I’m not going to be long.**”
- As Marcia **headed back to** her new friends, Sophia started toward the **rear** of the barn, the crowd **thinning out** as she moved farther from the dance floors and the band.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- A few men tried to **catch her attention** as she maneuvered past them, but Sophia pretended not to notice, refusing to be **sidetracked**.
- The **oversize** wooden doors had been propped open, and as soon as she stepped outside, she felt a wave of relief wash over her. The music wasn't **nearly as** loud, and the **crisp autumn air** felt like a cool balm on her skin.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- She hadn't realized how hot it was inside the barn. She looked around, hoping to find a place to sit. **Off to the side** was a massive **oak tree**, its **gnarled limbs** stretching **in all directions**, and **here and there**, people were standing in small groups, smoking and drinking.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- **It took a second for her to realize** that they were all inside a large **enclosure bounded** by wooden **rails** radiating from either side of the barn; no doubt it had once been a **corral of sorts**.
- There weren't any tables. Instead, **knots of people** mostly sat on or leaned against the rails; one group **perched** on what she thought was an old tractor **tire**.

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Chapter 2 – Sophia – Part 2

- Farther off to the side, a **solitary** man in a cowboy hat **stared** out over the neighboring **pasture**, his face in shadow. She wondered **idly** whether he, too, was in graduate school at Duke, but she **doubted** it. Somehow, cowboy hats and Duke graduate school just didn't go together.

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