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Advisory
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Read-On Summary 1: *The Lucky One*

The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks is a romance novel about a U.S. marine, Logan Thibault, who travels halfway across the country by foot from Colorado to Hampton, North Carolina. He is in search of the woman in a photograph he finds during one of his tours in Iraq. After unsuccessfully finding the owner of the picture, Logan decides to keep the photo in his pocket. He later realizes that the photograph is a lucky charm after surviving dangerous encounters overseas and winning poker games. When Logan finally finds the woman in the picture, Elizabeth, he decides to keep the story of the picture and his good fortune a secret. After working with Beth and growing a close relationship with her son, Ben, Logan realizes his true love for Beth. However, their love is tested when Beth's ex-husband, Keith Clayton, informs Beth of Logan's secret.

An item that is symbolic in this novel is the photograph of Elizabeth that Logan found in Iraq under dirt and rubbish. When Logan first finds the photo, he hangs it up on a bulletin board so that whoever lost it can reclaim it, however, when no one claims the photo, Logan neatly folds it and puts it in his pocket. Later that week after winning a poker game, his friend, Victor, tells Logan that he won because of the "lucky" photo in his pocket. This photo then keeps Logan safe from insurgencies and other harmful situations he faces. The photograph of Beth is symbolic in this novel because it is what brought Logan to Hampton in the first place. If Victor had never told Logan that he owed the woman in the photo for being his lucky charm, then he never would have searched for her. The photograph is what brought Logan and Beth together. In addition to

keeping Logan safe overseas, the photo also saves Ben who had the photo of his mom in his front pocket after he almost drowns in the river during a vicious storm. After Zeus, Logan's dog, pulls Ben out of the river, he tells his mom, "I was scared, but I had the picture in my pocket. Thibault said it would keep me safe," (322). The photo saved Ben's life during the incident and later gave him courage in school. In this novel, the photograph symbolizes luck, bravery, and life for Logan and Ben.

Regarding the author's writing style I noticed the novel is written in a third person narration, yet each chapter is based on three characters: Thibault, Beth, and Clayton. Throughout the entire novel, each chapter revolves around the events, emotions, and actions of one character. For example, one chapter may start off saying, "On his way home from the pool hall, Thibault remembered his second tour in Iraq," (62). While another chapter might say, "That night, Keith Clayton lay on the bed smoking a cigarette, kind of glad that Nikki was in the shower," (96). The character that the chapter is based on is indicated by the title of the chapter. Each chapter is titled Beth, Thibault, Clayton, or a combination of their names because some of the chapters revolve around two or three of the characters. To do this, the author switches off characters about every paragraph or page. I enjoyed this writing style because it was different from what I normally read and allowed me to capture the meaning of the entire story's messages through each character. This writing style is unique and helps the reader gain a deeper understanding of the character's thoughts and emotions.

In the end, the *The Lucky One* is a gracefully written novel that I would definitely recommend to people who enjoy books about journeys in true love. I would recommend this book because it is not your typical romance novel. This story is not something that you read everyday, it has a plot and themes in it that cannot be found within other books. It is a book that

makes you wonder how and why people have come into your life and what affect they will have on you and the people around you. It is beautifully written with endless detail describing each scene and will leave you curious as to what will happen next throughout the entire novel.