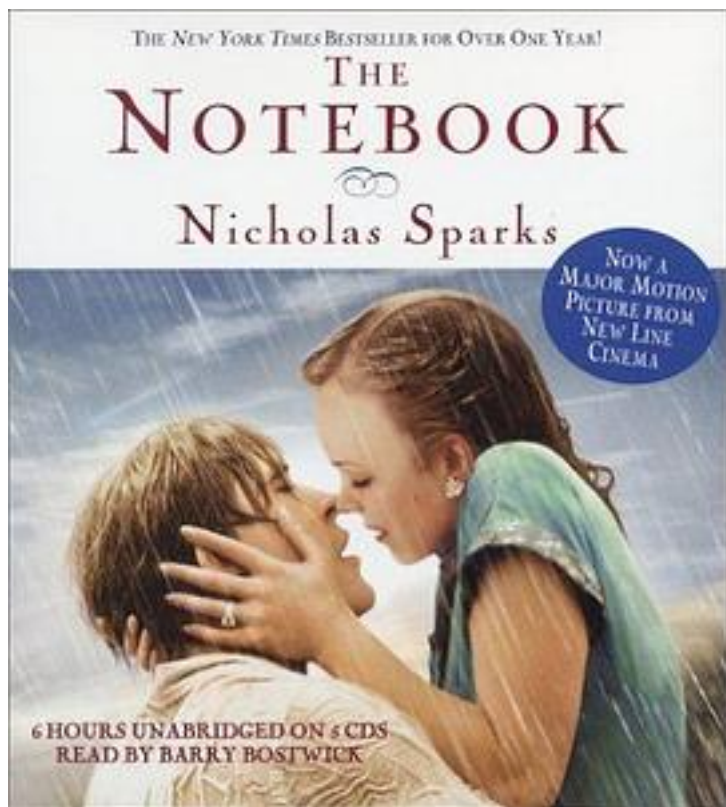


# The Notebook



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With icy dispassion, first novelist Kristof, herself a refugee of war, spins a modern-day fable set in Eastern Europe during WW II. It records, in the form of a notebook written by two small boys, the nightmarish ordeal of twins brought by their mother from the bomb-spattered Big Town to their grandmother's home in Little Town. Grandmother, whom they call the Witch, harbors the boys only because they may prove useful. But they are wiler than she, spying on her through holes in the floor of the attic she can no longer reach, deliberately wounding each other to inure themselves to pain, learning

the language of the occupying forces. The officer who has commandeered a room in the house takes them to bed, first making them beat him until the blood runs. Afterwards, there are gifts and food in plenty and, sometimes, a soft mattress in place of the narrow kitchen bench where Grandmother has consigned them. They boggle at nothing: not theft, sodomy or murder, which last, when necessary, they manage with insouciance, having become a pair of soulless charmers, unflinching proof that monsters are not born but made. They are truly spoiled by war and their terrible, unforgettable history tells in microcosm the tale of a whole people warped and destroyed by the lust for power.

一座被外軍佔領的「大城市」，日子變得艱難困苦並且受到糧食短缺的威脅。一位年輕婦女因此帶著孿生兒子投靠她的鄉下母親——被同鄉稱為老巫婆的瘋子——也就是孩子們的外婆。這位可怕的外婆不僅不識字、骯髒、吝嗇、兇惡，甚至是一名兇手。她帶著這對雙胞胎一起過活。這兩兄弟彼此從不打架，只是學習生存法則、學習寫作，以及學習殘忍。

作者介绍:

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