10 Films About First Love that Make You Want to Fall in Love All Over Again + A Giveaway!





This post is sponsored by The Best of Me.

By <u>Sarah Batcheller</u>

It's not hard to remember being a teenager, curling up on the couch with your mom, your best girlfriends, or your first boyfriend, hitting the lights, and watching a movie about first love. In those days, the stories of the star-crossed, wild-at-heart, or shy lovers were peepholes into what you hoped would be your own love story one day. They inspired you

to see the potential for love in each day and to be wholly devoted when you found it yourself. Even though you're a bit (or a lot) older now, you may find yourself in a situation and still think, "Oh my gosh, this is just like that scene from *The Notebook!*"

It's no surprise that film adaptations of novels by Nicholas Sparks have received widespread acclaim for portraying loves of the century. This Friday, yet another of these Sparks stories is premiering on the big screen: *The Best of Me*. Cupid was inspired by the new movie to bring you a list of our favorite films about first love (in no particular order). Spoiler alerts ahead!

1. The Notebook: We had to start our list with The Notebook. In the film, Allie and Noah meet as teenagers. Noah lives in a small town in South Carolina where Allie's family vacations in the summer. They are torn apart when Allie's parents, who despise Noah for his lower-class status, force their daughter to go home early. The ups-and-downs they endure through the years — both together and apart — make for an epic love story. The most beautiful part is that the tale is being told by an elderly Noah to his wife Allie, who has dementia. Cue the tears!

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- 2. The Girl Next Door: This one you probably didn't watch in your pre-teens, but it's still a pretty epic love story. Matthew, a high school student looking to attend Georgetown University, falls in love with Danielle, the girl who moves in next door. Matthew finds out from his friends that Danielle is an ex-adult film actress and accidentally insults her for it. He wins her back but not before an intense encounter with her ex-boyfriend.
- 3. Never Been Kissed: Josie Geller, a writer for the Chicago Sun-Times, poses as a high school student in order to write a

piece meant to inform parents on their kids' behavior. Josie, who was a nerd in high school, is forced by her boss to become one of the popular kids in order to beat out other newspapers with the more interesting stories. While working on the assignment, she falls in love with her English teacher Sam. She nearly loses him when he discovers her true identity but hopes that her newspaper article will win him back. You'll have to watch and see what happens!

4. A Walk to Remember: This Nicholas Sparks tale is the tearjerker of all tear-jerkers. Landon and Jamie first meet when Landon is being punished for playing a horrible prank on a classmate. Despite teasing from Landon's friends, they become close when Jamie begins helping Landon with his lines for a school play. They begin a beautiful relationship, and Landon helps Jamie achieve her list of things to do in her lifetime, a lifetime that will be cut tragically short by terminal leukemia. He stays by her side as she battles her illness, and true to his dedication to help her achieve the items on her list, he marries her in the same chapel her parents were wed. Ultimately, his first love changes Landon for the better.

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5. The Best of Me: This film, being released this Friday, October 17th, has been widely anticipated by Nicholas Sparks fanatics and romance movie junkies alike. The story follows Dawson and Amanda, who were high school sweethearts. Twenty years after their split, they reunite in their hometown to attend the funeral of a close friend. Amanda is now married and a mother, but the passionate love she once felt for Dawson ignites again. We can already see ourselves curled up on the couch with our besties, rooting for these characters to find their happy ending (although we know better than to think that with Sparks at the wheel!).



A young Dawson and Amanda in 'The Best of Me'. Photo courtesy of Relativity Media / Mammoth NYC.

- **6. Sweet Home Alabama:** Melanie and Jake fell in love as kids and eventually married. When Melanie left him to pursue a career as a fashion designer in New York City, Jake refused to sign their divorce papers. Melanie, who has hidden her Southern roots with a fake last name, travels home to Alabama upon becoming engaged to the mayor's son Andrew and hopes to end her first marriage. While in Alabama, she remembers what she loves about her friends and family. Soon enough, Andrew shows up and discovers the truth about his fiancé. What happens next is anyone's guess!
- 7. Like Crazy: Jake and Anna meet in college in Los Angeles, where Anna is an exchange student from London. They immediately fall in love, but as soon as graduation hits, her student visa expires. Anna's legal troubles continue, and the couple has to fight even more for the love they share.
- **8.** My Girl: This tragedy is particularly heart-wrenching. Vada struggles with understanding life because of her father's profession as a funeral director, because she lives in a

funeral home, and because she blames herself for her mother's death, which occurred shortly after she gave birth to Vada. Her best friend Thomas accompanies her everywhere, even on her frequent visits to the doctor's office (living in a funeral home has made her a hypochondriac). A tragic loss causes Vada to struggle even more but not before she discovers what true love is.

9. *Grease*: We all know the lyrics to this upbeat soundtrack, don't we? Sandy and Danny fell in love over the summer, but sadly, Sandy has to return to her home in Australia. Suddenly, though, her parents decide to stay, and Sandy heads to Rydell High School, where Danny attends. Danny, who is a greaser, tries to keep up his macho act in front of his friends, upsetting good girl Sandy. Of course, thanks to music, the two eventually end up back in each other's arms.

Related Link: From Bestseller to Film comes 'The Fault in Our Stars'

10. The Fault in Our Stars: Hazel and Augustus meet in a cancer patient support group in Indianapolis. Augustus's illness caused him to lose his leg, while Hazel's cancer is slowly destroying her lungs. The two become close and agree to read each other's favorite novels. They track down the author of Hazel's nominated book down in an effort to find out answers regarding the sudden, mysterious conclusion of the book. Based on a true story, their journey is sure to tug at your heartstrings!

These wonderful movies can really help you understand what all different types of love can look like but even with hundreds of movies out there, it is sometimes extremely hard for a man to know when a woman is attracted to you sexually if there are no clues or signs. Hopefully, these movies will give you some tips and clues.

GIVEAWAY ALERT: One lucky reader will receive a The Best of

Me prize pack, including a branded hoodie, branded lip balm, branded tote bag, branded Kleenex box, branded coffee mug, The Best of Me book by Nicholas Sparks, a soundtrack from the film, a mini poster, and a \$25 Fandango gift card. To enter our giveaway, email cupid@cupidspulse.com with your full name, address, email, and daytime phone number BEFORE 5 p.m. EST on October 30th. In the subject line, please write "The Best of Me Giveaway." You can also enter via Facebook. You can enter the contest only once. Good luck!

Giveaway is now closed. Thank you to all who participated!



Photo courtesy of Relativity Media / Mammoth NYC.

Exclusive Interview: Sweet Home Alabama Star Paige Duke Says It's True Love with Jeremiah Korfe





By Daniela Agurcia

We all fell in love with Paige Duke, the small town girl from South Carolina on season three of CMT's reality dating show, Sweet Home Alabama. We interviewed the down-to-earth

sweetheart, learning about her experience as the bachelorette and how listening to her heart led her to choose her true love, Jeremiah Korfe.

It seems as if the decision was an easy one for Duke; she connected instantly with the country boy. It was love at first sight: Korfe was physically her type, and they clicked from the start. In fact, on the first day of meeting the guys, she wrote a letter to her mom and said, "And then there's Jeremiah. He's the only one I can't stop thinking about, and it scares me." Fortunately, the feelings were mutual. Korfe even snuck love letters into Duke's boots, telling her how much he admired her.

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Even though a lot of fans rooted for Duke and Bubba Thompson to end up together, nothing could keep fate from taking its course. Duke shares, "Bubba is an amazing, awesome guy, but I never felt the spark or chemistry with him. Yes, I want him to be in my life forever, but you can't make your heart feel something it doesn't feel."

Duke and Korfe received a lot of criticism once the show ended, but they learned to deal with it. "When one of us would get upset, the other one would get us both back in the right mindset," she explains.

Thanks to the editing of *Sweet Home Alabama*, the show may have given viewers a different impression of what Korfe was truly like. Even though fans mostly saw his bad boy image, he actually has a sweet side. Duke claims, "People didn't see anything about the letters. They didn't see how he would look at me or how long he would hug me."

When asked what he thought about how he was portrayed on the show, Korfe refuted his image by telling us, "I'm more of the work hard, play hard kind-of guy, and even if I do have a bad

boy side, the show made me look more like a whiner, lonesome guy than a bad boy."

What seems to have saved Duke and Korfe's relationship is that they stayed true to their hearts. Duke, a true believer in finding the perfect one, gives us her insight on following your heart, saying, "Gosh, if you don't follow your heart, you will always live with regret. So what if things don't turn out like you thought? You still never regret something that once made you smile."

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As for the most important thing to focus on when starting a new relationship, Duke shares, "Honestly, once the must-haves on your list are checked off — things like the same morals and values — and you're able to create a solid foundation for your relationship, I'd say that the butterflies and feelings that come from a new relationship are most important. That's especially hard to find as you get older."

"After I was hurt a few times, I never thought I'd feel so excited or get butterflies over a guy. I became sort of jaded and closed off. I didn't want anyone to ever have the power to hurt me," Duke adds. "I had been waiting a long time to feel what I felt with Jeremiah."

The sweet, southern belle and country boy were a perfect match from the start, and since the end of the show, their relationship has only become stronger. Duke and Korfe are a great example of pushing everything else aside and following your heart, having overcome much criticism to ultimately find true love. As long as the feelings are real, maybe finding love on a reality show is possible after all.

Duke made it clear that she truly believes there's someone out there for everyone, sharing these inspiring words: "I don't think people should settle just for the sake of not being alone. It's cliche, but don't find the one you can live with;

Jake Pavelka Goes Public With His New Model Girlfriend





The Bachelor star Jake Pavelka, 33, is a bachelor no more. Pavelka is now a dating graduate of the University of Central Florida and a contestant on CMT's Sweet Home Alabama, Ashley Ann Vickers. The relationship is fairly new, as they met on the set of the CW show H8r and just this past Saturday hit the beach for some couple-time. According to UsMagazine.com, Vickers' website says she is a Southern born lady who competed in the Miss USA pageant and modeled for

Maxim. But her true passion lies in motivation, as she "hopes to become a full time motivational speaker for college kids" in the future. If her website is anything to go by, Vickers seems like a keeper.

What are some things to consider before going public with your relationship?

Cupid's Advice:

It's tough to know when the right time is to tell your friends and family about a new relationship. Cupid has some tips:

- 1. Determine your motives: Why do you want to go public with your relationship? If it's because you want to share the source of your happiness, then it's probably time to tell family and friends. If it's because you want to avoid awkward questions from friends and family, that may not be a good enough reason.
- 2. Label it: Figure out what the title you're going to give your relationship. There's nothing more awkward than going to introduce someone and not knowing what exactly to call the relationship. If you can talk about that, you're ready to go public.
- **3. Give a head's up:** There's nothing worse than introducing your partner and having a family member or friend share some embarrassing information. Avoid awkward introductions by giving forewarning.

How did you decide to go public with your relationship? Share your thoughts below.