



Love Story

By Erich Segal
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Introduction

He is Oliver Barrett IV, a rich jock from a stuffy WASP family on his way to a Harvard degree and a successful career in law. She is Jenny Cavilleri, a wisecracking working-class beauty from Rhode Island studying music at Radcliffe.

Opposites in nearly every way, Oliver and Jenny immediately attract, sharing a tumultuous love that defies everything...yet will end too soon. As they face the joys of marriage and life together, they must also confront the random twists of fate that conspire to separate them. Here is a legendary love that will linger in your heart now and forever.

Questions for Discussion

1. *Love Story* opens by revealing a key plot element: "What can you say about a twenty-five-year-old girl who died?" How did this information affect your desire to keep reading?
2. Considering their personalities and upbringings, how are Oliver Barrett and Jenny Cavilleri alike, and how do they differ? What enables them to surmount their differences?
3. How would you describe the parent-child relationships between Oliver and his father, Oliver Barrett III, and Jenny and Phil Cavilleri?
4. What do you think attracts Oliver and Jenny initially, and how does that attraction change and deepen over the course of *Love Story*?
5. How do Oliver and Jenny's wedding and "post-game party" reflect their style as a couple?
6. After Oliver apologizes for his part in the argument he and Jenny have about his family, she tells him: "Love means not ever having to say you're sorry." To what extent do you think this remark holds true?
7. How does Jennifer's illness change her relationship with Oliver?
8. Why is Oliver's reconciliation with his father after Jenny's death significant, and what does it suggest about Jenny's effect on him?

About the Author

Erich Segal is the author of numerous books of bestselling fiction, many of which have been made into movies and TV miniseries. He has also published nonfiction books on Greek and Latin literature and taught at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. In 1998, the French government awarded him the Légion d'Honneur. He is married with two daughters and lives in England.