

## The Books that Stir Us: The Basbanes Project

Everyday as growing individuals, we experience somewhat of a routine. Something that is normal to us, whether it is brushing our teeth in the morning, our daily commute to work, or sitting down with our families to enjoy dinner, we experience routine. It's so easy to get wrapped up and comfortable in our everyday life that we don't get a chance to take a break and relax.

I can't narrow it down to a specific book that has solely taken the responsibility of changing my life, however there are a few I would like to share about that have really touched me. My days are so hectic, as many of my age are. I try to balance a full time job as well as being a full time student, daughter, sister, friend and girlfriend. I notice that by the end of the day I'm praying for more hours to be handed to me in order to make ends meet and get my daily tasks done.

Whenever I do get time by myself there is one hobby I do that is time I set aside completely for me. I read. I wrap up in a bundle of blankets, make myself a pot of coffee, lay in bed, and lock my door. Reading is my time where I can go anywhere I want without having to leave my comfort zone. Since I am always on the run I don't have time to just pick up a book, read a few chapters, put it down, and save for another time where I am less busy. I feel as though that is stealing from the adventure the book holds inside.

While wrapped up in my bedroom, I have piece in mind knowing that for however many hours I need I will be able to sit and read without disruptions from beginning to end. Nichols Sparks is my favorite author. In this society it seems as though chivalry is dead, but his books grab ahold of my heart. In some accepts I can relate to whatever the main character might be facing whether its love, loss, or plain out daily struggles. Sparks knows how to grab ahold to his readers and send them through a journey of all the emotions we feel, just are afraid to show in public, or even to ourselves.

Other books I enjoy reading are the "Chicken Soup For The Soul" series. There are many different books, but I usually stick to the teenage focused. These books have many fiction and

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nonfiction short stories that are really inspirational. They open my mind up and make me want to be a better person. I always feel more optimistic after reading through them.

All those books are incredible and wonderful to read, but there is one book that inspires me the most. One that holds the answers to my everyday questions, put me at ease, gives out a love story, and one that gives me hope. That book is the Bible. There are sixty-six books in the Bible, that are anywhere from love, to war, to victory. The Bible has mystery, romance, thrill, almost every different genre included in it. What's most important about it though is that it's real, and I know the promises in it are made to me, and I can't get enough of learning about how One could love me so much.

Unfortunately I can't say that only one book has stood out to me. However, writing this essay has showed me that maybe that's a good thing. My reading gives me a way out of the everyday stresses I have, and if there was just only one book that stands out, I would be shortchanged of all the others out there waiting to be read.