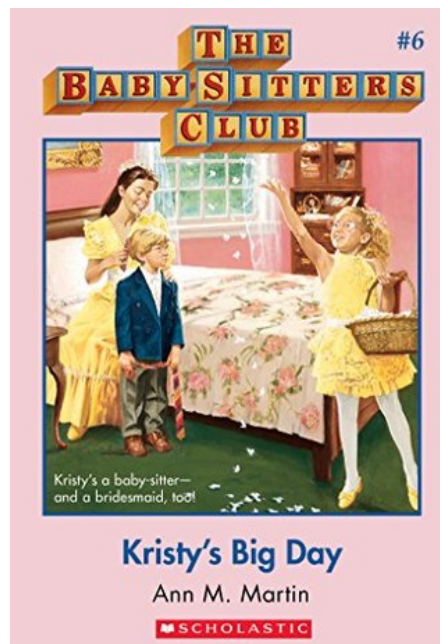




Kristy's Big Day

Ann M. Martin

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The hit series returns to charm and inspire another generation of baby-sitters!

Kristy's mom is getting married, and everyone is coming to town to help, bringing their kids with them. Fourteen kids! Kristy is sure she and Stacey, Claudia, Mary Anne, and Dawn can handle it--they're professional baby-sitters, after all, and Kristy's mom has offered them a lot of money to take on such a big job.

But will a week of changing diapers, stopping fights, solving mix-ups, and keeping fourteen children entertained prove to be too much for the BSC? Can they keep things under control for Kristy's big day?

Kristy's Big Day Details

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From Reader Review Kristy's Big Day for online ebook

Sarah says

3 Stars

Ashley says

This might be my favourite BSC book, but there are so many amazing ones that it's hard for me to choose one. But this book has it all: family, friends, and lots of baby-sitting.

Family: I got into the BSC after reading the Karen books, and because I loved Karen so much, it was natural that Kristy was my favourite baby-sitter. (Though it has changed a couple times over the years, I still have a soft spot for her in my heart.) So that could be one of the reasons I love this book, the joining of Karen and Kristy's families. (And who doesn't love a wedding?)

Friends: It's just always nice to read a book where the girls aren't in a fight hahaha. Plus, I love when they all work together, and all the members are featured in the story together, not just randomly appearing at the meetings.

Baby-sitting: I'll be honest, sometimes the baby-sitting plots are kind of a bore. But I think this book is a good example of the baby-sitting made fun: it's a big group of kids, any issues they have are small, and I love how the girls make it work - my only nitpick is that it's a bunch of random kids (Kristy's cousins) and not enough of the neighbourhood kids we know and love (Jamie, Charlotte, the Pikes, the Barretts...) And none of the kids really had any defining traits. Heck, I probably couldn't name all of them!

All in all, this book is what the Baby-sitters Club is all about!

Christina says

This was the first Baby-sitters Club book I read. I remember I bought it at the school book fair and got hooked on the series. After that, I would ride my bike (a lavender Mountain bike) a few blocks to Waldenbooks on Main Street at the beginning of each month to see if there were any new books out (my other favorite series was The Fabulous Five by Ann M. Martin, and books by Christopher Pike and R.L. Stine). The juvenile section was at the back of the store, so I'd always park my bike and come through the back door to immediately search the shelves. Back then there were three bookstores on Main Street (Klein's and The Remarkable Bookshop, both independents, were the others)--sadly, now there are none. I would then ride home and stay up past my bedtime devouring my new books.

Krissy says

Rated by my daughter

Amy H says

This are such a great series, I am glad that I won them in an auction!!!

This story begins when Kristy's mom is getting married. Watson is a millionaire and lives in a huge mansion. Kristy is not exciting about moving because all of her friends live on the other side of town and they have their baby sisters club. Kristy was the president! How was this going to work when she moved!! The move started to seem a little nice when her mother told her she was going to be a bridesmaid and could even wear heels!

Kristy's mom made Kristy help plan the wedding. Due to Kristy's mothers new work schedule they had to bump up the day. All of the relatives where coming in and they all had children plus Watson's friends were coming as well to help out and they brought their children. All the adults had one problem... who was going to watch the children... this seemed like a great job for the baby sitters club!!! they got offered \$120 each for a week's job.

Things were going great until all 14 children started to get stir crazy. They split the children up in groups and this is where it gets funny. a trip to the library, movies, park, and back yard turns into a stressful disaster! Can the babysitters club hold it together until the wedding or are they going to have to call Nannie for help?

Eva says

This was one of my favorite series to read growing up as a kid/preteen. Brought back a lot of memories reading this one and I have more of them to reread. This one is about Kristy's mom getting married again and all that she and the Babysitters go tough before the wedding and during.

Rachel Brand says

This book is evidence that the original BSC books are far superior to the ghostwritten ones. For example - there is no official format in this book! I think that's why I enjoyed it so much. I reread Claudia Kishi, Middle School Drop-Out the other day and found myself skipping the babysitting chapters because I wasn't interested in the subplot. This was a really cute, fun book and I'm glad I chose to reread it. Definitely a keeper. 9/10

Logan Hughes says

WEDDING STUFF.

In the final week before her mother's wedding, Kristy and the rest of the club hold a 9-to-5 daycare for the children of her visiting relatives. Kristy deals with lingering misgivings about her impending life changes, and serves as a bridesmaid in the wedding.

The five-day daycare takes up most of the book, and provides an interesting and unusual structure with

plenty of baby-sitting and juicy meta-baby-sitting organizational planning.

Highlights: Kristy, Sam, and Charlie have a real conversation about the ways in which Watson will and won't be their father.

The club's emergency meeting where they figure out the structure of the play group and assign the kids to groups is so right. For some reason, the meta-baby-sitting organizational planning is like, the most comforting and enjoyable part of the whole series for me. I could read a whole book of the sitters just debating the finer points of a rules change.

Nitpicks & Lingerin Questions: Oh, man, I have so many issues with all the rushed wedding contrivances. The thing is, I actually like the "rushed wedding" trope, but they don't make it work here. The beauty of the rushed wedding is the DIY-ness, the coming together of the community, and the realization that you don't need all the trimmings, because you only really have to have love. The Watson & Elizabeth wedding isn't satisfying in that way because they have infinite money/you don't see much of the preparations anyway/the book is just not believable, so other than being in Watson's yard, it's not particularly simple or slapdash. It certainly does nothing to promote the "you don't need anything fancy to get married" moral.

There are DIY elements, like Nannie making Kristy and Karen's dresses and various relatives making food in the background, but what I didn't really notice as a kid, and what didn't really strike me until after my own wedding, was how honestly presumptuous and demanding it would be to demand DIY help with such ludicrously tight deadlines, on such a large scale, when you have plenty of money and no actual legitimate reason for the rush. (We'll get to the reasons below, but trust me, they're silly.) I mean, can you imagine those phone calls? "Hi Mom, yeah, so the wedding I asked you to make dresses for? In three months? It's actually a week from Saturday now. So, rush order, ok? Kristy and Karen are counting on them being perfect." "Hi sis! So, how much vacation time do you have? I'ma need you to take all of it. Tell your boss you won't be in next week. You know how to make crepes suzettes for 300, right? Also, if you insist on bringing your kids, can you at least pre-pack five lunches for them? kthxbai"

Let's get into the contrivances:

When the book opens, in June near the end of the school year, Elizabeth and Watson have just set the date to the third week of September. They seem to have done zero planning until now. Given that they got engaged in book 1, the *previous* September, **what have they been doing all this time?** I know the Wedding Industrial Complex has advanced since the 1980s and maybe wedding didn't routinely take a year to plan back then, but three months still seems like cutting it close for a three hundred person ceremony. For comparison, my wife and I left ourselves three months to plan a twenty person ceremony, and people still said, "Are you crazy?"

The date runs into difficulties when Elizabeth learns that she is being sent on a business trip to Vienna for the third week in September. **Can't she negotiate that?** You'd think "that is my wedding date" would be one of the few ironclad excuses. (Of course, she hasn't really done any planning yet, and maybe she really wants to go to the conference or whatever Vienna.)

The biggie: the baffling propriety(?) issue. Okay, bear with me. At first Elizabeth thinks the best thing to do is move the wedding later (ya think?), but then a buyer puts an offer she can't refuse on the house. The catch: he wants to move in by mid-July (in two and a half weeks). So Elizabeth concludes that the only thing to do is MOVE THE WEDDING TO TWO WEEKS FROM NOW.

This cause and effect baffles me! **Why, exactly, is not an option to move first, and then have the wedding?** Is it a moral issue? Is Elizabeth really so worried about looking like she's having premarital sex

with her second husband that she considers the danger of impropriety worth HAVING A WEDDING IN TWO WEEKS, including planning a fairly large and traditional ceremony and reception from scratch; renting chairs and tents and decorations at last minute; ordering custom rings and flowers and dresses and dying shoes to match and getting them all in time; arranging time off for everyone involved; demanding that 300 people arrange their own vacation time and get themselves to her within the next 7-14 days; finding accommodations and childcare for all those folks; not to mention moving her five kids out of the only house they've ever lived in? Given the circumstances, **who would possibly judge her for moving in ahead of time?** Between them, she and Watson have six kids; it's not like anyone thinks they're virgins.

AND EVEN IF THAT IS THE ISSUE, just off the top of my head, I can think of plenty of alternatives to having the wedding within the next 18 days, without having Watson and Elizabeth sleep in the same room until they're married, including, but not limited to, eloping; getting the paperwork done at the courthouse now but also having a fancy wedding party when they're ready; having Elizabeth take one of the several empty rooms in Watson's house; having the kids move to Watson's but Elizabeth cutesily spend her nights with a friend for awhile; lying; and probably about a billion other solutions.

Is fourteen days even enough time to get a marriage license?!

Kristy actually suggests a reasonable alternative, which is not to take the first offer on the house she gets, but Elizabeth says she doesn't think she'll get another offer this high. Reasonably, Kristy asks, well, **why does Elizabeth need the money so badly?** Watson's loaded. Elizabeth says it's complicated. She doesn't want to put Watson on the hook for four extra college educations. **Wait, are Elizabeth and Watson going to have separate finances?** I can't imagine the stand-up guy Watson we know being like, "Hmm, I know we're technically joining our lives now, Edie, and I know I make at least five times what you make, but, how about we keep it that your four full-time kids are your responsibility, and my two kids that I have about 25% custody of are mine." This must be Elizabeth's idea. I definitely believe that her being bullheaded about taking care of her own and not being a burden/gold-digger/charity case. That said, when your stubborn insistence on not financially burdening your future husband, who is so rich that money means nothing to him, takes the form of burdening your entire extended family with unreasonable demands of time/work/money/inconvenience/stress/upheaval, maybe it's time to rethink your priorities??

In the same sentence, Elizabeth also mentions that half the money from the house belongs to Kristy's father. **Is that a thing?** Divorcing your wife, moving away, and seven years later, she sells the house and you get half the money? If one person buying the other out of the house was not feasible or desired at the time of the divorce, would they not figure out some other way to divide the assets?

Fashion Watch: "For a wedding?" Kristy asks in disgust when Claudia suggests a green bridesmaid's dress. What, what's wrong with green?

Gender Expression Watch: Some take issue with Kristy's appreciation for a long gown and high heeled shoes and floral arrangements in this book, but I feel like it's pretty believable even for someone who is anti-skirt most of the time to get caught up in wedding fever, especially when the person getting married is truly important to you. When I was a 13-year-old baby butch, even I conceded that if my brother were to get married I would wear a dress (though I mentally designed an all-black outfit with tights that had silver dragons on them.) The first time I did dress femme as a young teen, after two years of staunchly refusing to wear a skirt, I went all out and got a slinky dress and heels because if I was going to do it, I was going to do it right (also, a hot girl wanted me to do). It was sort of like wearing a costume. So I actually think the fact that it's a super-fancy outfit for a super-fancy occasion makes it ring more true than if Kristy just were to integrate a jean skirt into her normal repertoire.

Business Model Watch: This is one of the few books that mentions actual numbers when it discusses baby-

sitter pay. Later books tend to be quite vague about the sitters' rates. Elizabeth and Watson offer the five-person club a total of \$600, or \$120 per sitter, to care for all fourteen children for one business week (9-5 for five days, or 40 hours). This works out to \$3 an hour per sitter. For comparison, Connecticut's minimum wage in 1987 was \$3.75. Kristy and Sam are wowed by the \$600 number, but I can't imagine that the sitters' normal rates are much lower than this. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$3 in 1987 has as much buying power as \$6.25 in 2014.

All that said, I remember also being pretty wowed by the amount of money when I was a kid. When you are a kid, you don't have that many chances to do paid work, particularly this much paid work in this short a period of time; also, you don't have any expenses.

Incidentally, the 2012 Kindle version updates this to \$1000, or \$200 per sitter, or \$5 an hour per sitter. This is worse than inflation: \$3 in 1987 is \$6.06 in 2012. Minimum wage in Connecticut in 2012 was \$8.25.

Timing: June and July between seventh and eighth grades.

Shira says

kristy's mom's wedding, planned for september, has to be moved to july because there is already an offer on the house (not to mention kristy's mom has a work trip to europe in september). the week of the wedding, the bsc has a day care for the 14 kids of adults that are working on the wedding.

highlights:

- this is the first time the baby-sitters have a large-scale organized baby-sitting project. this happens a lot throughout the series, but this early on it seems nigh impossible until they actually do it and have little trouble.

- introduction of nannie and her "pink clinker" (her ratty old car that she painted pink and decorated with a pink plastic flower on the antenna)

- kristy's description of her uncle neal: "he is not my favorite relative. his pants and shirt never match, he smokes cigars, and he talks too loudly." does he also sell used cars?

- kristy's foray into girliness (wanting to wear a dress, being excited about flowers and heels). I like this because I think of myself as having been a tomboy growing up, but I still liked (and continue to like) being extremely girly and feminine sometimes.

- the fake wedding the bsc has for the fake day care is really cute. luke (playing the minister) says holy moly instead of holy matrimony. the vows are also great: "karen, do you promise to love your husband and help him out and not hog the television?" "david michael, do you promise to love your wife and help her out and show her how to ride a two-wheeler?"

lowlight:

- the whole premise is kind of faulty. if mrs. thomas and watson are opposed to the prospect of living together before they are officially married (which doesn't really seem realistic to me based on what I know about those characters), why don't they just get legally married without the ceremony, and then have the actual ceremony and party in october?

one claudia outfit:

- She was wearing one of her usual outrageous outfits: a black leotard and skintight red pants under a white shirt that was so big it looked like a lab coat. Claudia's a wonderful artist and she had decorated the shirt herself, covering it with designs painted in acrylic. She had pinned her long, black hair back at the sides with red clips.*

karen's fake wedding outfit:

"Here's my veil," she said, brushing aside a garish pink piece of netting, "and my lovely, lovely hat." (On top of the lovely, lovely hat was a lovely, lovely fake bird's nest with two fake bluebirds inside.) "And I put on my best bracelets. I guess my shoes are a little big" (they were a pair of Mom's) "but that's okay. Now, my dress is the most beautiful part of all. See the jewels?" The dress was wilder than the veil. For starters, it wasn't white; it was bright blue, with shimmery sequins sewn all over it. The waistline fell around Karen's knees."

four snacks in claudia's room:

- m&ms in a box under her bed labeled ARTWORK: STILL LIFS AND PORTRITS
- snickers bar in the drawer of her jewelry box
- a package of ring dings in the STILL LIFS AND PORTRITS box
- a roll of life savers in her pocket

they also get crackers and fruit (for stacey and dawn) and soda from the kitchen, but those aren't hidden in claudia's room so I don't think they count.

Amanda says

5th grade, I was a total BabySitters Club addict. I think I read them until I was in 9th grade or something embarrassing. Anyway, THIS particular one was one of my absolute favorites, and I read it a bazillion times. It's the one where Kristy's mom marries Watson, or whatever the hell his name is. See the beautiful yellow dress?!?!? And the babysitters had all the kids over at once and had to do games and stuff with them. It was like the girls were running their own day camp! One time I took this book in the bathtub to read because I thought reading in the bathtub was a sophisticated thing to do (shut up, I see the irony) and of course I got the damn book soaked. But I didn't care. It dried to a fat wrinkly rag, but I read it again anyway! Yay, happy times.

Mindy says

Yes I read it. Today. Yes I'm a grown-ass woman.

I give it five stars as the 10 year old who looooved it and 3 as the 36 year old who recognizes that its pretty decent for its intended audience and time written, but not lacking plot holes.

These children they're watching? They have horrible parents. Kristy's mom is kind of a user. You're marrying a millionaire but need to monopolize eight of your closest friends and family's time for the equivalent of a full time work week to make food and decorate for your wedding (they have people you can hire for that, even last minute)?! To the point where your 13 year old daughter and her friends have to take boys for haircuts (grandma can give them a ride but not actually go in and give any input, the junior high schooler's got this). Yeah okay.

But 10 year old me was obsessed with this book and the rest of the babysitters' club books so they get a pass.

At 13 I was so ready for all this responsibility, why didn't my mom let me? Still a mystery.

kb says

Rereading BSC books, which sparked my ~love for reading~! For this one, I enjoyed getting to know Kristy again, and following the change (her mom remarrying!) in her life.

?Jordan? says

Today is THE DAY! Kristys mom is finally about to marry Watson. She will become a stepsister to two new siblings. But things get pretty hectic when family and friends come into town to help with the wedding and the babysitters club have 14 children to watch all at once. Hopefully they can stick it out.

Ciara says

dear god, i was OBSESSED with this book when i was a kid. it's all because of the babysitters taking care of fourteen kids for a week. i was really into how they split the kids up by age, & made little color-coded shaped name tags, & each group had age-appropriate activities...everything that appealed to me about this book was what appealed to me about the american girl catalogue. i like things that are organized & logical & collection-oriented. it's hard to explain.

of course, time went on & the ghostwriters wrote the whole "babysitters club takes care of a whole passel of children for a week" storyline into the ground. it got to the point where, if there was one more fucking carnival or neighborhood marching band, i thought i'd die. none of them were lightning in a bottle like this book. & the last day of the sitting job, when the babysitters are supposed to get all the kids dressed for the rehearsal dinner, only to discover that one of the kids swapped out a few items in every bag for something else...god, that really appealed to my obsessive logic puzzle-solving side. even though i also wanted to throttle the kid that did it for messing up such a great organizational system.

okay, actual plot: kristy's mom is marrying watson. they decide to get hitched in the fall, giving them all summer to plan the wedding & sell kristy's mom's house. but her job wants her to be in europe for when the wedding is scheduled, & then a buyer (the perkins family) comes along for the house & is willing to pay the full asking price if they can take possession, like, tomorrow. for some reason, mrs. thomas & watson aren't cool with just shacking up together but unmarried for a few months, even though they have both been married before & it's not really a big deal for an unmarried couple to live together. & if they wanted to be really proper about it, watson lives in a damn mansion. mrs. thomas could just have her own room until they finally get married. no, we need a plot device, & the plot device here is that the wedding is in two & a half weeks & the thomas family is moving immediately after. & because it's such short notice, mrs. thomas's siblings (& their spouses & children) plus watson's best friend (& his wife & children) are all coming to stoneybrook to pitch in for the week before the wedding. if this was my wedding/moving day, i'd actually be aggravated that i suddenly had to delegate responsibility to a whole crew of well-meaning helpers that i didn't request help from, but whatever.

because everyone has kids, mrs. thomas hires the BSC to watch all the kids for the whole week & pays them \$600 for their trouble--\$120 for each girl for 40 hours of babysitting. that's \$3 an hour. which mrs. thomas says is "a little more than your usual wages". man, parents in the mid-80s had a good deal. even adjusted for inflation, that's a bargain.

there's all this out of character stuff, like kristy being psyched to be a bridesmaid, not just because it's an honor to be there for her mom, but because she gets to wear a pretty dress & her first shoes with heels. um...what? i could see later kristy accepting a bridemaide invite because she cares about the person who asked her, but isn't there a whole passage in the "friends forever" book where kristy's dad gets hitched where kristy complains about having to wear a dress to the wedding? i feel like this is an example of how ann m. martin originally had sketched broader personalities & more complex characters, but they were flattened out & became parodies of themselves in the hands of the ghostwriters.

anyway. i can't believe i have written so much about this dumb book. even though it was a classic when i was a kid. except for andrew there on the cover. he looks like a miniaturized tiny old man--like benjamin button. scary!

Jeremy says

My daughters review: This book was so good!! First part: regular old day, kristy's Mom is dating and the school year is ending. Then the next part is a kristy's-great-idea because her mom wants to have a wedding and so kristy and her babysitter club friends will babysit the kids coming to the wedding. Fast forward a few chapters and they're babysitting. Lots of things happen— kristy and Mary Anne take the boys to a hair cutter and they misbehave. Stacey takes her group to the movies and they act horrible. Dawn takes he group to a pond and Ashley one of kristys cousins, is not having fun. Claudia takes her kids to the park and Karen ends up scaring a bunch of children with a Martian story. Then Emma another cousin, swaps the wedding clothes. The whole group does a lot more than just take their groups to places— they play “wedding” and of course get a little mischievous but overall I'd really just say to the entire world I love this book!!!! ????!! Everything i put above was a great part but here are some of the parts I thought were kind of “meh”—the families arrive. It just took up too much of the book but it probably could have been shorter. Also, the wedding part. Too short. I didn't get the feeling that this part was important because it was like four pages long. Four? Give me twenty four pages. Well, that's pretty much all. And also kristy and her brother both have trouble finding a present. The end of the review.
