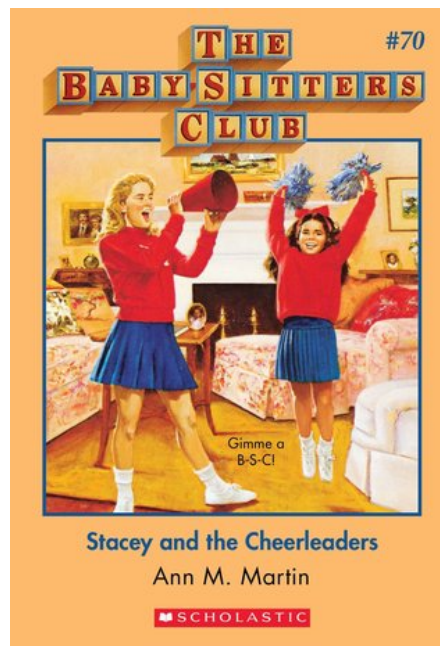




Stacey and the Cheerleaders

Ann M. Martin

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Stacey starts dating a jock basketball player and falls in with a super-cool crowd, including the cheerleaders who ask her to try out for the squad.

Stacey and the Cheerleaders Details

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From Reader Review Stacey and the Cheerleaders for online ebook

Shira says

this is my first time reading this book!

in this book by ghostwriter Peter Lerangis, stacey starts hanging out with a popular crowd when she goes on a date with a boring turd athlete named rj (no, not *that* boring turd athlete named rj). she ends up dating his friend robert, who is actually cool in spite of being a popular kid. she tries out for the cheerleading squad and they don't let her in because they're jealous of her. robert quits sports because he thinks it's unethical how the faculty let the athletes get away with anything (sort of like that other buffy episode). meanwhile shannon's sister tiffany is jealous of her sisters for excelling at things, and she tries to find her own hobby.

highlights:

-stacey is so stoked about her new plum-colored pants until the first snowball of the season knocks her into the snow and she finds out her pants aren't colorfast. haha, what a ym magazine's say anything column-type moment.

-seriously, it's a high school jock named rj. I straight up could not stop thinking about buffy, especially dawn's "we've got a secret weapon and his name is rj!" cheer:

-stacey sort of considers the prospect of getting embarrassed by her friends in the bsc when the popular kids seem to think they're dorky. but she ends up sticking by her friends, so that's cool.

-the tiffany plotline seems a little tacked on as a means to get us to realize that the kilbournes are real people. but that said, I think it's cute that she ends up determining that she's really into gardening and wants to plan her garden in the winter so she can plant it in the spring.

lowlights/nitpicks:

-rj says something about getting fowls, and stacey thinks he means chickens. let's be real: what 8th grader knows that fowl means chicken, but doesn't know about fowls in sports?

-stacey is good at cheerleading but they don't let her in because a. she dates robert and corinne is jealous and b. she's so good she'll make the others look bad

-after robert quits sports, the administration of the school starts to examine the unfairness of the athletes' special treatment. shyeah, like one athlete quitting in protest would set that into motion.

claudia outfits:

"For instance, at the BSC meeting she was wearing baggy wool men's pants, gathered at the waist by a black leather band; a white tuxedo shirt with rolled-up sleeves; Capezio-type flats with mismatched white and black socks; and a glittery bow-tie barrette in her hair."

"Claud was rummaging around for snacks, wearing an outfit that suddenly seemed a little weird (a sequined vest over a man's white shirt and bell-bottomed spandex pants)."

stacey outfits:

"I had wolfed down my breakfast, put on my new plum-colored corduroy pants and white down jacket for the first time..."

-date w/rj outfit: "A black-and-white plaid unitard with a tankstyle top, covered with a black, oversized cotton knit jersey."

"I didn't want to overdress but I did want to look terrific, so I decided on a pair of new jeans with a brand-new white cotton cardigan with gorgeous floral embroidery and a scalloped, crocheted neckline. On my feet were suede ankle boots."

kristy's kid kit:

- an old rag doll
- some dinosaur figurines
- a few small puzzle books
- an old yo-yo

snacks in claudia's room:

- blue corn chips under her bed
 - more blue corn chips behind her hats
-

Kate says

I really am kind of shocked that Stacey never considered being a cheerleader before book #70. She's got the blonde hair, and thanks to her diabetes, she's rail thin too. Of course, this has to do with her new jock boyfriend. Stacey doesn't do anything unless it's for a guy.

The Kawaii Slartibartfast says

09-14-2009

Amie says

The back of this book is very misleading. I want to get it though, for kids to read when they're cut from a team.

Ciara says

stacey is walking to school one morning when she is beaned in the head by a snowball. she's ready to yell at the kid who threw it, but when that kid ends up being basketball hotshot RJ blaser, stacey forgets all about being mad. he apologizes & asks to walk her the rest of the way to school. she accepts. when they get inside, he asks her to see "mall warriors 2" with him at the mall that weekend. she accepts again. she is totally ecstatic about having been asked out by one of the most popular guys in school. some of his friends observed the interaction, & in class, one of the cheerleaders passes her a note, telling her that RJ likes her. in the hallway after class, the cheerleaders make a point of talking to stacey & being nice to her. stacey has never really talked with them much before, but is excited to give it a whirl.

all week, she is distracted by & excited about her upcoming date. the cheerleaders continue to be friendly with her. they even let her know that one of their squad left & needs to be replaced. they encourage her to start putting together a routine for tryouts.

but when the date finally rolls around, stacey is disappointed. she realizes quickly that she really doesn't have anything in common with RJ. he wants caramel popcorn, which stacey of course cannot eat, & he assumes that she is just one some goofy girly diet as opposed to having a real health issue. she thinks the movie is

stupid but RJ likes it. he wants to go to pizza express after, which is not stacey's favorite restaurant. but they go anyway, a bunch of cheerleaders & basketball players are there. stacey has fun hanging out with all of them, although there is an awkward moment when a classmate walks up & embarrasses himself a little cheering the team on for the big game the next night. before the evening is over, stacey notices robert brewster & thinks that he is extremely cute, though she assumes he is going out with the cheerleader he's seated next to, corinne.

the next night, the whole babysitters club goes to the basketball game. stacey begins to feel embarrassed a little bit by her friends. she thinks claudia's outfit is kind of silly, & she cringes when jessi gushes over getting to stay up late for the game. the stoneybrook team wins by one point & the whole crowd surges on to the court to celebrate. i am second-hand embarrassed for stacey by her descriptions of trying to crowd around the players & cheerleaders to congratulate them. i mean, she just started talking to them a few days ago. & everyone seems to want a piece of them. she even loses track of her babysitters club friends, until kristy blows on her trusty whistle & the entire gym falls silent. kristy hollers down to stacey that she has to go out & get in the van right now if she's going to the slumber party that night. the cheerleaders laugh at her, but stacey leaves to go to the slumber party. man. that seriously is really embarrassing.

the next week in school, the cheerleaders tell stacey that robert noticed her & he is interested, assuming things didn't pan out with RJ. stacey is pumped. the cheerleaders tell her robert will call, which he does, right when stacey should be leaving for a BSC meeting. she takes the call anyway & agrees to a date for friday. man, two boys in one calendar week. stacey doesn't mess around. she's late to the meeting, but she doesn't care because she's so excited for her date with robert. she is also busy preparing for cheerleader try-outs. she has enlisted jessi to help choreograph a routine.

the date with robert goes well. they have more in common than she did with RJ, & robert is a more engaged listener. he really wins stacey over by being sensitive & understanding about her diabetes. she tells him she's trying out for the cheerleading squad, & he begins to explain that sometimes the other students & teachers give the athletes & cheerleaders special treatment, like letting them skip class, leave school during lunchtime, or copy homework. he tells her a story about how he knows he did really badly on an english test, but scraped a C, while the kid next to him worked a lot harder & understood the material a lot better, but only got a C-. robert doesn't think any of this stuff is fair, but he doesn't know what to do about it--especially because most of his teammates take full advantage of it. he impresses stacey again with his thoughtfulness & honesty. they decide to go out again the next weekend.

meanwhile, stacey tries out for the cheerleading squad. her try-out goes really well & the babysitters club (who came along for moral support) assures her that she was the best of the bunch. stacey's closest new friend on the squad also gives her a thumbs up, so stacey thinks she has a good chance. but she's still nervous about being rejected. the day the new member is announced, stacey is in the bathroom when the squad comes in & starts fixing their hair. she stays in her stall when they start talking about her & how well she did at try-outs. they comment that her routine was great, & plus she's really pretty, smart, & nice. corinne complains a little about how she'd still be dating robert if stacey hadn't swooped in & distracted him with her bouncy hair, but the other cheerleaders tell her to can it. stacey starts to think she may have landed a spot on the squad for real.

but that afternoon, the squad announces that the newest cheerleader is kathleen lopez. stacey is dumbfounded. she realizes that she KNOWS her routine was better than kathleen's, so she storms up to the squad to ask why she was rejected. they're like, "sorry, the best girl won, better luck next year," but corinne takes her aside to explain that the squad decided stacey was just TOO good. she made the existing cheerleaders look bad. kathleen is less competition. stacey wonders why corinne is telling her this, until she realizes that it's the truth & corinne will know the truth will hurt.

um...this makes no sense. why would stacey be hurt by being informed that the squad thinks she is better,

prettier, nicer, & smarter than them? that is like the most ineffective way to hurt someone ever. there's some explanation about how it was like the squad was threatening her to not try to outshine them, but that doesn't really make sense either. i find all of this really aggravating because it's another example of a member of the babysitters club just inherently being amazing at something they try to do. like claudia & her art, or jessi when she took up synchronized swimming, or mallory's natural gift for archery. i could go on. sometimes a person may be interested in something, & even extremely passionate about it, & still not good enough to really do it well. isn't it more realistic that stacey, who has never before shown any interest in athletics, would maybe want to be a cheerleader to experiment with being in the popular crowd, but just wasn't as good as another girl that tried out? but we can't have that because i guess it makes stacey look shallow or something. it's stupid.

anyway, stacey tells robert the news & if you can fucking believe this, he quits the basketball team in protest. for a girl he's been "dating" for like eight days. & it becomes this huge controversy that divides the school. some of the students think stacey is a sore loser & robert's an idiot for standing up to the athletes & popular kids on her behalf, & some of the kids agree that the athletes & cheerleaders get unfair special treatment & iced stacey out because they were jealous. & this is how the book ends.

i'm sure there was a babysitting sub-plot somewhere in there, but i have no recollection of what it was.

liv loyd says

She didn't even come close to losing the bsc. Nothing much happened to stacey Defenitly not my favorite.

Lindsay says

Stacey wants to be a cheerleader and starts dating a cute basketball player. Then she realizes how mean the cheerleaders are.

I always wanted to be a cheerleader. In 7th grade I tried out and was so nervous I almost wet myself. One of my friends did make the team. And she hated it.

Tiffany Spencer says

Stacey And The Cheerleaders

PLOT: After getting asked out by the hottest member on the basketball team RJ, Stacey starts to hang around a different set of friends that include cheerleaders and ballers. She also catches the eye of another member on the team Robert. After a little while, she and Robert start to date & the other cheerleaders encourage her to try out for the squad since there's now an opening. So she starts to work with Jessi to choreograph a routine. But as she gets to know Robert he shares with her his discontent of the disadvantages of the advantages that come with being an SMS athlete. And of course, there's a kid issue. Tiffany (Shannon's sister) is feeling left out because she's being overshadowed by Shanna and Maria & wants to find a hobby of her own.

MY THOUGHTS:

*Stacey annoys me. She always thinks being diabetic is something you have to hide from people. It's not like it's contagious. So what if people are "grossed out" by it. Not your problem. There's. And then how long has she had it again? And she STILL can't tell people what she is. No, I'm not on a "diet". I have diabetes. What

can he do? Tell you the dates over?

*(Snorts) "Does this sound like I'm boy crazy? I'm not". YEEEEAH. Ok

*Math may be Stacey's best subject but spelling sure isn't. Cute with a capital Q? And she talks about Claudia?

*(Groaning) I know Kristy's supposed to be the "immature" one, but COME ON! Blowing a whistle and yelling to Stacey about a sleepover in a crowded gym is just over the top for even her.

*The part about Watson was a little funny. I can see Kristy's mom saying this with sarcasm and rolling her eyes (teasingly of course).

*I would not DARE interrupt my mother while she's at work over a telemarketing call or a call from a guy I was interested in asking me out on a date. Stacey's mom works at a clothing store. I've worked at a clothing store. You can't just stop and take personal calls. Even when you aren't busy. Although yes I do know

some people who do & I'll just leave it at that. But this is even before texting.

*Hmm... This line just struck me as odd. Mary Anne tells Stacey that she wouldn't be able to even watch the game because of her. This is something ROBERT should say not Maryanne. When she says it (it) comes off like Maryanne has feelings for Stacey that are a little more than friendly. But that's a whole nother book.

*And since when do they allow other people to watch cheerleader tryouts? I tried out for cheerleader & the other ones are bad enough. Why was this even allowed?

*Robert is a GREAT guy in this! It's a shame what happens to him later. I especially love that he quits in unity when Stacey doesn't make it.

RATING: 6. This book leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. Why? Because as I said above I tried out for cheerleader. I wasn't as good as Stacey (by far) BUT I know how cheerleaders tend to be on the ones trying out. So I really wasn't surprised at the end of the book when she didn't get picked. Groups like this tend to pick & choose & have prejudices on how they should & should not include. As we see in the story. And if you buy Corrine's reason for one second that it was because Stacey was "too good" and she made the rest of them look bad you are as crazy as the rest of the SMS squad. The REAL reason they didn't pick Stacey is because of Corrine's influence. And then Corrine herself was ridiculous because even know (YEARS after this was written) I just don't get how females want to hang onto men that aren't there's instead of finding one that is. Hanging around Robert and blowing up his phone does NOT make him "almost" yours. I'm not surprised that Corrine voted Stacey out but the rest of the group. They were even worse. These are the WORSE kinds of people. People who friend you, make you feel included, and then betray you and hurt you. They even fooled me because I thought they were FOR Stacey. They all seemed about to make her the newest member. But then that's how LOW DOWN people can be. But I do think Stacey won in the end. Well if you can call winning Robert winning because we all know how long Stacey's relationships last. It does set up a later book where her interests start to shift and she quits the club. Oh yeah and there's the issue of athletes getting special treatment in the school. Which I can't really speak on because I was never one & I didn't date one when I was in school. But I didn't notice them being treated specially in my middle or high school. Maybe they were it just it wasn't so in your face as here.

Moo says

Lots of giggles while reading this. Stacey is getting tips from the girls on how to not feel so nervous... Kristy suggests doing some "wind-sprints". Moo lost it.

Amy Holcomb says

The Baby-sitters Club series was my favorite growing up! :)

April says

Fantastic books for young girls getting into reading!! Great stories about friendship and life lessons. The characters deal with all sorts of situations and often find responsible solutions to problems.

I loved this series growing up and wanted to start my own babysitting business with friends. Great lessons in entrepreneurship for tweens.

The books may be dated with out references to modern technology but the story stands and lessons are still relevant.

Awesome books that girls will love! And the series grows with them! Terrific Author!

Rebecca says

One of the better Stacy-is-smart-and-has-social-capital-and-ethics books. Focus on special treatment of middle school athletes; also, working hard at something with an expert coach results in success.

Logan Hughes says

On a mediocre date with a basketball player named RJ, Stacey meets a bunch of his teammates, including the dreamy Robert, who likes to talk about how unfair it is that basketball players get unfair treatment not that he does anything about it. As Stacey and Robert begin dating, Nice Cheerleader Sheila encourages Stacey to try out for the squad. With Jessi's training, Stacey comes up with totally the best routine ever you guys, no question hands down she aced the tryout. But another girl gets the spot. Mean Cheerleader Corinne tells Stacey that she was TOO good and TOO pretty and TOO talented and would have made the rest of the squad look bad! (!) In protest of this and other abuses, Robert quits the basketball team. The last chapter has Stacey turning down a second chance at the squad, helping set up an investigative committee to look into team abuses (RUINING THE BASKETBALL TEAM), and co-penning a self-congratulatory school newspaper editorial with Robert.

Meanwhile, Shannon's sister Tiffany tries different extracurriculars looking for something to beat her sisters with, and only finds happiness when she chooses a hobby--gardening--which she actually likes for its own sake.

Overall, this book is a huge Mary Sue fantasy. Stacey isn't so perfect and wonderful in other books, is she? I know she's smart, sophisticated, pretty, good at math, good at school in general, but she's always managed to seem flawed and humble and funny. In this book, she sort of comes off as conceited, but only because her infuriatingly correct assessment of herself is so unbelievably positive.

The story is trying to make two points: (1) The sports people are corrupt, and (2) Stacey was trying out for the cheerleading squad for the wrong reasons. (This is stated at the end, when she turns down her second chance, and it's backed up by the Tiffany subplot.) These points manage to muddy each other in this story, even though they could easily go together quite well. Suppose Stacey made the team, even though she clearly wasn't the best, because the cheerleaders liked her, approved of her traditionally pretty blonde good looks, supported her relationship with Robert, etc., and so gave her preferential treatment. Ultimately, she would look noble for turning down the spot, instead of whiny for protesting that she didn't get it. But that would require the writer to admit early on in the book that Stacey wasn't good at something, and that is just unacceptable.

Ghostwriter: Peter Lerangis. Oh, this is one is pure Lerangis: high schooly, gossipy, silly. Don't get me wrong, I really like Lerangis usually - he has a genuinely funny voice that works really well for certain characters. His Kristy is sharp and smart; his Mallory is dark and subversive; his Logan is just (kisses fingers like a chef). He even jazzes up characters, like Dawn and Jessi, that can seem dull or inconsistent in other books. But I don't feel like he really gets Stacey. He seems to think that the appeal of Stacey is pretty/popular wish-fulfillment, but it's not, at least for me; what I love about Stacey is that her being beautiful and privileged is usually beside the point, because she's so insistent on taking the weight of the world on her shoulders.

Lingering Questions: One of the measures instituted at the end to help combat the basketball players' grade inflation is instituting a minimum grade needed to play. Wouldn't that have precisely the opposite of the intended effect? I assumed that the school already had that rule when Robert described getting a good grade on a bad essay. Why did that even happen?

What decade does this book take place? The cheerleaders are named Darcy, Corinne, Sheila, Penny, and Margie. These are like 1950s cheerleader names, at least the last 3. Or maybe they are each from a different decade? How old is Lerangis that Penny and Margie seem like cool popular cheerleader names, and not like Grandma's bridge partners?

Slash Watch: Fellow cheerleader Sheila (notably boyfriendless) remarks when she finds out that Robert is dating Stacey, "I don't blame him. He has good taste."

Read as a kid: No, but I did read it in the period after I started getting into them again when I was in college and before I started collecting them again. My sister-in-law, the aforementioned Claire, owned this one.

Timing: Snow on the ground. Winter of eighth grade.

Revised Timeline: Freshman year of college. This is awkward because it's one of the books that works best as a high school story (cheerleading is more of a thing in high school than in either middle school or college). But cheerleading certainly exists in college, and it makes sense that a student who previously showed no particular interest in sports might come to enjoy them at a college with excellent teams. Also, second semester freshman year is when you really start getting full of yourself.

Maria Elmvang says

Have to admit, I rather liked this one - even if the couples are SMS are *awfully* serious for a bunch of 13-year-olds!!!

Samantha says

I actually liked this one quite a bit! I remember bits and pieces from when I'd read it as a kid, but I appreciated it much more this time around. It wasn't the usual business of Stacey acting like a fool in front of a boy, and that was a nice change for her.
