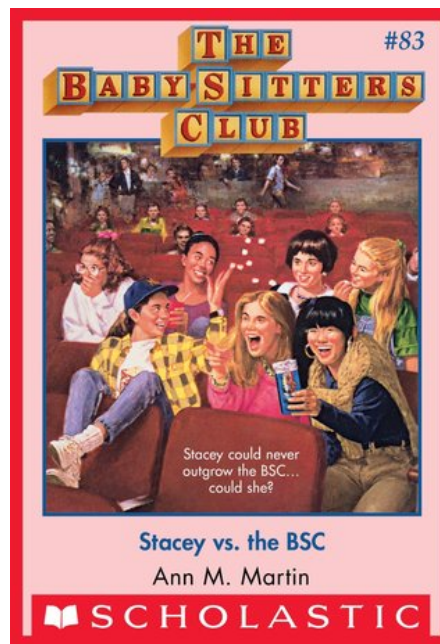




Stacey vs. the BSC

Ann M. Martin

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Stacey is caught in a loyalty tug-of-war between old friends and new.

Stacey vs. the BSC Details

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From Reader Review Stacey vs. the BSC for online ebook

Nikki Glassley says

Stacy gets the wrong end of the stick in this book. She is 100% right- thirteen year old girls should not have their lives dictated by the whims of the dictator of their baby-sitting club.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

Yes, the title really does say it all. The Baby-Sitters Club is a fun club to be part of, but of course the girls have lives outside of the club, and this book shows that. It shows a realistic way of how the group you are part of is not your whole life.

Amanda says

This was the series that I read as a child, while I liked these books, I didn't love them. Although, if I was to review this as a child I would give this book and the series at least 3 stars.

Logan Hughes says

Stacey finds herself with less and less time and inclination to hang out with the BSC as she enjoys hanging out with Robert and his friends, who all seem more mature and fun. Kristy responds by yelling at Stacey, making her feel more defiant. Stacey invites Claudia, but none of the others, to a party, leading to a big fight. In the aftermath, Stacey decides to skip a talent show the BSC has arranged for neighborhood kids, inadvertently upsetting Charlotte Johanssen, who wanted to dedicate her piano tune to Stacey. At the next meeting, Kristy fires Stacey, and Stacey simultaneously quits. The book ends with Stacey going to Charlotte's piano recital, feeling odd because it's 5:30 on a Friday and she's not at a BSC meeting (although I daresay she would have skipped for the recital anyway).

Stacey's embarrassment is pretty sympathetic as we see the BSC's antics (Kristy's loud, strict, den-mother/sheepdog attitude; Mary Anne's cutesiness; Dawn's melodramatic Hercule Poirot-ing of Stacey's misdeeds) through her eyes, but it's also plain that from the BSC's point of view, it's Stacey who's becoming bad. I'm surprised it's taken this long for one of the girls to get sick of all the procedure, all the time, and all the damn baby-sitting.

Read as a kid: No, and, unlike Mary Anne's haircut--which I recognized as a event which had happened later in the continuity than I, generally, read--I don't even remember my conception of the BSC including a Stacey breakup. It looks like I didn't read any books later than this, so I'll just drop the "Read as a Kid" feature now. Let it be known that February 1995 was when I stopped reading BSC books. Prime ages for enjoying BSC books are therefore 7-10 and 18+, BUT NOT 10-18.

Cover Art Oddity: This is one of the few covers (along with Mary Anne Misses Logan) that doesn't actually depict a scene in the book, showing the whole club at the movie theatre together. Stacey is laughing with Claudia, not looking embarrassed, so I'm guessing this was a stock cover that Hodges Soileau threw on up

against a late deadline.

Timing: Stacey and Robert are throwing an "End of Winter" party, so I guess it's late winter/early spring, maybe early March.

Revised Timeline: March of sophomore year of college. The theme of this book seems to sit right with this timing. It's not uncommon for sophomores to drift into new groups of friends, abandoning the high school or orientation buddies they made in freshman year; sophomore year, once you've gotten used to the college routine and you're not scared anymore, is a classic time for changing, resisting old ways, spreading your wings, and becoming an asshole.

Ciara says

this is the first volley in everyone's favorite babysitters club arc: when stacey quits the club. there has been some foreshadowing in previous books about stacey being late to club meetings & asking the other babysitters to cover her jobs at the last-minute without explaining why. there's a whole lot more of it in this book. stacey is spending a lot of time with her boyfriend, robert, & sometimes loses track of time & ends up at a meeting late, or would prefer to go out with robert & his friends than go on a babysitting job. she still likes babysitting & everything...but she is getting really wrapped up in her new friendships & wants to spend time with her new friends.

one night she & her new friends are having dinner at a burger place when kristy, mary anne, & dawn show up to have dinner as well. they sit a different table, but stacey is paying way too much attention to what they are doing & talking about. she feels secondhand embarrassed when kristy puts straws up her nose, or when dawn giggles too shrilly when a cute guy walks by. her new friends notice the babysitters' behavior as well. one of them says, "they're in *eighth grade*?" he feels they are behaving in a pretty immature manner for 13-year-olds. stacey just kind of cringes. she thinks they're being really immature as well...but then she castigates herself for being snobby & judgmental about some of her best friends.

she's supposed to sit for the pikes one night when robert calls & invites her out for pizza instead. stacey does some fast thinking & gets mary anne to cover the job at the pikes' house. then she has her mom drop her off at pizza express. she's having a great time...until she realizes that dawn is spying on her from behind the jukebox. she confronts dawn, who yells at her for "lying" to mary anne (stacey had not explained why she wanted a sub for her job at the pikes'). alan gray is sitting nearby & starts making fun of their fights. dawn storms out & stacey thinks about how stupid dawn looks in all of her winter layers, like nanook of the north. she returns to her table & her friends are all, "man, those babysitters take themselves really seriously." stacey is torn. on the one hand, babysitting is a responsibility she has chosen to take on, & she knows it's important that she be conscientious about it. on the other hand, she just wants to have fun & chill out with her new friends. she is getting really sick of all the rules in the babysitters club & thinks that the members of the babysitters club are really a lot more immature than her new friends.

but she does feel bad for misleading mary anne, & at the next meeting, it's clear that mary anne's feelings are hurt. stacey invites mary anne out shopping to make it up to her. that cheers mary anne up & she says something about how they will always be "bestest friends". this makes stacey cringe inwardly, as does the fuzzy sticker on mary anne's backpack, which reads, "i <3 my kitty." she again thinks that the babysitters club girls are really immature, & then wonders if thinking that is snobby.

robert decides to have a party one weekend. their little friend group is really pumped. then they ask stacey if she's going to invite the babysitters club. stacey agrees not to because she knows the babysitters won't really

mix that well with her new friends...with the exception of claudia. stacey calls claudia to invite her to the party & claudia is excited until she finds out she is the only babysitters club member invited. she points out that this puts her in the middle & that the other girls will feel betrayed by both stacey & claudia if claudia goes. but she agrees to attend anyway because the party is at robert's & so they can play it off like it was robert's decision.

then robert's parents won't let him have the party & it gets moved to stacey's house. claudia is even more iffy then. there's no way to pretend the other babysitters aren't being excluded when stacey is the one hosting the party. but she agrees to go.

the party is going great...until a few hours in when the doorbell rings. it's dawn & mary anne. they'd heard about the party at school & knew they hadn't been invited & were coming by to catch stacey in the act & confront her. when they see claudia in the background, they are even more hurt & storm away home. this makes claudia angry with stacey, for putting claudia in the position of jeopardizing her friendship with their mutual friends, & she storms off as well. stacey is so embarrassed & confused, she doesn't attend the BSC-organized talent show the next day, even though she had promised whiny little charlotte johanssen that she would, to support charlotte while she played piano. charlotte realizes stacey isn't there, bursts into tears, & has to be taken home by her parents. this makes claudia even more angry with stacey. she calls stacey & is all, "i understand why you were too gutless to face the other BSC members, but did you have to hurt charlotte's feelings in the process?" stacey feels awful & goes straight over to the johanssens' to apologize.

at the next BSC meeting, everyone dogpiles on stacey for being late to meetings, blowing off jobs, hurting charlotte's feelings, & throwing a party without inviting them. kristy calls it like it is & asks if stacey thinks the BSC members are too immature for her now that she has her cool friends to fall back on. stacey snaps & starts yelling about how kristy is bossy, everyone in the club is baby-ish, & she's sick of all the rules. jessi points out that no one is making her stay. stacey quits the club & kristy simultaneously fires her.

the book closes on another friday at 5:30pm. rather than heading to a babysitters club meeting, stacey is on her way to charlotte's first piano recital.

peter lerangis ghostwrote this one, & as usual, he does a great job capturing the actual confusing emotions of a teenager. as a reader, you can understand how stacey is being a jerk, but also how she is embarrassed by her babysitters club friends. she really is growing up a little faster than they are & none of them knows how to handle it. it also lampoons the rigidity of the club & creates a little catharsis for the adult reader in that respect.

Maria Camp says

Excellent premise; however, it could have been executed better.

Some of the girls seem a little out of character in various instances.

Still a good story. Important topic.

Nicole says

I really enjoyed this, I imagine I would have been quite devastated had I read it when I was a teen but I'd

given up on the BSC books just a few earlier than this. I feel for Stacey, life can get boring doing the same thing over and over, why can't she have other friends? I thought Kristy was a big jerk for firing her after she quit.

Nancy says

In which Stacey breaks the hold the Cult has on her and escapes. Alas, it only lasts for a short time. Also, STFU, Dawn.

Seriously, the BSC acts even more immaturity than usual here. I always just assumed Stacey was finally seeing them as they really are, and all the other books are slanted by the perceptions of their respective narrators. Unreliable narrator, y'all.

Kerry Connelly says

Oh the BSC :)

Tiffany Spencer says

Stacey Vs. The BSC

PLOT: Stacey gets a new boyfriend (Robert) and her interests start to change. She begins to hang out more with him and his crew. She starts to cancel jobs, miss meetings, and break promises. It all comes to a boiling point when she invites Claudia to a back to school party and not the rest of the BSC. Stacey quits the club at the end of the book. In the B plot Stacey encourages Charlotte for the upcoming piano concert to practice by auditioning for a talent show the kid's in the neighborhood are putting on.

MY THOUGHTS: I didn't take any notes for this one. So off the top of my head in Stacey's defense (and that's rare) in the scene where she's hanging with her new guy and his friends at the pizza place Dawn and Kristy are annoying. I mean Kristy's talking loud. Dawn's sticking stuff up her nose. And this is kind of out of character because Dawn is usually a lot more laid back than that. Too bad she's still not in her "cool" phase. I betcha she would have gotten an invite. Truthfully I don't even see why Kristy cared about the party. True she cares more about dances because of Bart and I guess it would hurt that someone you consider a friend doesn't think your good enough, but Kristy really doesn't fit in with Stacey's new friends. It'd be like Stacey's Big Mistake all over again. And maybe *that's* what was going on in her head. I'm not saying she was right but. I don't get why she didn't ask Maryanne. She isn't Claudia, but she's come up a lot since the beginning of the series. She could have even invited Logan. I honestly don't see Dawn (well normally this book made her look like a jerk) not being cool enough either. As much as these books have lessened my like of Stacey this year (I never read AS many as I've read this year and never all the BSC) books I really can't be mad at her. She's 13 years old! Of course she's gonna want a life outside babysitting all the time. Of course, she's gonna put her boyfriend first over club stuff and be late a time or two. I just didn't like that she didn't come to the talent show to support Charlotte who she encouraged to be in it. That's the only selfish thing I could fault her for. I understood Charlotte's anxiety. I took piano. I never liked recitals!

RATING: 6

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!

Maria Elmvang says

One of the few books where I actually adjusted my rating up since the last time I read it. Unlike some of the other BSC fights, this one seemed believable and as if no one was really at fault beyond a lack of communication.

Katie says

oh no she didn't

jenn says

It makes me sad that it took 83 books for one of the babysitters to decide she wanted to be a normal eighth grader.

Samantha says

I want to break freeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.....

That's Stacey McGill's theme song bahaha. I liked this book a lot as a kid, because it was SO INTERESTING to see one of the sitters actually leave the club and escape the cult. I mean really you would always expect it to be Stacey, or maybe Dawn, but ultimately Stacey was proven to be the one. She had valid reasons for leaving, and while it won't last forever at least for this one moment in time she was her own person!
