



Stacey's Movie

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As part of her exciting film course, Stacey is making a documentary about teen life in Stoneybrook. The movie creates a conflict with friendships when Stacey pursues tell-all interviews with her friends and enemies.

Stacey's Movie Details

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From Reader Review Stacey's Movie for online ebook

Hannah says

*1.5

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!

Marian says

I really wish we could add half stars because this one needs that extra push. This is one of the last BSC books and had I read it when it first came out, I don't think the BSC ending would have come as such a big shock. Abby's exhausted and she's only been on this ride for what, 40 books (plus specials)? Dawn and Mallory have physically left, Jessi's checked out emotionally and mentally (she'd rather be dancing), and even sweet Mary Anne is starting to fray at the edges.

It's still a shame though, since this is one of those books where things are definitely not what you expect.

It's time for another book centered around the Short Takes classes at SMS. Stacey signs up for film making, but not because she wants to be an actress. Instead, she's got her sights set on directing. Things do not go according to Stacey's daydreams. Somehow she and her group end up making a documentary on the lives of middle school students. Quickly they begin to realize that even when you think you know someone (you know, after living in a time warp with them for twenty years), they can still surprise you.

Pete Black feels stifled by the in between stage of being a thirteen year old who is never allowed to grow up. He's got the knowledge of how to drive a car, he wants to work, but because of his age, he can't do either. On the one hand, this works because being thirteen sucks in so many ways. On the other, it works because of the time warp this poor guy has been living in since the 80's.

Claudia surprises Stacey with exactly *how much* she loathes school. It's not just that she's bad at it, it's the hypocrisy of things. Kids are still told how they should be themselves and follow through with what they're good at, but Claudia's realized that unless you happen to be good at something non-artistic and traditionally academic, you're not going to be fully recognized for your work or talent. And if Claudia Kishi, master of all art, can't get the respect she deserves? Yeah, you don't stand a chance either, kid. (Bonus points for

mentioning that school does an amazing job of stomping the individuality out of children.)

Jessi's interview blows Stacey's mind when Emily keeps harping on Jessi's race and instead of playing it off, Jessi admits that it's not easy being The Black One in the BSC or in Stoneybrook. That she resents always feeling like someone is waiting for her to mess up so that they can hold it against her entire race and that she feels more relaxed around her dance friends, many of whom aren't white. But a big part of that has to do with the fact that they also like dance and are just as enthusiastic about it as she is. The BSC? Not so much.

A lot is made about Mary Anne having her 'moment' wherein she admits she doesn't think of Sharon as her mother and that she's mad at her mother for dying. It's interesting and all, but hardly a surprise to anyone not stuck in the book series.

So for me, the best moment/interview, is Alan Gray continuing to explain why he's such a goon, and how much it sucks that he's not seen as anything other than that. This isn't the first book where Alan wants to be seen as more than just the class idiot. He used to be goofy and annoying, but still people would hang out with him and that included the BSC members. Only somewhere along the way, and I think it was before the BSC became stereotypical cardboard cutouts of themselves, Alan beat them to the punch. And he resents it but he has no idea how to not be that guy anymore.

For these things, I seriously wish for half stars. If Kristy hadn't spent the entire book being her super bossy self amped up to 11, I'd have gone ahead and gone for four stars. But stereotypical Kristy cannot be rewarded like that.

Samantha says

Wow. Since I already read *The Fire At Mary Anne's House* earlier on, that means this is my last official regular series BSC book in my great re-read. Honestly it wasn't that bad, and was pretty entertaining. It feels so strange that all of the last books had no closure, but I suppose that might be because we've got *Friends Forever* coming up? Either way, this was a strange last Stacey book, but it wasn't awful at all. I'm a little salty right now, I can't believe it's time to move on to *Mysteries* and *FF*!

Ciara says

this is the last stacey book, & it focuses on another short takes class. stacey has signed up for a filmmaking class. she really, really, really wants to be the director. there's a bit of bluster about how people always tell her she should be an actress, but she wants to direct. god, it's so hard to be stacey, being middle school-aged & constantly having people tell you how beautiful you are. i'm so glad this is the last stacey book.

after some edge of our seats suspense in which the reader breathlessly waits to see if stacey is accepted into the filmmaking class (like they didn't give it away in the cover description), class starts. the teacher breaks the class into groups of four students each. stacey's group is made up on her, erica blumberg, emily bernstein, & pete black. emily wants to be the screenwriter, pete wants to produce, stacey wants to direct, & erica wants to be the cinematographer. even though we get pretty much no description of what these terms mean in practical middle school actuality. i mean, it's not like pete is really going to be courting investors, or erica is really going to be doing light readings. the teacher then re-assigns everyone in the group to different jobs, saying that filmmaking is all about getting out of your comfort zone. be that as it may, there's still a skill set involved. i could probably write a screenplay but there's no way i could be a cinematographer. basically, this is just a plot contrivance that means the kids suddenly don't know what the fuck they're doing & have to

scramble to put a movie together. stacey is now the screenwriter.

she suggests they make a zombie movie. they pull some strings, secure a hallway after school, & enlist a bunch of kids to do zombie make-up on themselves. they have a few snafus in filming (pete's the director now & he doesn't really know how to work the camera), but they finally get some footage they think they can use. however, when they watch it, they are embarrassed by how amateur-ish it looks. they decide they'll have to re-shoot & make everything a lot more professional looking. then they watch a documentary their teacher made & stacey starts to feel like making a zombie movie is stupid & pointless. she thinks they should do a documentary about something meaningful.

they decide to do a film about the inner lives on middle school students. i thought stacey wanted to do something meaningful? they decide they will just interview their classmates & see what happens. pete gives the first interview. emily asks him some pretty tough, probing questions & he ends up getting pretty emotional, saying that he hates being 13 because he feels like he's ready for adult responsibilities but his age keeps him from accessing them. he is surprised at his own feelings & what he expressed in the front of the camera, but everyone assures him that it was awesome & that their film is off to a great start.

they begin interviewing other classmates. abby has an on-camera realization that she works too hard & takes on too much responsibility & is just like her mother. alan gray confesses that he's sick of being perceived of as a clown & wishes that people too him seriously as a person with feelings sometimes. jessi gives an awesome interview in which she admits that she does sometimes feel resentful being one of the few people of color in stoneybrook. she says that she feels she has to work twice as hard because she feels like she's being treated as an ambassador for her race, & that sometimes it is easier for her to spend time with the friends of color she made in new york because she doesn't have to think about race. pete pans back to capture stacey's reaction to that statement, which is open-mouthed shock. this scene really made me hate stacey. yeah, that's right, stacey. your black friend is still cognizant of racism even though she's friends with you. get over it.

mary anne agrees to an interview but seems kind of cranky. in response to emily's questioning, she explodes & says she hates her dead mother for not being around. the group agrees that this interview was amazing, but stacey is worried about mary anne's feelings. mary anne later confirms that she didn't really mean what she said & that she'd just had an argument with sharon & doesn't really hate her dead mother. mary anne asks stacey to please not use her interview in the finished film. but stacey is overruled by the other members of the group, who think it's the best interview they've done so far. when stacey breaks the news to mary anne, mary anne gets pissed at stacey for...i don't know. not FORCING the other members of her team to edit out the interview? i don't get it.

both emily & erica give very boring, flat interviews in which they don't really say anything about themselves. stacey gets nervous about doing her interview, lest she pull a mary anne & say something dramatically useful but potentially hurtful or embarrassing. emily asks stacey about her parents' divorce & stacey says something about her parents fighting all the time before the divorce. she suddenly understands how mary anne felt, because she didn't mean to imply that her parents were constantly screaming at each other.

she decides to let mary anne give another interview clarifying her previous remarks. then stacey gives another interview about how it's difficult to be a middle school student because you have a lot of feelings but don't always know how best to express them. stacey's team edits their movie together (pete gets really into it) & it's a big hit.

the B-plot is about kristy's movie. she has strong-armed her group into doing a documentary about "funny stuff kids do". sounds AWESOME. as a sleep aid. she kind of takes control of the whole project, much to the frustration of her group members, logan, anna, & alan). she suggests they go to the rodowskys' first because jackie is always doing something funny. jackie cottons on to the fact that kristy is waiting for him to embarrass himself somehow & he gets upset. mary anne tells him that he doesn't have to be in the movie & can go outside & play. she is a little surprised that jackie realized what the babysitters really thought of him. um, you've been calling him "the walking disaster" for like 190 books now. surprise surprise, he caught on.

basically, the kids are just not performing as kristy expected. every kid they visit seems to clam up or act stilted in front of the camera, & kristy becomes a pretty shitty babysitter because her idea of "funny kids" seems to be the same as mine: kids falling down. so she encourages them to do all kinds of reckless shit in the hope of lulz & the other babysitters get mad at her.

finally everyone confronts kristy about how she needs to release her iron grip on the movie project, & i guess they are able to get some organically funny shit (doesn't sound that funny to me, but whatever) & the movie works out.

there's some coda about how memories are like a movie or something, but come on. i don't read babysitters club books for the amazing symbolism & life lessons.

Carolyn says

One of my favorite series to read growing up. The Baby-Sitters Club follows the adventures of a group of friends; what each one was interested in growing up, while they were growing in their baby-sitting endeavors.

In *Stacey's Movie*, Stacey is in a special Short Takes mini-class to learn about film making. Her group decides to do a documentary on the challenges of growing up in the middle school years. While the story is written in young adult reading, the message was actually very applicable for adults. I think that's why this series will be a lasting classic.

While Stacey struggles with what interviews to put in the movie, what to edit out and what to keep, she really learns more about her BSC friends. What makes them all different and unique. And knowing that in middle school, I think that will really shape who you will grow up to be.

Kristy's still a know-it-all, Claudia's still a mis-understood junk food addict artist, Jessie's still a ballerina, Abby an energetic comedian, and Mary Ann a sweet, caring girl. Who wouldn't want to be part of their club?

Logan Hughes says

Stacey makes a documentary film about the inner lives of middle school students.

The movie is part of a group project in a Short Takes class about filmmaking. Man, that Short Takes conceit has gotten a lot of mileage. Stacey has to make a decision about journalistic ethics when Mary Anne requests

that her most interesting interview moment be removed from the film. In a tangentially babysitting-related subplot, Kristy's group is making a movie about funny kids, and she gets mad with power trying to get the children of Stonybrook to dance, monkeys, dance.

There's a lot about this book that works, and a lot that's unsatisfying. I'm not sure what the ultimate point is supposed to be, or how it's supposed to reflect on Stacey's character. The more interesting character is Emily Bernstein, who turns out to be an interviewing prodigy; she seems to surprise herself by how much she is able to draw people out, yet staunchly resists saying anything meaningful when interviewed herself. While her interview techniques are good, and Stacey gets them wrong enough to show exactly what Emily is doing right (starting out easy, listening to what people are saying and following up on any nugget of something interesting they say), the revelations seem to come too quickly; the interviews almost all get deep immediately. Yet, it still feels like the opportunity to find out more about the true feelings of our favorite characters was wasted a bit because we don't even get an in-depth interview with each BSC-er. Here's what we find out:

- * Abby is worried about becoming a workaholic (arguably this would have been a better revelation for Stacey or Kristy)

- * Claudia hates school, yawn

- * Mary Anne is sometimes mad at her mother for dying

- * Jessi doesn't like always being the only black person in the room and feels more comfortable with her Dance NY friends than with the BSC (this was actually a great scene, I thought, and handled issues of tokenism and diversity with more nuance than any other BSC book; especially interesting is the way that Jessi is perfectly willing to open up about this stuff when asked, but Stacey's shocked and pained response and attempts to cut her off and gloss over the problem show exactly why she generally doesn't)

- * Stacey's interview doesn't necessarily reveal much that we don't already know, but it's interesting to see interview from an interviewee's perspective after seeing all the others from the interviewer's perspective; she feels like Emily is harping on her parents' divorce and trying to wring drama out of it, and it makes her uncomfortable.

In the end, the elements don't quite jell into a compelling narrative. There are definitely some interesting ideas and scenes in this story--I'm totally on board for a book about filmmaking and interview ethics, especially if we get to learn Deep Dark Secrets of the Babysitters. I just wish the secrets had been deeper and darker.

Amy Holcomb says

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

Tiffany Spencer says

Stacey's Movie

PLOT: Stacey gets into a Short's class (a series of classes that range on varying things such business, history, arts, and health) for making films. She's all hyped about it since she's always loved movies. What with being in NY and all where a lot of filming is done. Kristy is in the class too. Instead of pairing them up with the roles they want to take on, the teacher gives them different roles to make it more challenging. Stacey and her groups attempt at filming suck at first, but then they get the hang of it when they decide to film a documentary. Only they have an editing dilemma where to draw the line when one of the interviews gets TOO PERSONAL. Kristy in her usual over the top, take charge, attitude walks all over Alan when they film their funniest kid's film. There really isn't a B subplot for this one about the kids.

MY THOUGHTS:

*HMM! Ok I know this is MS and they're working with NO BUDGET BUTTTT I gotta say. First off LIPSTICK does NOT look REMOTELY like blood & Claudia DRAWING fangs and adding BLUE GLITTER sounds even cheaper looking. Since when do werewolves have blue glitter under their eyes? I can see Jacob positively CRINGING and rolling his eyes at this.

*And then they taped PAPER BLOOD on their shirts. Could they not have gone to the cafeteria got some ketchup packets and went to town? Or smeared some red paint on themselves? I know this is short notice. And then that's a problem. Shouldn't Stacey have planned this on a day where they could bring clothes they didn't mind messing up? This just feels half ass & thrown together. So far I'm grading them with a D.

*Stacey isn't even original and rips a Twilight Zone episode. But how far circle we've come because TODAY everything is ripped from my childhood era. But I'll cut Stacey a little slack because her idea sounds cool and has potential. So ok now in my head she's at a low C.

*Noone in MIDDLE SCHOOL should have rubber snakes in MIDDLE SCHOOL. Maybe my middle school was a lot more mature. I don't know.

*(Sighing) So this is a movie MAKING class & the teacher gives ZERO lessons on how to operate a video camera. OK. YEEEEAH!

*They're SCARED of being in the lockers. Wow! It's a lot of claustrophobics at SMS.

*(Snorts) No Pete it really doesn't.

*Um Stace you are a WHITE KID. Just because Jessi is part of your group you aren't all the same color. OR did you think because you and the BSC are so open-minded and you don't see her as black and just a person she's not black? She's BLACK Stacey. ALWAYS GONNA BE! NEVER GONNA CHANGE! It's cool you accept her, but that doesn't change the fact that yes she identifies you as what you are.

*WOW! Jessi says something deep in this one and Stacey acts appalled that she's more comfortable around blacks than whites and that she feels pressured by having to carry herself a certain way so not to be looked down at by white America. I'm a little shocked myself at Jessi's hard truth. Was not expecting that from her, but I'm a little proud of her for putting it in Stacey's face that no just because she's in whitewashed Stoneybrooke Stacey's reality isn't hers. Stacey's ignorance completely amazes me. Stacey has 1 black friend. If the tables were reversed and she went to a majority black school you couldn't pay me to believe she wouldn't be more comfortable with the white kids and sit with probably the few there if there were any.

*LMAO Did Stacey REALLY just try to call someone out for caring about good looks and clothes?

*Cookie just READ Stacey. She calls her a snob. Which I've been saying for BOOKS now. She should have added and not only that you're always going on and on about how much better New York is with all its theatres and restaurants and blah blah blah.

*So Kristy's gonna be "THAT" wife. But really are we surprised?

RATING: 6 Hmm! When I think about reality show's and the parts where they cut away to where the celebrity is talking I wonder how much editing is done there. Because it's all pretty controlled. Have I ever seen them break down during that portion? I'm sure I have, but you really don't see it often. I guess there's enough drama going on (on) the live part. It must be hard to live your life in front of a camera. Maryanne only got a small portion of what that's like. We don't even think about it today because so much is exposed to

us these days on television. But we did get some truths. The most unexpected for me was Jessi's. Hers was the most in your face. Followed by Cookie's to Stacey. I didn't know what to think about Claudia's. Since when do school's encourage individualism? Schools are there to EDUCATE you on a set bunch of topics . Although do I think the topics could show more of a range? YES! However, until you're old enough to pick one (in college) and THEN you get to be as much of a unique individual as you like in the field you pick. If you're lucky. And even then say Claudia went to a specialized art school. I have one where I live and know of someone who attends and they STILL have core subjects. It's just how it is. There are no art schools that are purely 100 based art schools. I went to an art based college and still had to do the other subjects. It's LIFE! Deal with it! You won't be in school forever. Schools and universities aren't there to praise your "trendy" (and I use that word loosely) fashion sense Claudia.

Nancy says

In which Stacey makes a movie for class. I love Alan Gray's interview. I love Alan Gray. Hands down one of my favorite books.
