



Boy-Crazy Stacey

Ann M. Martin

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Everyone's favorite baby-sitters are back -- with everyone's favorite trip to the beach!

It all started with Kristy's great idea and became a worldwide phenomenon! Now Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey are back, with a fresh new look for a new generation of readers to discover.

The Pike family is taking a two-week vacation at the Jersey Shore, and Stacey and Mary Anne get to go along to help out! Two weeks of sun, sand -- and the cutest lifeguard Stacey has ever seen!

Mary Anne knows that Scott the lifeguard is way too old for Stacey, but Stacey is in love. How can Mary Anne help her friend -- without Stacey ending up with a broken heart?

Burst: One of the bestselling Baby-sitters Club titles of all time!

Boy-Crazy Stacey Details

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From Reader Review Boy-Crazy Stacey for online ebook

Emma says

Guess what, I've described you as 'Boy-Crazy Stacey' many times. Yep, it's a Baby-Sitters Club reference, and it's perfect. Say hello to your friends!

Dawn says

It being summer and oppressively hot, I needed a quick, fun read. (Yes, I realize I always feel obligated to justify reading a BSC book...) I remember Boy-Crazy Stacey being one of my favorite BSC books. Being rather boy-crazy myself at that age, I completely understood Stacey's position. Plus, the added bonus of the new setting of Sea City was doubly awesome. However, unfortunately, this book just doesn't hold as an adult. Stacey's craziness really seems literally crazy as she believes an 18-year-old lifeguard is "in love with her" and when she considers purchasing a t-shirt saying "Stacey+Scott=LUV", I really had to question her sanity (and my 13-year-old self's). The book moves quickly through Mary Anne and Stacey going to Sea City with the Pike family to be mother's helpers for two weeks. The parents are pretty much absent (apparently their "family vacation" is literally a vacation from the family), and the girls are left to their own devices with the eight crazy Pike kids. Claire is by far my favorite with her calling everyone "silly-billy-goo-goo" and her childlike over-excitement for everything is catching. A solid addition to the BSC legacy, Boy-Crazy Stacey is a fun, though shallow, read.

Brian says

I bought this in an Ambien induced stupor. And I wasn't sad that I did, but it wasn't as good as I remembered it. Stacey and Mary Anne are going to Sea City with the Pikes, as mother's helpers. This means they are on the clock the entire time but get a free vacation. And Stacey is behaving like a you know what, because she's in "love" with a lifeguard who makes her get him sodas and sandwiches. Because he is actually paying attention to a 13 year old (which is creepy), he must therefore like her. And of course we have the hijinks of the Pike children!

Amara Tanith says

I wasn't expecting that reading this as an adult would be such an *uncomfortable* experience. It's not as bad as the cover makes it seem (the boy is supposed to be eighteen, not 30+ like the man the cover artist for some reason chose to depict), but Stacey's naivety and immaturity, coupled with Scott's obvious manipulations, makes for a story that I genuinely can't tell if I'm more disturbed or amused (albeit in a bit of a black comedy sense) by.

Full review to come.

Linda says

I really enjoyed this book....this is a really cute story - parts of it was funny - parts of it was sad. I don't want to say too much about this book cause it will spoil it for everyone.

I dearly love this Series...it is really good. I will continue reading this series and next up is Book #9. I will be reading this on my Overdrive through my local library.

Happy Reading.....

Individualfrog says

My life-long struggle with unreliable narrators may have started with this book. As literary devices go, the Unreliable Narrator is one of my least favorite, not because I don't recognize the skill and artistry necessary to successfully pull them off, but because, invariably, I don't get it. When the narrator tells me something in a book, I believe them. I am terrible at reading between the lines. This may explain my disgust with The Catcher in the Rye; it certainly does explain why I got nothing at all from The Good Soldier and some other modernist classics. (And short stories, especially short stories.) It's obviously a failing of mine; but I'm not sure the dislike for unreliable narrators is truly wrong. Like allegory, it tends to reduce literature to a kind of puzzle, and an annoying puzzle, like someone telling you to write your name on the line, but when you do so, they say the "solution" was to write the words "your name on the line". In a regular book, there is sometimes beautiful ambiguity; with an unreliable narrator, paradoxically, there is less or none, because the point is to decipher the truth. (Similar to a mystery, but more annoying, because the truth is not explained in the end.)

Luckily, however, by now, at 34 years old, I am able to grasp the meaning of Boy-Crazy Stacey. When I read it the first time, I was with Stacey all the way. Mary Anne was being annoying, Scott was totally into her, and it was kind of unreasonable for her to have to, like, do her job, when she had a hunky boy to do errands for. I don't know when it was exactly that the scales fell from my eyes and I realized that actually this is a book about Stacey's failures leading to pain and redemption (and a book about how awesome Mary Anne is.) She, of course, is "looney tunes" about Scott, and "a real pain" about babysitting, as Mary Anne says she is. And in the background, through Stacey's dismissive comments about her, we can discern that Mary Anne is taking care of all 8 Pike kids singlehandedly, trying both to make Stacey live up to her responsibilities and to protect her from her terrible choices and fond delusions, and having a low-key summer romance that's based in at least some kind of reality. It certainly did give me the pleasure that I assume most people get from unreliable narrator books, especially because it meant one of my favorite Baby-sitters was in fact a real mensch of a 13-year-old mousy girl.

There are other fun things about this book. The Pikes are fun. Vanessa's rhymes make me laugh ("I always wear a frown when I go to Smithtown," etc), Byron emerges as the only triplet with a personality, I think this is the debut of Claire's "silly-billy-goo-goo". I also like Stacey and Mary Anne's dueling postcards, each complaining about the other with instructions to keep them hidden. (Though I'm pretty sure there's no way in hell anyone got those postcards before they got back from their trip.) And I like the beach atmosphere; when I go to the beach in real life, I don't really know how to enjoy it, but it has good associations for me from this book and suchlike things. I also like that Scott is not actually that bad a guy (or a pedophile) but just self-involved and used to young girls doing stuff for him. I'm sure he thinks he's being nice when he gives Stacey

his whistle. I realize this opinion goes against most of the reviewers here, who seem to be morally offended by the idea that 13-year-olds sometimes have crushes on older boys (I only know that I, as a 13-year-old boy, certainly had crushes on older girls), but again, Stacey herself says it, so I can't help but believe it.

Overall, I call this a very solid Babysitters book, benefiting from the focus on two of their number and a change of scenery. I miss Claudia of course--much better had she had a chapter than lame Kristy. But I think it's more interesting to have Stacey and Mary Anne together without her, as she is really the only thing connecting the two dissimilar people, until the events of this book. When I think about it, like a mystery, most of the unreliable narrator stuff Stacey gets up to is indeed explained at the end. So in the course of this review I have talked myself up from three stars to four. (Speaking of mysteries, the real mystery in this and any Stacey-based Babysitters book is, why on earth does she feel it necessary to hide her diabetes from the world?)

Robin says

Yikes.

I was obsessed with this book as a kid- when I read it I had never seen a real beach, much less visited the East Coast, so I romanticized the shit out of Sea City, the fictional Jersey Shore town that Stacey, Mary Anne, and the Pikes visit. I loved the mini golf and the corny themed burger restaurant and all the shit covered with shells in the gift shops and the candy store and the Tunnel Of Luuuuv. Plus there was the whole "Stacey's in L-U-V with a lifeguard!" thing, which I got totally wrapped up in.

As an adult? I hated it. Were I buying BSC books for a young lady in my life, I might "accidentally" neglect to give her this one. We have Stacey and Mary Anne irresponsibly allowing eight children, one of whom is five, to play in the ocean alone. They figure it's okay since there's a lifeguard on duty, which is a preposterous theory considering that they both know that the lifeguard just sits around being adored by twelve-year-olds all day. Then Stacey basically peaces out on the whole job to obsess over the eighteen-year-old lifeguard, leaving Mary Anne to babysit for eight kids all by herself. On the beach. Surrounded by strangers. By the waves. There's one point where the lifeguards are pretty sure they've seen sharks and whistle for everyone to get back in the lifeguard. A few minutes later they let everyone back in the water, even though they still think it looks like there could have been sharks out there, and "you can never be too careful." Geez. No shit, Sherlock.

Then there's Stacey's sad, depressing obsession with an adult lifeguard. (I mean, look at the cover of this book. The dude looks like he's thirty-five.) She spends most of her vacation hanging out at his lifeguard stand, fetching him sodas and sandwiches, and pointlessly mooning over him. He gives her his freaking whistle (leaving him, I note, dangerously whistle-less on this apparently shark-infested beach) and she acts like he's given her a kidney. God, I hated this. Every time Stacey ran back to the Pikes' house to grab a cold soda for Scott the lifeguard, a little piece of me died inside.

Eventually Stacey realizes her mistake in ditching eight kids with Mary Anne throughout the whole vacation, but she never really apologizes for it. Mostly she just feels super proud of herself for having transferred her obsession with the college-aged lifeguard to a guy her own age whom she met a day or two before she left Sea City. Man. Stacey was totally my favorite when I was a kid. No wonder I ended up being such a codependent mess.

Kristine (The Writer's Inkwell) says

I know my younger self is probably cursing me out right now, but this book really made me dislike Stacey McGill. I say this because from the first book of hers I read, she was my favorite babysitter in this series. Ironically, this is far from the first time I've read this particular book. I suppose it is through my thirty year old eyes, I am finally able to see the flaws in this character I adored so much.

Taking place during the summer before their (never-ending) eighth grade year, Stacey and Mary Anne join the Pike family on their annual trip to the Jersey Shore. Decades before the time of Snookie and J-Woww, the girls are forced to figure out how to handle the eight Pike children, manage a working relationship with one another and how to deal with some pretty big firsts with the cute boys on the beach. Much like a typical thirteen year old, Stacey finds herself in "luv" with an eighteen year old lifeguard named Scott. Her infatuation is the cause for most of my dislike in her during this book. After all, she spends more time Scott gazing and fetching him drinks and sandwiches, then actually paying attention to the children. All of which leaves most of the babysitting responsibility on Mary Anne's shoulders, which is beyond unfair. The other negative comes in Stacey's reactions and comments about the children. Much like I've noticed with some of the other girls in earlier books, Stacey is rude and childish towards the children. When she rolls her eyes at a five year old, I found myself wishing someone had backhanded her.

The story overall was a decent enough experience, in which Stacey gets her first kiss and Mary Anne becomes interested in a boy for the first time. Heck, it was even nice to see Stacey and Mary Anne interact with one another, as they mostly only talk to their respective BFFs. But that being said, Stacey's snotty, self-centered attitude really put me off in this book. Sadly, I'm starting to wonder if rereading these books are going to cloud the fond memories I had as a child.

Heather says

I thought it was about time to stroll back to the 80s & list a few loves (or, in this case, hates) on my new "Tweens of the 80s" shelf. I guess that's an acceptable shelf title, even though I'm pretty sure the term "tween" didn't exist in the 80s. I was trying to remember which Baby-Sitter's Club books I read. While much of the cover artwork of my childhood books is burned into my brain, I realize that's not the case with this series. It was definitely my least favorite. I didn't connect with the characters, maybe because babysitting wasn't my idea of a good time. So, one star for this series!

I recently saw that Francine Pascal came out with "non YA" book which chronicles the lives of the adult Wakefield Twins. Do you think they'll do the same for The Baby-Sitter's Club? (Damn that unnecessary hyphen in "baby-sitter," by the way). What happened to these girls? Did they burn themselves out on diapers, pacis, onesies & scraped knees, all those things that serve as instant birth control for young babysitters? Or, did they grow up to have lots of children of their own? Did Stacy have kids? If so (and more importantly), does Stacy's mom "got it going on"? Deep thoughts ...

Ciara says

here we have round one of stacey getting a crush on an inappropriately older man. seriously, does she have daddy issues or what? her parents weren't even divorced yet in this one? stacey is thirteen here, working as a mother's helper for the pike family while they vacation for two weeks at a beach house on the jersey shore. the object of her affections is scott, an 18-year-old lifeguard who calls her "babe" & "honey" & asks her to fetch him sodas & sandwiches. he even gives her his whistle one day, which she takes as proof that he "loves" her (yes, she really says that). she insists that he didn't actually use the words because, you know, sometimes guys can be shy. it's almost too painful to read.

mary anne is is her co-mother's helper, & is suitably annoyed by all the time stacey puts into slobbering over scott while she should be helping watch the pike kids on the beach. it really would have served stacey right if one of the pikes had been eaten by a shark while she was slacking off on the job. i think we could all live without adam.

mrs. pike gives mary anne & stacey a night off, & they patch up the differences for long enough to have a night of fun on the boardwalk. stacey, for some dumb reason, decides to get scott a present. for some even dumber reason, she decides a great big box of chocolates is the way to go. for an 18-year-old boy? what was she gonna do--hand them to him when he showed up for lifeguard duty the next morning? i can't even imagine it. but it's all for nothing anyway, because she immediately sees him making out with a girl much closer to his own age on a boardwalk bench. she bursts into tears, mary anne comforts her, & they abandon the box of chocolates. if i was mary anne, i totally would have smuggled it home & eaten it myself.

it's been some years since i read this book, & i was really concerned that we were going to have a scene where stacey tells scott off for leading her on, a la dawn's embarrassing denouement in dawn & the older boy (it's portrayed as a moral victory for dawn, but you know that poor travis bastard just thought dawn was looney tunes). thankfully, that doesn't happen, stacey just avoids scott & meets a dude named toby--the cousin of the boy mother's helper that has been helping mary anne keep an eye on the pikes. toby is 14 & gives stacey her first kiss when they go through the tunnel of luv. meanwhile, mary anne & the boy mother's helper, alex, exchange rings with their initials on them. that seems ludicrously serious to me. i guess ann m. martin was setting the stage for mary anne to become the first babysitter with a steady boyfriend in a few books. & since mary anne & logan practically get married...well-played.

stacey says that she scott will "always be friends," & that she knew he "liked [her:] as a friend". i think it's far more likely that he liked her as a conveyance for cold sodas & free sandwiches & didn't give her another thought after she left sea city, but let's go with it. it's not a bad representation of what it's like to have an early teenage unrequited crush.

Sarah says

4 Stars

Kat says

This was my favorite BSC book as a young, nerdy 9-year-old. Of course as an adult, the cover totally creeps

me out, but this is what I thought being a teenager would be like. Stacey was THE coolest.

Shira says

I LOVE THIS BOOK SO MUCH AND HAVE READ IT AT LEAST FIFTY TIMES. okay, let's get started with what is sure to be a really long review.

stacey and mary anne are hired by the pike family to be mother's helpers (in a classic ann m martin subtle feminist moment, stacey notes that she thinks it's weird they're called mother's helpers when they're helping mr. pike just as much) on their annual two week trip to the fictional sea city, new jersey (based, according to martin, on a combination of wildwood, nj near cape may and surf city, nj on long beach island). stacey doesn't do her share of the work because as stacey notes, "in sea city, there were adorable guys *everywhere!*" she falls in LUV with scott foley (no, not scott foley from *felicity*) the way-too-old-for-her lifeguard. mary anne gets angry at stacey for only paying attention to boys, rightfully so. stacey is devastated to find scott making out with his girlfriend. fortunately, mary anne befriends (and later on beLUVs) a mother's helper named alex who helps her out with the pikes, and who conveniently enough has an age appropriate cousin toby who dresses just terribly enough for stacey to fall in LUV with him.

highlights:

-so much good beach stuff. when I read this as a kid, I was living a couple miles from huntington beach, california. the type of east coast beach trip nostalgia doesn't exist in southern california, so I didn't get it but found it delightful. now as an adult who takes annual trips to ocean city, maryland, I get it and feel all the shared cultural wistfulness when thinking about beach trips. a really great moment is when they are driving into sea city and the kids excitedly point out some of the things they associate with arrival to sea city: the "cow sign" (a three dimensional purple cow sticking out of a billboard, which is an advertisement for cream), the crabs for grabs restaurant, and an (presumably coppertone) ad with a suntanned girl whose bathing suit bottoms are being yanked off by a dog.

-mary anne's bad sunburn: she asks what she did to deserve getting sunburned. she is the only one who didn't cover up for any portion of the first day on the beach, and there is no note of her wearing sunblock. she had said she wanted to get tanned right away. I think *that's* what she did to deserve it.

-when mary anne is sunburned, there's a scene where all the pike kids each bring a different sunburn remedy and end up piled in mary anne's bed together giggling. it's super cheesy and charming and brady bunch-ish.

-stacey's hilariously naive sexism: "not only did the lifeguards seem to know them, but they gave them the supreme honor of letting them do favors for them. those girls got to bring them sodas and pick up anything that fell off the stand, and one was even asked to fix them sandwiches for lunch." (reminiscent of the boardwalk shirt: "cool story, babe. now make me a sandwich.")

-claire and margo say they want to quit putt putt in the middle since they are both awful (claire's score is over 200), but then when they do the ball return and claire wins a free game she wants to play again immediately.

-in the one non-sea city chapter, karen and andrew brewer are left to their own devices washing watson's car while kristy and david michael are handling a louie injury emergency. they use steel wool and strip the paint off the car.

-stacey's first kiss (with toby, the mother's helper's cousin) is in the tunnel of luv. this is probably the most hilariously stereotypical place in the world to have your first kiss. she will tell people when she is older and they will not believe her.

stacey quotes (much smart, many sophisticated, such wise):

-"*it's awfully hard helping your parents grow up. but it has to be done.*"

- "I knew he had meant to say more to me, but was too shy. boys get that way sometimes."

pike kids' character development:

-claire (5) calls everyone "silly-billy-goo-goo", calls her mom and dad "moozie" and "daggles", answers her own riddle jokes, calls burger garden "gurber garden"

-margo (7) gets carsick. bad at putt putt. that's pretty much it.

-nicky (8) wants to be super manly with the triplets. says "that's girl stuff" re: making sandcastles and looking for shells, wants to be included with the triplets but isn't one of them and is bummed that everyone else in the family is a girl.

-vanessa (9) speaks in rhymes because she wants to be a poet. cutest poem: "we're back, we're here, we've come once more to our gingerbread house by the white seashore." into girly stuff with mallory like shopping for feminine tchotchkies (buys a pink glass deer)

-jordan (10, triplet) bully towards byron. that's pretty much it.

-byron (10, triplet) buys himself candy but won't buy any for anyone else. won't go in the ocean because he's scared of not being able to see the bottom. rode the ferris wheel when the other triplets went in the haunted house (scared of the haunted house too?) describes sea city as being on a piece of land that curls into the ocean like a dog's tail. he is the *sensitive* triplet.

-adam (10, triplet) bully towards byron, but redeems himself. on one putt putt hole he got 10 and nicky got a hole in one, and he complimented nicky on it and called him "little bro"

-mallory (11) helper to stacey and mary anne yet again foreshadowing membership in the bsc (intervenes with sibling drama like nicky calling claire stupid). into girly stuff with vanessa like tchotchk shopping (buys a frog made out of seashells). likes to watch the angry ocean from the third floor when it's stormy, indicating that she is thoughtful and maybe will be that dude from american beauty who films dead birds and flying plastic bags when she grows up.

stacey outfits:

-I changed my mind six times before I decided on this new pink shirt I got the last time we went back to New York to visit friends. Big, bright green and yellow birds were splashed all over it. It was gigantic, so it would be cool. I put it on with a pair of baggy shorts, looped a wide green belt around my middle, and hunted up some jewelry--silver bangle bracelets and a pair of silver earrings shaped like bells that actually ring when they dangle back and forth. note: this is her "sophisticated" outfit when she is worried that watson's rich neighbors might see her.

-I put on a white cotton vest over a pink cotton dress and tied a big white bow in my hair so that it flopped over the side of my head.

other outfits:

-Mary Anne couldn't find anything of her own that she really liked, so I loaned her my yellow pedal pushers, a yellow and white striped tank top, and an oversized white jacket.

-Toby: He was wearing plain white swimming trunks, but his shirt was amazing--tan with silly pictures of cowboy boots and cactuses all over it. And his sunglasses--black bands with narrow slits from side to side to see through. Totally cool.

Swankivv says

I think this was the first *Baby-Sitters Club* book I didn't really feel like reading because--let's face it--I wasn't into boys and I didn't like that books aimed at my demographic were always trying to push boys at me. (I think this is actually the reason I got into adult science fiction when I was like ten. I was tired of books that

were written for my supposed reading level treating me like I would find boy-craziness really exciting. I did not.) But since I was of course a completist, I wanted to read the book to find out what was going to happen.

So the gigantic Pike family decides to take two babysitters with them on vacation so they'll have an easier time managing their brood, and Stacey and Mary Anne are selected. Stacey then ditches her duties a lot because she's obsessed with the lifeguard, who has no personality and shamelessly uses her to get free sodas and stuff, acting like he has no idea that he's manipulating her. It kinda bothered me that a lot of the focus on "why Stacey was ultimately wrong to do this" was focused on a) she's leaving Mary Anne with all the babysitting work and b) that lifeguard was too old for her. By the end she starts liking a boy closer to her age and they act like that's a happy ending, but the whole thing got under my skin because she was there to do a job, not to hit on the dudes. She can enjoy herself, but seriously, the boysboysboys thing annoyed me. Though at least the title warned me. It bothered me that Stacey decided to stop chasing the lifeguard only after she saw him kissing some other girl--as if she perceived that they had something going on and that this was some kind of betrayal, when she was the one being a jerk. I thought the Pike kids were entertaining sometimes during this book, but I thought the boyfriends that Mary Anne and Stacey eventually picked up were kind of weakly characterized. They were like Ken dolls or something. Boys were so often presented as "a thing for a girl to like" in these kinds of books.

Logan Hughes says

Beach time! Stacey has a crush on a lifeguard. Also, children.

Stacey and Mary Anne go to the Sea City ocean resort with the Pike family as mother's helpers. Stacey falls in love with a hunky lifeguard, leaving most of the work of baby-sitting to Mary Anne.

We get eight books into a girl-centered series before crushes on boys is a central plotline! (Has this ever happened before? Will it ever happen again?) The lifeguard story is horrible and great, as Scott Foley (not to be confused with Scott Foley) gives Stacey just enough attention to keep her coming back for more, while never really making any real statements. Stacey's recovery from the monster crush is only marred by the tacked-on Nice Boys she and Mary Anne get at the end. Sea City with the Pikes is pretty entertaining.

Byron Pike Watch: This is the first book in which the triplets are differentiated. Well, one of them. Adam and Jordan are indistinguishable, but Byron is revealed to be sensitive (gay), with a fear of deep water.

Timing: July/August between seventh and eighth grades.
