



## Stacey's Broken Heart

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Hired for a week-long baby-sitting job in New York City, Stacey finds her enthusiasm quelled by her boyfriend's strange behavior, and begins to fear that he may be seeing another girl.

## Stacey's Broken Heart Details

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## From Reader Review Stacey's Broken Heart for online ebook

### Logan Hughes says

#### Stacey and Robert break up.

Stacey is worried about her relationship with her boyfriend, Robert. She catches him a in few lies about his whereabouts, but nothing she can really pin down or explain.

Still uneasy, Stacey leaves for a week in NYC. She's combining a visit to her dad with a baby-sitting job for the Walkers, her old neighbors, who are both artists and need their kids occupied while they prepare for a gallery opening. At the Walkers', she meets Ethan, a 15-year-old artist who is there doing odd jobs, like moving artwork and stretching canvases. Ethan is cute, and Stacey looks forward to times during the day that he can hang out with her or help her with the kids, but she pointedly doesn't think of him romantically because she has a boyfriend.

Then, Claudia calls to tell Stacey that she saw Robert kissing another girl. Stacey is upset. She feels made a fool of. But in some ways, she's relieved. In the end, the relationship had become so much trouble and worry, and now she doesn't have to worry about Robert is doing because she knows. Also, she can now pursue Ethan. On her last day in town, they exchange phone numbers. When she gets home, Stacey makes her breakup official with a relieved Robert.

Meanwhile, Kristy spends the same week out of town with her family in Hawaii, and Abby takes over as both president and treasurer, despite enraging Kristy by promising to cut dues during her brief tenure. Amusingly, she immediately becomes a tyrant with no financial oversight. Determined to prove herself as presidential material, she decides to take on a big BSC charity event project to be completed in the course of a week. She goes massively overbudget, and even after cutting dues, ends up dunning the other members for emergency bailouts. Nothing is done in time, and the club manages to throw together the festival only by imagining "what Kristy would do." I'm a big fan of BSC internal politics stories, so I loved this.

In an unusual twist for this series, the main plotline is actually the weaker of the two. It feels like a template for what would become the Friends Forever series: mostly boys/dating/teen girl dishing, not so much baby-sitting (although there is some). I usually like Stacey and New York stories, and this one has some of that flair, but for a breakup story, it's fairly light on genuine emotion. Even if Stacey was pretty much over Robert by the time they got around to breaking up, I would have liked to see more wrenching descriptions of how awful and foolish she felt being cheated on. It's just a weaksauce version of what a book like Alice Alone does really well.

And the construction of the plotline is just a little too neat-tied-up-with-a-bow. Like, it's a bit too convenient that Stacey met a cute boy JUST WHEN her other relationship was on the rocks, and that Robert was the one to irrevocably wreck their relationship JUST WHEN it got to the point where she had to make a decision whether to try to keep in touch with Ethan. I would have liked more moral ambiguity, like Stacey flirting enough with Ethan to feel legitimately guilty, then recognizing the hypocrisy of judging Robert harshly for cheating when she basically did the same thing (or would have if it had gotten that far). The book is careful to make her blameless, when I think under the circumstances it would be realistic if they were both unfaithful. Just any kind of awkwardness in the timing would have been more realistic; like, what if she turned down Ethan because she had a boyfriend? Then the news that Robert cheated on her would have been much more upsetting, because she would have felt that she let a good thing get away for nothing. Getting back in touch with Ethan would have been a happy ending and shown how you can sometimes get a second chance if you try. As it is, things work out perfectly, so there's really not much conflict.

**Nitpick:** Secret Ballot Fail: "We gave the folded slips to Mary Anne. She counted six yes votes and one no vote written in Kristy's distinctive, neat handwriting." Unless Mary Anne announced the handwriting, I don't know how Stacey saw it.

**Lingering Questions:** How does Stacey's dad normally get to work? In this book, the one time we seem him go into the office, he takes a cab. I know he's rich, but doesn't that add up? But I guess I can't see him taking the subway? How do rich people in New York get to work?

**Flash of Quality** Early in her visit to New York, Stacey has a conversation with her dad about Robert that I found very realistic. He suggests that she's too young to go steady and should date lots of boys, and Stacey is upset because it feels like her dad is criticizing her maturity, and Robert as a person, at a point when she is extra-invested in defending the relationship to cover up her own nagging doubts about it. I love it because it feels emotionally true, and because it mirrors so many arguments I had with adults in my life when I was a teen in the late 90's; a generational difference must have been at play because serial monogamy was overwhelmingly the norm in the middle- and high-school set, but older adults all seemed to think that we should be dating in groups and not defining our relationships, which seemed ludicrously unworkable and faintly amoral to us.

**Slash Watch** Is it just me, or does it really, really seem like the book is setting up Robert to be in a relationship with Pete Black? Before her trip, Stacey and Claudia secretly follow Robert in the mall to see what he does when he's vague about his whereabouts. It turns out he's meeting up with Pete Black to go to the movies. There is an unnecessary detail about Pete's hair being long now, which isn't really used later for mistaken identity purposes; it seems inserted only to feminize him.

Stacey and Claudia lose track of the boys but follow a pair of cute girls into an action movie, concerned that the girls are meeting up with Robert and Pete for a double date. But they don't. They meet up with different boys. Stacey and Claudia sit through the whole movie and, when it's over, they run into Robert and Pete coming out of a romance movie instead. WHAT. Robert offers the vague excuse that Stacey was going to be out of town so if he didn't see this particular romance now, he'd miss it, but, I mean, at this point, the scene qualifies as baiting, right? Or am I being obtuse and homophobic and it's a completely common hetero bonding activity to go to a romance movie with your bro?

Robert and Pete invite Stacey and Claudia to join them for dinner in the food court (how could they not, I mean, it's awkward), but when Stacey suggests spending the rest of the evening together, "A cornered look came into Robert's eyes. 'Uh ... Pete and I were going to ... to ... play baseball with some guys.'" IS THAT WHAT YOU KIDS ARE CALLING IT THESE DAYS

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## Alexandra says

I read this recently, and I don't know about this book. I overall like the Baby Sitters Club books, but I have to say this one was not the best. The characters are way too young to have "broken heart"s. I have to say that if you have something better to read, read it. Although I must say that the point of view of Abby and the gang back at Stoneybrook was entertaining. So I guess I would have to say that this book is not one of the books that is an absolute must read, but it was all right.

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## **Samantha says**

Yet another BSC book about Stacey's love life.

Wait.

Excuse me.

LUV life.

There we go.

In this one we see her drifting apart from boyfriend Robert, who is all into the "bad girls" that were part of their group. You know that schtick. Stacey got into trouble, ditched her BSC friends, all that business. Like a really bad episode of Saved By The Bell (were there any good ones?).

She spends a week in New York baby-sitting, and meets a cute guy named Ethan who works for the Walkers. He's artsy, he has black hair, he dresses very chilly. Are we sure she might not be into Claudia?

I digress.

In the end we get it confirmed that Robert is cheating with a bad girl, and Stacey is cool with it cause she's already got her a new man before she even gets back to town to break up with the cheating pos.

Stacey's luv streak continues, with no wait time. You go, girl!

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## **Sella Malin says**

didn't like these books much.

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## **Shannon says**

Come on, Stacey, don't be such a sap! As I'm going through all the BSC books, I see Stacey came full circle like Kristy did (from her Best idea to her Worst idea) -- her first book was about her boy dealings too. Gah.

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## **Shira says**

in this book by ghostwriter Suzanne Weyn, stacey accepts a week-long babysitting job for the walker kids in nyc (who I believe we first met in Stacey's Mistake and have seen once or twice since) while kristy is on a family trip to hawaii. the bsc is shorthanded but abby fills in as both president and treasurer. the club sort of goes to crap at first but then everyone helps out last-minute at an abby-planned event and makes it work out in spite of abby being an arrogant jerk and a terrible leader. it's a really infuriating subplot. meanwhile in nyc, stacey starts to develop a crush on the cute teenage boy who the walkers have hired to help them get ready for their combined art show (the reason they needed stacey to babysit), exactly as robert has been seen

all over stoneybrook dating andi gentile (stacey's favorite person in robert's group -- see Stacey vs. the BSC and Stacey and the Bad Girls for more info). at first stacey is upset because she thinks that she and robert are meant to be, but then she realizes that she has a wandering eye too and 13-year-olds shouldn't be marrying their boyfriends.

highlights:

- robert sees a romantic comedy with pete black. it's implied that there were probably girls there too, but it's never clarified completely. I like the idea of robert and pete just going to the movies to see a romantic comedy together.
- when the bsc and bsc kids are making pinatas for the mexican festival, marnie barrett disappears. it turns out some of the kids PUT MARNIE IN A PINATA. it's kind of hilarious but also how could she breathe?
- when the cereal and milk fall on the floor and mrs. walker looks up and says "give me strength" henry and grace think she's asking the ceiling for strength to pick up the cereal
- stacey realizes that she kind of feels relieved that robert is dating andi because she wants to be free to date other people (like ethan) too. YUP. that mixed bag of devastation from a relationship ending alongside the relief of not having to be tied down anymore is definitely real, and I'm glad they handled it well in this book.

lowlights/nitpicks:

- while stepping in as president abby basically tries to change everything. she doesn't make them write in the notebook and doesn't make them pay dues. instead, she buys things for her mexican festival without consulting with the other bsc members and expects them to reimburse her for things. it's sort of like bananas or something -- a huge revolution intended to oust a dictator, merely to replace that dictator with a NEW dictator who is even worse than the old one.
- another problem with abby guiltig the other bsc members into reimbursing her for purchases she made without consulting with anyone: aside from kristy (who is currently in hawaii), abby is the only bsc member who lives in a mansion on the mansion-y side of town. all the bsc members are at least middle class if not upper middle class, but for instance mallory's family has struggled with finances in the past. I like abby and think she's pretty self-aware and conscious of identity politics and the like, so it really upsets me that she would pull such a crappy rich kid move like this and force her less rich friends to reimburse her for things they didn't consent to buying in the first place.
- pete black obviously helps robert lie about evening plans (presumably a date with andi). pete, doesn't it bother you that your friend is cheating on his girlfriend?
- abby's explanation for making executive decisions to buy stuff without asking and still expecting everyone to pay her back is that she's acting president AND treasurer. ugh.
- basically abby doesn't plan anything and just expects it to all work. when people show up for the festival but it's not ready, claudia does free face painting for everyone while everyone else sets up. it ends up working only because everyone else helps abby fix her dumb mess. I HATE ABBY IN THIS BOOK SO MUCH.
- the mexican festival is sort of sketchy, as would be expected from a festival hosted by a bunch of white kids and non-latinx kids of color who live in connecticut and think that a mexican festival means doing speedy gonzalez's voice. they put up decorations of people exploding from eating hot peppers and wearing sombreros and playing maracas and stuff.
- POGS ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE FESTIVAL. OMG WHY ARE THERE POGS IN EVERY BOOK? there were no pogs referenced, and then suddenly it turned to 1996 and all the books had pogs in them (even though no one was playing with pogs anymore by that point).
- nagging question at resolution: why does stacey forgive robert so easily when he was legit cheating on her and waiting to break up with her until he knew he wanted to date andi? it's really sketchy to line up your new girlfriend before you dump an old one.

claudia outfits:

*"Today Claudia had on an oversized purple top over turquoise leggings. With fabric paints she'd painted a beautiful unicorn on the top and then decorated the leggings with designs in the same colors. From her ears dangled earrings she'd made of papier-mache in the shape of unicorn heads."*

stacey's mom:

*"She was dressed in beige pants with a matching sleeveless tunic top, and had draped a long scarf around her neck."*

stacey outfit:

*"I changed from my white cotton nightgown into a pair of khaki-green Bermuda shorts and a yellow cotton shirt with purple violets on it.*

*"I decided to wear the black dress [described earlier as a straight, black sleeveless dress] and a pair of black sandals. I fixed my hair in a French braid and put on a pair of gold hoop earrings."*

*"I dressed in black skinny pants and a light pink cardigan...After picking through my perm, I put on some tannish-pink lipstick and a pair of bead earrings."*

mrs. walker outfit:

*"She looked gorgeous in a flowing gold, purple, and orange African print gown. Her dangling earrings glistened with metallic pieces."*

ethan outfit:

*"I spotted Ethan wearing jeans, a white T-shirt, and a lightweight gray sports jacket."*

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## **Gabsmarie says**

### **I hate Robert**

Robert is a jerk and stacey shouldn't have been so nice . I can see being nicer to andi but still..... she should have at least yelled at him or told him he was a jerk !

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## **Rachel Brand says**

When I was thirteen I dated a boy called Ryan for two weeks. I think we may have held hands, and we texted each other about twenty times every day. Then he dumped me because I wanted to actually talk to him rather than just pointing at him and saying "That's my boyfriend." It was at this point that I realised that the BSC lied about what teenage relationships were like. I did have a couple of male friends who I could actually hang out with and talk to - the Logans and Bens of my world - but this was a pretty rare occurrence in my teenage years. In fact, I didn't have another boyfriend until I was eighteen and in my first year of university. We've been together for almost six months now and I'm really glad that I didn't have many fickle teenage relationships as the real thing is definitely worth waiting for.

However, this didn't make me any less sympathetic to Stacey's situation. I too thought that my first boyfriend would stay with me forever and it's difficult realising that your parents might be right about you being too young to date. Although I find it hard to imagine having met a guy like Robert when I was thirteen, I did enjoy reading this book, and it was nice to see Stacey making friends with a new boy but not necessarily "falling in love" immediately. All in all, a fun book which I realised I had read as a child with the sentence about Andie not thinking that phones existed in Manhattan! 8/10

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## **Kayla Wilson says**

I heard about this book from one of my friends that recommend it to me. My first impression of this book was a mystery, because based on the summary of the book Stacy's boyfriend was acting strange to her. I think the author's style of writing is clever because how I thought the book was going to end was a whole different perspective. I would recommend this book to any body that loves the Baby Sitter Club Series, and hasn't read this book out of the series. This book reminds me of The Nancy Drew Series because it's full of mysteries like how this book was. What I learned from this book is that Stacey's boyfriend was acting strange because he didn't like her no more. I also learned that Stacey was very sad but she had to do what was best for her. If I were to describe this book in one sentence it would be that this book is a great mystery that ends in a clever unexpected way.

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### **Romane says**

It was quite sad.

Reading this will help you realize the things that you should be responsible for. Very great!

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### **Ciara says**

i guess the hawaii super special was supposed to foreshadow that stacey & robert aren't getting along that well. there was a lot in that book about other girls flirting with robert & stacey getting pissy about it. this book opens with stacey & robert playing a few rounds of tennis. &...really? tennis? they're 13. though i guess they are 13-year-olds that live in connecticut. well-played, ghostwriter. stacey & robert are relaxing after their tennis game when a few of the "bad girls" that stacey was once friends with sunater up. they ask if stacey & robert would like to play doubles with them, but stacey says she is tired. she knows robert won't play without her, even though he obviously wants to play. true to form, robert declines the invite. he says something to stacey about knowing she must be worn out because of her diabetes, but she honestly admits that she just didn't want to hang out with those girls.

a few other things happen which i guess are supposed to illustrate that stacey & robert are not 100% happy together. he likes spending time with the friends that got stacey in trouble with both her mother & the babysitters club, while stacey "thinks their values are the pits". i LOLed. i totally remember being like nine years old & sincerely believing that teenagers talked that way. sorry to break it to you, tween readers. that's not how teenagers talk.

one morning stacey is bored & gives robert a call. his sister reports that robert is "playing basketball with some of the guys". stacey bikes over to the courts where robert & his friends usually play. his friends are there, but robert is not. they ask stacey where robert is. they invited him to play basketball but he declined, saying that he had plans. they assumed his plans were with stacey. stacey doesn't know what to think. it appears that robert lied to her, but there is a chance he is playing basketball elsewhere in stoneybrook with a different group of guys.

when she has a chance to ask robert about it, he explains he was playing one-on-one on some different courts against a different friend. but emily bernstein calls stacey at the babysitters club meeting that afternoon & says she saw robert at the mall food court with a girl. she didn't see who the girl was, but it was a brunette-- definitely not stacey. stacey doesn't know what to think. was robert on a date with another girl? did he just bump into a friend? is there a good reason why he didn't tell stacey he had been to the mall?

meanwhile, stacey has been asked to babysit for a week for the walker family in new york city while the walker parents prepare a joint art gallery show. stacey is confused because she is not that disappointed about not seeing robert for a week. & it doesn't seem like robert is that bummed about it either. but stacey would like to get to the bottom of the weird shit that is going on between them before she leaves. she recruits claudia to help her spy on robert (always the foundation of a healthy relationship) but she doesn't really turn anything up. there's a great scene in which claudia & stacey go to the mall because they heard robert is going to be there. they stake out the movie theatre because stacey thinks maybe robert will be meeting a date there. sure enough, robert turns up...with pete black. stacey assumes they're going to see a shoot 'em up alien movie that stacey wouldn't see with robert, so she forces claudia to buy tickets to it so they can sit in the theatre & see if robert & pete meet girls inside. stacey sees two gorgeous teenage girls meeting dudes that she thinks are robert & pete & she is totally distraught...until claudia points out that pete has grown his hair longer & neither of the dudes in question has long hair. stacey is relieved & wants to leave the theatre, but by this point, claudia is invested in the movie & wants to see how it ends. god, i love claudia. she's so easily distracted. when stacey & claudia finally do leave the theatre, they bump right into pete & robert...coming out of a romantic comedy in the next theatre over. awwwww. so THAT'S why robert's been acting weird!

stacey is still confused & feeling like robert isn't telling her the whole truth. robert agrees to see her off on the train to new york the next morning, but he's late. stacey is almost in tears by the time her mom says they have to leave right now so as to not miss the train. that's when robert shows up with a big bouquet of flowers. stacey is relieved, but still feels a weird sense of loss that she doesn't understand as her train leaves for new york.

she kind of forgets about it though once she's back in new york. her father takes her out for a nice dinner & they go to the met. she kind of tells him a little about her confusion about robert & he suggests that stacey may be too young to go steady with one guy anyway, & that maybe she & robert should cool things off. stacey flips & screams at him in the egyptian wing. she feels embarrassed pretty quickly, but...still. uncool, stacey. she throws herself into the job with the walkers, playing with the kids, taking them to central park & the museum of natural history. she thinks it's really exciting to be around while two great artists are preparing for a show. she gets to see all the backstage preparations, with folks from the gallery coming by all the time to take measurements & get stuff done. one emissary from the gallery is a foxy teenage boy named ethan. he has long black hair, blue eyes, & an earring. stacey thinks he is C-U-T-E, robert or no robert. ethan spends some time playing freeze tag with stacey & the walker kids & stacey also appreciates the fact that she is so good with the kids--fun & un-self-conscious. she asks mrs. walker if ethan is going to be around a lot this week & mrs. walker is all, "interested, huh?" but stacey is all, "no! i have a boyfriend! i just think ethan is...nice." her father & claudia both also notice that stacey seems to have a lot to say about how...nice...ethan is.

unfortunately, claudia is also calling with some bad news. she saw robert downtown a few days after stacey left...kissing andi gentile (a girl from his friend group). stacey thanks her for calling & hangs up. she cries a lot, but realizes that she is crying more because she is hurt & embarrassed that robert kissed another girl, & less because she really minds that he kissed another girl. she realizes that she & robert were kind of spinning their wheels & she's not that sad about ending the relationship.

at the end of the week, ethan asks if he can call her & stacey says yes. ethan clarifies that he is interested & stacey says she is too. she explains that she was in a relationship but "that's over now." andi is waiting for stacey when she gets back to stoneybrook. she admits that she & robert are seeing each other & hopes stacey won't hate her. stacey says it's fine, but she wants andi to leave. andi leaves. robert calls shortly thereafter & asks to come see stacey. when he shows up, he's all, "um, uh, so...uh, i don't know how to say this," until stacey is like, "you kissed andi. i know." robert is shocked that stacey knows, & seems to expect her to scream or cry. stacey doesn't do that & just says she is disappointed that robert felt the need to sneak around & lie, but she accepts that their relationship is over. robert leaves & claudia comes over. stacey gushes about ethan. the end.

so, not so much "stacey's broken heart" as "stacey gets another dude on the hook before her previous relationship is even cold". stacey is totally going to be one of those women in like twenty years whose therapist makes her keep a journal of all the experiences she has leaving the house alone, to try to break her dependency on men.

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### **Amy Holcomb says**

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

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### **Nancy says**

In which Robert cheats on Stacey, which is really bad, but Stacey was already talking to Ethan, which is totally not cheating cuz she's only lusting after him and stringing him along. Stacey's heart does not seem to be actually broken.

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### **Maria Elmvang says**

A believable description of a breakup at that age. And now I REALLY want to go back to NYC!

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### **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!

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