



Farewell, Dawn

Ann M. Martin

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Deciding that she wants to move back to California permanently, Dawn worries about what she will say to the rest of the baby-sitters, who do not understand when they hear the news secondhand.

Farewell, Dawn Details

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From Reader Review Farewell, Dawn for online ebook

Shannon says

Oh, Dawn, is it rough knowing that you could purchase a surfboard every single frakking time you go flying across the country? I'm sorry about your mom and all, but how spoiled are you -- how many families let their 8th grade kids jetset between the coasts on a whim?

Shira says

I was about to call this the penultimate dawn book in the series (not including individual chapters in super specials or the california diaries series) before her portrait collection book (Dawn's Book) but I had forgotten about Dawn Schafer, Undercover Babysitter and Dawn and Too Many Sitters. seriously, why did they let her keep narrating books after she moved to california? anyway, in this not penultimate dawn book by ghostwriter Suzanne Weyn, dawn is itching for california again. I know, I know, we've already read this book. it was called Dawn's Big Move. this one is essentially dawn's bigger move, because she decides she is going to move to california for good. she wimps out about telling mary anne and so mary anne finds out from logan (since the news spread among the bsc) and is furious. meanwhile, james hobart breaks his leg, which is a bummer since it's during summer vacation. the bsc and bsc kids throw him a fake christmas party, not knowing that christmas is actually during the summer in australia where james is from.

highlights:

-the one thing I really like about the book is that mary anne has a backbone in it. she is seriously PISSED at dawn, and it shows.

-also this book makes me think of the aforementioned california diaries series which is an excellent series (and my favorite bsc spinoff) -- in it the local high school has to take on the 8th grade for spacing reasons and so dawn and all her friends act like high schoolers and have teen drama problems (alcoholism, suicide attempts, abusive boyfriends, etc)

lowlights/nitpicks:

-when the bsc and co actually throw james hobart the fake christmas party, he is surprised and thinks he might be back in australia. he explains that in australia it's summer in december, so he's used to summertime christmas. the bsc members and kids are surprised by that, but they shouldn't be, because they had already run the party by the entire rest of the hobart family. are we really meant to believe that it hadn't occurred to any other hobarts to mention it?

-dawn is happy to see that norman hill has lost some weight, because people were teasing him, and also because, according to dawn, "being overweight is unhealthy." ugh. dawn is like ben stiller in heavyweights:

-though I appreciate mary anne's sudden backbone in this book, it's really frustrating how she freezes dawn out and they don't get to make the most of their last few weeks of permanently living together. they reconcile the night before dawn leaves. I don't particularly like either of them, but it's still such a shame that those crazy kids couldn't work it out earlier.

claudia outfits:

-*"Today she was wearing a baggy, white, cotton jumpsuit that was cut wide and open at the sides and neckline. Under it she wore two sleeveless T-shirts, one purple, one pink. She'd tied the jumpsuit with a belt she'd made from safety pins and beads, and she'd used fabric paint to create a jungle scene on the left leg of the jumpsuit. From her ears dangled two colorful wooden parrot earrings onto which she'd glued beads that*

matched the beads on her belt."

"Naturally, Claudia put together the perfect outfit for the occasion--red shorts, a green vest over a white T-shirt, and sandals she'd laced up to her knees with criss-crossing red and green ribbon. Homemade papier-mache Santa earrings completed the look."

mary anne outfit:

-"She was already dressed in blue and white plaid shorts and a blue T-shirt."

dawn outfits:

-"I pulled on a pair of white shorts and a short-sleeved flowered blouse, slipped into straw sandals, bent forward, then quickly brushed my blonde hair."

-"The dress looked great. It had small pearly buttons down the front and it flared at the bottom, which was just about two inches above my knees. Mom bought it for me, along with a pair of new straw sandals and some carved wooden beads I liked."

snacks in claudia's room:

-cheez doodles behind the pillow on her bed

Brenna says

Love this book!!!!

Maria Elmvang says

Honestly, this is pretty much just a (worse) retake on "Dawn's Big Trip". Kinda ridiculous that she goes through SO much thinking when it's just temporary, and pretty much makes the decision from one day to the next when it's permanent. I'll miss her though. Granted, she's not my favourite BSC'er, but she's still a LOT better than Abby!

Nancy says

In which Dawn goes to OMG CALIFORNIA for good to start the California Diaries series. She becomes slightly cool for that. Still, STFU, Dawn.

Ciara says

the only good thing about this book is that dawn leaves. it's just too bad she didn't take mary anne with her.

dawn's clifornia best friend, sunny, calls & tells dawn & that her mom has been diagnosed with lung cancer. things don't look so great. dawn is horrified & decides she wants to move back to california--permanently. partly to support sunny, but also because she realizes that california is her home & she misses it too much. she misses the beach, the weather, her dad, jeff, etc etc. she talks to her parents about it & they agree that she can make the switch. dawn realizes that she needs to let kristy know ASAP so kristy can decide how to proceed in finding a replacement, so she calls kristy & breaks the news, but asks her to keep it under her hat

until she can tell mary anne herself.

the next night, dawn & mary anne arrange a special sisters pizza-&-movie night. dawn thinks it will be a good opportunity to tell mary anne about her decision, but before they even have a chance to start cooking, logan calls to see how mary anne is handling the news that dawn is moving back to california. apparently kristy couldn't keep the news to herself, so she told claudia, who told stacey, who told robert, who told logan, who told mary anne. mary anne is PISSED that everyone in town knew about dawn's decision before she did. they have a big fight in which mary anne acts like a total asshole & dawn is surprisingly lukewarm about coming to her own defense. she's all thinking to herself, "i should have told her." yeah, & she was going to! like within the hour! maybe it would have been smart to keep the news on the down-low until after she'd told mary anne, but it was a pretty responsible gesture to tell kristy first. even though it's not like kristy can start looking for a replacement without discussing the news with the rest of the club. which includes mary anne.

anyway, the entire book is just one big annoying fight between dawn & mary anne. dawn convinces herself that mary anne is planning some special goodbye gesture, but mary anne isn't. mary anne just acts like a jerk for 140 pages & finally cries the night before dawn gets on the plane to move back to palo city. they hug it out, problem solved. BORRRRING!

the B-plot is also really lame. james hobart breaks his leg while playing football with some of the pike kids. he's bummed about having a broken leg in the summertime. so the babysitters concoct a scheme to cheer him up: xmas in july. i hate xmas, so this would not cheer me up at all. they recruit a bunch of their charges to make xmas cards & decorations & buy little gifts & wrap everything & cut pine boughs & all this random xmas-y crap, & then they descend upon the hobarts' house singing carols. they succeed in cheering james up. he goes so far as to say that for a minute, he thought he was enjoying real xmas back home. everyone is like, "durrr, what?" until mrs. hobart explains that xmas is in the summertime in australia because australia is in the southern hemisphere.

farewell, dawn! don't less the door hit you in the ass on the way out.

The Kawaii Slartibartfast says

BYE FELICIA.

Logan Hughes says

Dawn wants to go to California again.

This is a familiar dance by now. Her parents set the wheels in motion yet again. There is an air of finality this time. I guess her parents figure that she always wants to go to Cali and rarely really wants to come back, so this is probably her last move.

Dawn tells Kristy first, wanting to give her plenty of time to think through club logistical stuff, but asks her to keep it a secret, since she doesn't know yet how she'll break it to Mary Anne. But the secret finds its way to Mary Anne before Dawn has told her, and Mary Anne is furious. She's cold to Dawn up until the last moment, when they manage to find some nice words to say goodbye to each other.

Meanwhile, James Hobart has broken his leg playing American football with the Pikes, so the BSC organizes

the neighborhood kids to give him "Christmas in summer," making decorations, baking, and buying small gifts for him. They do all this without even realizing until they get to his house and talk to his mom that Australians are used to having Christmas in the summer.

This book does very little to distinguish itself from earlier moving books, particularly Dawn's Big Move), which was just 20 books ago. In fact, Dawn got back from that "six-month" stay only a few books ago. And I guess that's really what creates the motivation, although this book, like the previous Dawn move, suffers from a lack of motivation. The yearning for California is there; the question is just, why now? But I guess that's what my family and friends thought when I moved away from them all those times, so we'll move on.

Mary Anne and Dawn make some amusingly astute points about each other during their fight. Mary Anne accuses Dawn of only caring about herself and her "selfish, selfish feelings," while Dawn criticizes Mary Anne, "You react, you never act," which, while true, seems like more like it come straight from a writers' room assessment of her central character flaw rather than anything an eighth-grader would notice, care about, or articulate. Then again, Dawn is super-secretly a pretentious college sophomore, so maybe it works.

Lingering Questions: Wasn't the arrangement from Dawn's Big Move that she'd spend six months in each place? Shouldn't she be back in CA by now anyway?

Where is Palo City? Palo City is described, probably not for the first time, as "a suburb of Anaheim." Isn't Anaheim a suburb of LA? It's like saying you live in a suburb of Westchester.

Cover Art Hilarity: Mary Anne and Dawn look sad as they wave goodbye at the airport, but Claudia and Kristy look frankly THRILLED to be seeing the back of Dawn.

Timing: End of summer, shortly before the start of the school year

Revised Timeline: August, shortly before junior year of college. Dawn thought she'd finish out her college years at UConn Stonybrook with Mary Anne, but she couldn't bring herself to. We'll pretend, again, that it's earlier or that she submitted the paperwork earlier, intending to "see what happened!" An acceptance letter from the school she wants to return to could give this some solid timing motivation.

Marshan Alma says

yes, I had blast from the past moments when I read this book. I adored the BSC books when I was younger. I had every single book up to the age where I felt I got too old for them. I think that was somewhere around sixty something. Anyway, I was looking at my library online service, and this book was on the front page. I figured I would belittle fun and read it. One thing I realized when I read this book was that I had missed my childhood friends! It felt good to get back in touch with the girls. I was sad to see Dawn move back to Cali, but was still thrilled that they hadn't changed at all. I can't wait till my daughter is old enough to read all the books that I've held onto for so many years.

Samantha says

The best part about this book is the cover. Dawn and Mary Anne look all sad that Dawn is leaving. Kristy and Claudia, however, are downright stoked to see that bitch getting on that plane to head back to California for good.

FINALLY!

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!

Haeja says

I really hated that Dawn left :(
