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Francine Pascal (Creator), Kate William

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Who will Todd choose—the glamorous Jessica or the gentle Elizabeth?

Elizabeth and Jessica Wakefield are identical twins—beautiful, blonde, perfect—but they couldn't be more different from each other. Elizabeth is friendly, good-natured, and kind, and the complete opposite of her clever, conniving sister. Jessica believes the world revolves around her...and the problem is that most of the time it does. Jessica always gets what she wants—at school, amongst her friends, and especially with boys.

This time, she's got her eye on Todd Wilkins, the good-looking star of Sweet Valley High's basketball team—and the one boy Elizabeth really likes. Now the twins are in a game of double love, with Todd as first prize. Will Elizabeth fight for the Todd? What will Jessica stoop to in order to get what she wants? Can the bonds of sisterhood stand up to the pangs of a broken heart?

Welcome to Sweet Valley High...

Double Love Details

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From Reader Review Double Love for online ebook

graveyardgremlin (formerly faeriemyst) says

SVH: WTF?

Cover Models: Jessica and Elizabeth

Page count: 182

Special Event: Some sorority thing.

Number of times "a hundred and thirty-seven" was mentioned: Two, plus five hundred and thirty-seven and seven hundred and thirty-seven. See below.

Mental Illness Winner of the Week: Jessica. Is there any surprise there?

Jessica's Bitchyness scale: ***** (out of five)

WTFery Meter: *****1/2 stars (out of five)

Quotes & Snarky comments:

What a peach:

"How can you be best friends with somebody as blah as Eeny Rollins? I don't want you to go over there. Somebody might think it was *me* talking to her." - Jessica Wakefield, page 18

Jessica's thoughts about Liz's lack of enthusiasm at being accepted into the sorority, Pi Beta Alpha:

"No big deal? Elizabeth, how can you say that? How can you even think it? You've got to be seven hundred and thirty-seven kinds of idiots not to be excited about associating with the best girls at Sweet Valley High. What's wrong with you?" - page 34/5

Isn't she simply the sweetest girl in the world? (note: Enid was also accepted.)

On butting into their brother's, Steven, love life:

"You can do whatever you want, Elizabeth Wakefield, but it's just not in my nature to be cold and selfish when it comes to the happiness of a member of my family!" - page 39

This as she attempts to steal Todd away from Liz the whole book. Yeah, real selfless of ya, Jess.

"He has got to be the most wonderful boy in a hundred and thirty-seven states!" - Jessica, page 108

Uh, she does realize there are only 50, right?

Elizabeth wondered how her sister could possibly descend from cloud nine with Todd Wilkins

to the pits of depression so fast and simply because she had to do a little thing like help fix dinner. - page 108

I bet a psychologist (or a whole team of them) is the only one that could help you figure that out, Liz. What follows immediately afterward sees Jessica having a complete meltdown. Seriously.

"This family has got to be the biggest bumner in five hundred and thirty-seven cities!" - Jess, page 111

"You selfish little twerp," Steven said, glaring at Jessica. - page 114

Hear, hear! Way to go Steve!

"I'll never forgive you, not if I live to be a hundred and thirty-seven years." - Jessica, page 182

Aah! Please don't live that long, please. 80

Final thoughts:

Elizabeth = Goody-two-shoes doormat.

Jessica = Satan incarnate.

Sounds like a bad sitcom.

Disclaimer: I am not a teenager or preteen, but an adult. Supposedly. Everyone keeps telling me I am but I'm not sure I'm buying what they're selling. Therefore my views are based from that perspective rather than someone in the target age range. I inhaled these suckers when I was young, hale, and hearty, so in an apparent moment of weakness have decided to re-visit one of my favorite old series in a fondly-remembered, tongue-in-cheek, and mostly sarcastic approach. So since I couldn't manage to devise a rating system for SVH books, I came up with this little way to have some fun, which is in the review form you've (hopefully) just read. Why else would you be reading this if you hadn't read all the way through anyway? Sometimes me not so bright. ;P

Next review: **Secrets**

Mari says

The entire premise behind "Childhood Trauma" is to go back and re-read the books we grew up with. I, however, never actually read Sweet Valley High as a kid, which gave me the unique perspective of being able to read these for the first time as a(n) (almost completely) functioning adult.

Oh. My. God.

In short, Jessica Wakefield is a bitch. A really, really pretty bitch. Her sister, Elizabeth Wakefield is a doormat. A really, really pretty doormat.

In the first SVH book, Liz has fallen head over perfect-size-six-ass in love with Todd (*affectionately known on our blog as Throat Punch Todd or TPT.*) Jess decides this can't happen because all boys must love her. So, basically we get a book full of Jessica cockblocking her own sister, Elizabeth crying a whole freakin' lot and uh, doormat-ing. A lot.

Jess gets sexually harassed by someone because that is what happens in Sweet Valley. A lot. The police are

called and Jess lets them think that she is Liz, because she is a horrible human being.

Todd decides that Liz is a bad, bad girl, because of the whole cops/bar thing and will not even look at her in the cafeteria anymore. Todd takes Jess to the school dance, but he's watching Liz the whole time

Jess is pissed. It all culminates in Jess falsely accusing Todd of rape, because if there is one thing we should teach the youth of America, it's that you should lie about rape when you don't get your way.

All's well that ends well when Liz and Todd talk it out and realize that Jess is just a crazy bitch. Liz forgives her sister. The End.

So glad I read this.

You can check out the full recap over at Childhood Trauma: "Double Love" or Welcome to Sweet Valley Cry.

Mariah says

I remember reading this in High School, but I can't remember if I enjoyed it or not hahaha

Renata says

The good news is I read a BUNCH of these as kid and still grew up to be a feminist.

The bad news is basically everything else??

<http://www.frowl.org/worstbestsellers...>

Lindley Walter-smith says

Sweet Valley was never again as Sweet Valley as in this book. Jessica was never again either so devious or so quick to change emotions as to suggest she has a serious personality disorder, Elizabeth was never so saintly or such an incredibly deadly doormat, Todd never again had anything approaching a personality. Liz is particularly awesome - she spend the entire book weeping over what a terrible person she is not to roll over and beg herself to trample on her quite quickly enough, although she's always pretty fast off the mark. But Jess is vintage Jess - not merely "full of live" and "vivacious" as she was later, but a compulsive liar and manipulative little bitch.

It's utterly dreadful, and it deserves every one of the five stars.

fivethousandbooks says

nov 30 2007 - More than 15 years on, I still want to strangle Jessica for being a manipulative, shallow little bitch while also backslapping Elizabeth for being such a pushover little marmy twin!

So here's my SV story.

I was completely addicted to these books. It started when I was either 8 or 9 when my dad bought me a SVT from the bookstore I spied in the bookstore. From then on until I was 14, I've read everything in SVT, SVH and SVU and I had the complete collections. I went on a holiday and during that time, our house was flooded and about 500+ of my books (other YA novels - all Christopher Pikes, Nancy Drew) were wet and beyond saving. I got home and they were burning all the wet books in our backyard and I was just heartbroken.

Now I'm planning on getting all the SVH's again. I just bought the first 25 books on Ebay to again start my collection. I can't wait to get them! :-D

xoxokrisa says

This book made me want to add a new shelf titled "Barfy". This was horrible! I thought I'd read a couple of Sweet Valley High books as a kid but realized it was the Sweet Valley Twins series after I started reading this. There were so many hilariously bad things to highlight! Here are a few of my favorites:

"I make it a habit to know where all the foxiest chicks in Sweet Valley live." Shudder...

"She was so beautiful and fragile at that moment, Steven thought, her brown eyes shining, her hair floating about her oval face in a red-gold cloud." WTF does that mean? Whose hair "floats"? Was it a perm gone awry?

"Can we talk later? There's so much I want to tell you. How about a long conversation over clams and a shake at the Dairi Burger tonight?" The only proper answer to this inquiry is, "Who **DOESN'T** want to have a long chat over clams and milkshakes?" It's the combo of champions!

"Within seconds, he had jumped into his Datsun and was speeding after them." The mention of a Datsun is just amazing!

As a child, I only read books 1 and 2 of the Sweet Valley Twins series. After reading this book, I remembered why! Jessica is an insufferable brat and Liz is a wuss. These fools have nothing on Ramona Quimby.

Rachel Brand says

I have a truly terrible confession to make. While I consider myself a Sweet Valley fan, have joined a LiveJournal fan club for the series and own the much-awaited sequel, I had never read 'Double Love' until yesterday. I read Sweet Valley books in the early 2000s, when most of the early books in the series were out-of-print or just not stocked at my local library. So as a result, when I graduated from the Babysitters Club on to the Sweet Valley series I ended up reading the horrible 90s add-ons, such as Jr. High and Senior Year, and the reissues of the later books in the SVH series, where the twins work as au-pairs in France and get jobs at a

fashion magazine. Not REAL Sweet Valley, I know. So when I read Sweet Valley Confidential: Ten Years Later last year, I felt horribly guilty that I considered myself a fan and had never read the original, early-80s books. So I bought a used, 3-in-1 collection of the first three books from Amazon Marketplace. And there it sat on my shelves until yesterday, when I was stuck in bed all day with a stomach bug and really could not face reading any more of Pamela: Or, Virtue Rewarded. So, instead, I devoured this book.

I kind of expected that I might hate this book. I've read some Babysitters Club books recently that I missed out on as a child and they just don't measure up to the ones that I have nostalgic memories of. While 'Double Love' isn't going to make it on to my list of favourite Sweet Valley books of all time, I do wish I'd had the chance to read it as a teenager as I'm sure that I would have loved it. SO MUCH DRAMA! Especially for such a short book. It follows the typical pattern of all the SVH books: Jessica schemes to get something, Elizabeth takes ages to figure out what she's done and then tricks her into some lame revenge plot. Of course, being thrown into a swimming pool makes up for spreading lies about your twin sister and accusing a boy of attacking you! Jessica pretty much gets away with murder in these books. But I can so see the appeal. What girl hasn't dreamed about having a twin sister? Or, if you're not American, isn't this the perfect image of what every teenager imagines American high school to be like?

I know that these books gave me totally unrealistic ideas of high school when I read them when I was 11, and convinced me that life just wasn't worth living if you didn't have a boyfriend. But they're a lot of fun and it's kind of sad that teenagers today don't have a similar series to be obsessed over. Sure, I'd rather my daughter was ploughing through the entire works of Louisa May Alcott than Francine Pascal, but if these sorts of books actually get teenagers interested in reading then I'm not going to complain. They do have some sort of moral values, the 80s references (Liz having a typewriter on her desk!) are brilliant. I don't think the updated versions will be anywhere near as good. So, for nostalgic fun I'm giving this 7/10.

Sarah says

Nostalgia! I LOVED these books as a schoolgirl!!!! This series helped me become the avid reader I am today. My Mom or Dad would take me every couple weeks to buy one at the local B Dalton Booksellers at the mall once I had saved up enough of my allowance to get a new one.

Kim says

Sweet Valley! Home to perfect size-six California-gorgeous Wakefield twins Jessica (the sociopath and flirt) and Elizabeth (the writer and actually, a bit of a sociopath herself).

I loved reading these books as a youngster. They seemed so grown-up! And looking back on them now, they still seem grown-up. So many tragedies, everybody was always hardcore in love (without having sex), they dressed all mature and everything was drama, drama, drama. My goal is to get my hands on as many of these as I can find - I don't think I saved them at home. They're totally messed-up and wrong books - check out "The Dairi Burger" website and the LJ group "1bruce1" for millions of examples why - but so deliciously silly and wonderful.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

I was obsessed with this series when it was first released. I was about 11/12 years old when I got hooked. I'd sit on the floor in the bookshop and have half the newest book read by the time my mum said it was time to go.

My high school life was nothing like these books so these were pure escapism for me. Pure fantasy. I recall loving all of the series and had my set on display until I hit my Goth years at 15 when they went to be replaced with much darker books like Dracula and Poe.

5 stars for this first book and the series. Fond memories of my early teens reading these.

Laura says

these books made me feel worse about myself than my parents, the media and every man i've ever known combined. i mean, talk about a self esteem body slam, these books damaged pretty much every lady i know in the 24-34 age range. I mean, some really fucked up shit...I think they even made fun of retarded people. Terrible.

But fuck it if I still don't want to be them. UGH THAT FRANCINE PASCAL IS GOOD!!!

Heather says

I read a lot of these books, so this review goes for the entire series.

I found these books in middle school and fell in love with them. I hadn't been a big reader up to this point, but these books drew me in and wouldn't let me go. I read nonstop. I read during class when I was supposed to be learning. I read during dinner. I read in bed. I loved these books. I was convinced that when I had children I would have twin daughters and name them Elizabeth and Jessica. One of my friends bought all these books and let me read them. I couldn't wait to get my hands on the next one.

These are probably dated by now, but I think middle schooler girls would still like them if they'd give them a chance. I miss those days of reading something I loved all day long.

Lara says

Sweet Valley High, Book 1: Double Love

It's no wonder that
I had unrealistic views
Of the world after

Reading this bullshit
Series so avidly. Jess
Is a bitch; Liz is

A doormat. The Sweet

Valleyans are moronic
Gossips. Jessica

Tries to steal Liz's
Crush. Liz cries a lot. Jess jumps
Into a Porsche with

A cheeseball wanna-
Be date rapist who takes her
To a bar (gasp!). Cop

Takes her home. She lets
The cop believe she's Eliz.
Much gossip ensues.

The whole school believes
This BS; not one soul stops
To think, hey, maybe

We're gossiping 'bout
The wrong twin! MORONS. Jess goes
To the dance with Todd,

Liz's crush. Dances
Sexily. Liz goes with a
Dork, because she's nice

That way. Side stories
Abound, but they are even
More dull than the main

One. Cheesy dude Rick
"Talked the way he drove - fast and
Dangerously." He

Also nicknames Jess
"Heaven." Is anyone else
Here suppressing the

Urge to vomit? Jess
Claims Todd wouldn't keep his hands
Off her. Liz: repulsed.

Rick tries to kidnap
The girls and take them to the
Evil bar. Todd saves

The day. Liz and Todd
Realize Jess's lies. They kiss.
Liz is in love. Dumb,

Melodramatic

Language abounds. Oh, did I
Mention Liz irons

Her jeans? She does. And
She gets the school to once more
Confuse the twins with

Each other so that
Jessica gets thrown in the
Pool. The End. (And I

Will never get those
Two hours of my life back.)
Francine Pascal sucks.

I hope you enjoyed
This foray down Memory
Lane. Dare I read more?

Jessica says

"Francine Pascal," or whoever actually wrote these books, taught me how to read. Nancy Drew was my angel in first grade; by third, the Wakefield sisters were my guiding light, and if it weren't for them, I'd be television literate today. As it is, I cannot hold an informed conversation with members of my cohort about the Snorks or Family Ties, and I spend all my free time on a book-themed social networking site....

O, Jessica! O, Elizabeth! How unjust it seemed at the time that I must share my name with the wanton airhead twin, while brainy, responsible, wonderful Elizabeth wrote for the school newspaper, and clearly had all her kind, charitable, writerly priorities in perfect place. Elizabeth would never have been friends with cruel, spoiled, predestined cocaine addict Lila Fowler! Elizabeth's finer nature meant she hung around with poor bespectacled Enid, even though she was ugly and boring. In retrospect, Jessica's teenage life looks like a lot more fun, while Elizabeth seems a bit like a neurotic, miserable, misplaced martyr figure with sparkling aquamarine eyes and a red Spider Fiat, but hey....

These books indelibly scarred me by establishing deeply bizarre expectations for a particularly unrealistic adolescence that I am still trying to come to grips with missing. Nonetheless, I think it was worth it. When I was in elementary school, I had friends who weren't allowed to read Sweet Valley High, who were left with the vastly inferior Sweet Valley Twins series, which was stupid and boring with no boyfriends or kidnapping or motorcycle crashes, and was just about going to ballet lessons and Unicorn Club meetings.... LAME! If I'd been stuck with those books, I just wouldn't have read. Parents, if you want your kids to become serious readers, you should let them read garbage. Garbage! These books were glorious, reeking, wonderful piles of filthy GARBAGE, and I loved them like crazy, and I still do.

Viva las Wakefields!
