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Dawn's California baby-sitting club is perfect for her. The We Love Kids Club holds informal meetings, they eat healthy snacks, and they don't keep records. And now, after being interviewed by the local newspaper and TV station, the We Love Kids Club is famous!

But fame is not easy for Dawn and her friends. Their laid-back club is swamped with business. And Dawn's father has just sprung a gigantic - and awful - surprise on her.

Dawn thought that moving back to California was going to be a good thing. But now there's not one good thing about it.

Dawn and the We Love Kids Club Details

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From Reader Review Dawn and the We Love Kids Club for online ebook

Abi says

i liked it but it was kind of sad... and -again- not a very good ending :(

Maria Elmvang says

I can't wait for Dawn to go back to Connecticut. California-Dawn is boring!

I never before realized that the "so young" Carol is 32!!! Suddenly I feel OLD!

Hannah says

*3.5

Samantha says

This book is really the apex of shitty Dawn behavior. She goes way over the top by stealing her dad's credit card number, booking herself a flight, and leaving in the middle of the day to go back to Connecticut. Lucky her parents laid down the law, but still. I hate Dawn, and this just really compounded that feeling of hate.

Logan Hughes says

Dawn, wait, what is this I don't even

In California, Dawn's a member of the We ♥ Kids Club, founded by Dawn's friend Sunny based on the descriptions Dawn sent her of the Baby-sitters Club, but run more casually, with fewer rules. This is perfect for Dawn and her laid-back friends, but when a local paper does a human interest article on the club, followed closely by a local news station spot, the club gets more attention and more work than they know what to do with. Dawn takes over and insists on instituting more strict BSC-style structure. Meanwhile in Stoneybrook, there's a minor subplot about Kristy being jealous that a cheap BSC knockoff was "discovered" before the original, and on the home front, Dawn gets bratty when her father announces his engagement to Carol, a girlfriend Dawn dislikes. Right in the middle of the We ♥ Kids Club fiasco (when they need her most!), Dawn steals her father's credit card, buys a plane ticket, takes a cab to the airport, and flies to Stoneybrook.

You may wish to reread that last sentence. I was sure it was going to be dream sequence, but it wasn't! This actually happens! From here on, the book is hijacked by this plotline--Dawn having to go back, and apologize to everyone, and promise to pay back both plane tickets out of future babysitting money, and learn

an Important Lesson about Dealing With Problems Instead of Running Away From Them, while the We ♥ Kids Club's problem is never really dealt with in a satisfying way.

This isn't one of the ones I remember reading as a kid, so I only have my adult reaction to go with, but: what? I mean, besides the fact that you're reading along and you think the book will be about one storyline and then it switches to another, I'm just so shocked and appalled by Dawn's behavior here. I mean, it's impressive, in a way--I didn't think Dawn had it in her to be so, well, effective, I guess? To actually do things? And it required some bravery, which seems OOC for her, but of course it's all in the service of running away. I really don't understand Dawn at all. The person I sympathize with here is her mother, who of course lectures her when she touches down--she was reckless, selfish, she could have been hurt, what was she thinking, etc.--and must be thinking in her head, "Oh my god, I've birthed a bad seed."

Read as a kid: I don't think so, but it wouldn't be the first time I was shocked by the selfish behavior of an adolescent character who I totally identified with as a kid. SIGNIFICANCE...?

Business Model Review: When the We ♥ Kids Club was introduced in #23, it seemed like they met regularly at Sunny's house, but in this book, it's stated that they don't have specific meeting times or a particular meeting place (or, by extension in a pre-cell phone world, a particular number). All their numbers are listed on their flier, and they meet whenever they feel like it at whoever's house happens to appeal. This seems to defeat the entire purpose of the club, since parents still have to potentially call each number before they find a sitter. Actually, holding meetings makes things more inconvenient for parents, since, for all but one of the club at any given meeting, time they spend in meetings is time they spend away from their phones. I'm not saying the way the BSC is run is perfect (see my critiques in the book #1 review), but W♥KL doesn't even attempt to offer a "one call, several sitters" solution. What's the point?

Lingering Questions: In spite of the obvious problems mentioned above, the W♥KC takes job calls at a meeting. How do people know when to call? How do they even know where to call? It could be coincidence--that several people happen to call for Sunny while the girls are meeting--but if that's the case, they must be doing very good business indeed even before the human interest story.

Interesting Orthographical Convention: Whenever "We ♥ Kids Club" is written down or described in internal monologue, the ♥ is rendered as a small heart symbol. When it's spoken aloud, the word "love" is written out: "We Love Kids Club."

Timing: During the school year. Cold weather in Stoneybrook.

Revised Timeline: If Dawn is an 18-year-old freshman in college, we can pretend she used her own credit card to come home impulsively. "I'll just transfer back!" she would have told her mom. "It will be no problem!" Then her mom would have had to lay on the tough love and say something along the lines of, "Well, of course, you're an adult and you can do what you want, but if you don't do things the right way, finish out the semester you started, make your school arrangements before you go off into debt taking all kinds of plane trips--which, by the way, I'm not going to reimburse you for--then you can find your own place to live, because you can't live here." And Dawn would pout and go back home. And still throw mini-tantrums about her dad's girlfriend, because sometimes freshmen regress.

Amanda says

Woah, this book kind of ends on a cliffhanger. Super weird, like that one random "To Be Continued" survivor episode.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

Hate to say it but this was definitely not one of the better books in the series. The freestyle of Dawn's club is so cliche - no formal meetings or records, etc etc. Buncha hippies. But they attract media attention which the BSC has never done so that was a interesting plot twist. Still, at this point, it was just a bunch of ghostwriters churning out these books.

Nancy says

In which some news station in OMGCALIFORNIA has nothing better to do than do a story on the BSC's lamer West Coast cousin, and K. Ron becomes enraged and jealous. STFU, Dawn.

Ciara says

another book about dawn in clifornia. this one introduces the reader more thoroughly to the we <3 kids club, which was inspired by the babysitters club but takes a more "clifornia casual" approach to running a babysitting club. the girls in the we <3 kids club (dawn, sunny, jill, & maggie) don't hold regular meetings. they don't have officers. they don't keep a notebook, or organize countless neighborhood parades & fairs, or have kid-kits, or even really keep a record book. they do have a file box full of healthy recipes. basically, they may as well not even be a club, because parents call them for babysitters at their own homes whenever they want. just like all parents everywhere without access to babysitting clubs. the girls only have meetings when they feel like it, they don't tell parents about them, & sometimes they have them outside by sunny's pool, away from the phone.

but this doesn't prevent the local newspaper from getting in touch to profile them for a story on "enterprising teens". they agree to the story, & the day it appears in the paper, the local TV station gets in touch about including a segment on the we <3 kids club on the local news. the girls are wicked pumped. they do the segment (which takes hours to film--i am a little skeptical that the news crew would have put that much money & effort into a four-minute piece on a babysitting club) & then they all gather together with popcorn & VCRs at the ready to watch & record it. dawn's father's girlfriend, carol, buys dawn a director's chair with her name printed on the back, & sunglasses & a visor to acknowledge dawn's new "superstar" status.

dawn mails copies of the news segment & the newspaper article to the babysitters club. they all think it's pretty cool, but kristy becomes jealous. she thinks it's unfair that she came up with the idea of babysitting clubs, but it's the sloppy we <3 kids club that's getting all the fame. she starts trying to connive ways to get the babysitters club in the paper or on TV...even though they were already in the paper in snowbound!, when the blizzard hit stoneybrook. & in babysitters' island adventure, when dawn & claudia got stuck on a desert island with a bunch of sitting charges (which really should have hurt business more than it did). & also that time that dawn busted up the dog-napping ring. & when kristy found jake kuhn after he went missing. i could go on. plus the babysitters club has been struggling to cover all their incoming jobs since dawn moved to california & mallory has been out with mono. so they really don't need any extra publicity.

anyway, the we <3 kids club doesn't need the publicity either. even though the newspaper & TV station did not make their contact information available, they have been swamped with calls for sitters anyway & they are struggling to keep up & become organized. they are double-booking themselves for jobs & upsetting parents & charges alike. dawn suggests on a few occasions that they take steps to organize themselves more like the babysitters club, but the other girls are resistant. they feel that the babysitters club's rules are "too rigid".

meanwhile, dawn's father announces that he & carol (his girlfriend) have become engaged. at first, dawn hulks out & runs away to her room. she doesn't like carol because she thinks carol talks too much & tries too hard to seem young & hip to dawn & her friends. carol is like thirty years old. she is a dinosaur to dawn. as someone who is older than thirty, i think dawn is a brat. i don't know why dawn assumes that carol is trying to be hip for dawn's benefit. maybe that's actually just carol's personality.

anyway, dawn realizes she is wrecking everyone's evening, so she mans up & re-joins the party. they have a celebratory dinner as a "family," & then jack (dawn's dad) & carol leave to have celebratory dessert out on the town. this is when dawn begins to feel that jack would rather spend all his time with carol than with her, & she plots her escape from palo alto.

the next morning, she writes a letter explaining her decision to go back to stoneybrook, & she packs a bag. she then walks to school, & fakes sick at the door & goes back home. everyone else has left the house for the day, so dawn is free to steal her dad's credit card number & book herself on the next flight to connecticut. she takes a cab to LAX & gets on the plane. somewhere over nebraska, she starts feeling guilty. but then she falls asleep. she wakes up when the plane is landing, & goes looking for a pay phone to call sharon to come pick her up. but sharon is already there, & she is NOT happy.

of course jack has called sharon in a panic when he came home from work & found dawn's note. he also called the police, because he was worried dawn may have hitchhiked to the airport. there was no way for him to know what flight she was on or that she'd gotten on the plane safely, so he was FREAKING OUT. sharon is like, "you are going right back to palo alto tomorrow, you are paying your father back for both plane tickets, & you are not calling any of your stoneybrook friends tonight." dawn feels like her mom is rejecting her just like her dad supposedly did by going to a restaurant with carol. because dawn is totally self-absorbed. i mean, she's 13, of course she's self-absorbed, but i am of an age where i relate more to the parents & i would be so fucking pissed if my (hypothetical) child wasted my money & used up my emotional energy this way.

so dawn goes back to california. jack is like, "why'd you do it?" & dawn explains that she is basically resentful of carol. jack's like, "i love carol, but you're my daughter & nothing will change that." dawn feels better. but she also feels guilty, because it's obvious that carol feels the need to pussyfoot around the family. carol seems to feel responsible for dawn's poor decisions. jeff tells dawn that jack & carol had a big fight after dawn ran away, because jack wanted to handle the situation on his own, & carol wanted to help, & jack said no, & carol took it as a rejection. because apparently carol is really selfish too. hint to carol: if you really want to be helpful, you back the fuck off when the person declines your help. otherwise you are transparently just being selfish.

a few days later, jack & carol have another fight, apparently because carol wants to go out & go "restaurant-hopping" every night (is that code for carol being a lush?) & jack's like, "dude, i have kids, i can't do that," & she's like, "your kids will always be more important than me! boo hoo!" um...YEAH. at least as long as they are still CHILDREN! what the fuck? so they actually break up. &...that's how the book ends.

also, kristy resolves her jealousy of the we <3 kids club, & sunny buys a day planner & the we <3 kids club becomes better-organized. there's also a very tedious babysitting sup-plot about asthmatic stephie robertson & how much she wants a mother (her own mother died when stephie was a baby). stephie is like a mini-mary anne, & you know i can't stand mary anne, so this plot was not fun for me.

Lisa Birch says

This one was good but so unbelievable.

Dawn and the We Love Kids Club as interviewed for a newspaper and a news spot on television, and become quite famous for baby sitting. Soon they are swamped, and Dawn shows some wonderful leadership skills in helping them get back on track.

Even though the BSC only really has six members (Dawn in California and Mallory is still recovering from mono), Kristy goes nuts about the We Love Kids Club gaining publicity, and tries to rope the girls into helping get them on TV, or at least the newspaper. No one is interested, and Kristy fails when she goes out on her own. In these later books, Kristy becomes an awful person to pretty much everyone. She is petty, mean and obsessed with publicity (remember all the ways she tries to get on tv when Mal's family do that reality special? Yuck).

Dawn chucks a fruity when her Dad and Carol announce their engagement, and flies out to Stoneybrook using her dad's stolen credit card number. She flies back the next day and has to pay her parents back, apparently by using her baby sitting money... hahahaha. For funsies I looked up the cost of a flight from LAX to Hartford, which seemed to be \$350 each way. Even adjusting flight costs for 18 years ago (as well as rates for baby sitting), Dawn is going to have to work forever to pay it off.

Anyway, I liked rereading this one. Dawn seems lot nicer in Cali than Connecticut!

Alex says

As with all Dawn books, I just have such fond memories of this one. Dawn was always my favorite baby-sitter, and even though I can see how sanctimonious she can be sometimes now that I'm an adult, I still enjoy re-reading her books the most.

However, I realized during this book that I am now exactly Carol's age, and that definitely freaked me out a little bit.

Amy Holcomb says

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

Valerie Best says

Can we be real for a minute? Did anyone really like Dawn Schafer? I mean, when it came time to choose your favorite BSC member, did anyone on planet earth choose Dawn Schafer?

She must be completely impossible to be around. I mean, she's that friend who's a vegetarian, but instead of just eating her garden burger and shutting up about it, she's always telling you what's in your cheeseburger and how long it's been since she's had a chicken nugget, and you're like, who cares?

And she's not even right. I mean, in the Babysitters Club Super Special, New York, New York, everyone else from the BSC grabs a soda when they get to Stacey's dad's apartment (Stacey's mom and dad are divorced, remember?), and Dawn drinks fruit juice, because it's healthier. I mean, get real, Dawn. Ever checked out how much sugar is in a glass of juice? You might as well just drink a glass of ginger ale, though maybe it doesn't allow for quite as much self-congratulation.

I started reading Dawn and The We (heart) Kids Club, which is about some sort of bastardized BSC that Dawn runs in California with four other blonde, featureless Dawn-ettes. I say started because I couldn't get through it. It started to go downhill for me when Dawn meets up with her California BFF, Sunny, who is eating a bag of vegetable chips. I just couldn't go on. You understand.

I assume (from reading the back matter) that the We (heart) Kids Club crumbles because there are no rules and no officers and no one ever arrives on time for meetings which Kristy would never allow. Everyone knows that a babysitting club can't run with such shoddy leadership. Not that I would ever want to finish this particular book, but I don't even need to. I can tell the end from the beginning.

It occurs to me that I've never actually read a BSC book from Dawn's perspective. I mean, does she even have one? Apart from being blonde, "healthy", and from California, what the H do we really know about her?

Shira says

in this book ghostwritten by dawn-lover Peter Lerangis, the we love kids club get some local media recognition and get overrun with clients. dawn, someone who is used to the bsc, shares some tips straight from kristy and the other SERIOUS BUSINESS OWNERS in the bsc. meanwhile, her dad and his girlfriend carol get engaged, and dawn responds by stealing her dad's credit card to buy a plane ticket and fly to stoneybrook. then mr. schafer and carol split up (though not for long -- see Dawn and Whitney, Friends Forever) in an even more inane subplot, stephie roberston really really REALLY wants a new mommy.

highlights:

-kristy is SO JEALOUS that the we love kids club is getting publicity, so she keeps trying to get some for the bsc. at one point she pretends to be a representative from the "thomas talent agency" and says, "I have exclusive rights to the story of an extraordinary organization known by every parent in the Southwestern Connecticut radius" called the baby-sitters club. later she sends a video of the we love kids club on the news to a local connecticut news station saying they should do a similar story on the bsc, but she forgets to rewind the tape, so the tv people put on the video and see a commercial for indestructible pantyhose instead.

-erick and ryan dewitt call dawn and stephie wendy and tiger lily (because they're playing peter pan). did

they know dawn actually played wendy in the peter pan play, in Starring the Baby-sitters Club!, or is this just a funny coincidence?

lowlights/nitpicks:

-mr. schafer makes chimichangas and dawn likes them. BUT THEY'RE FRIED. she wouldn't eat fried food, would she?

-stephie wants a mom real bad. she talks to a picture of her, and when she makes a drawing of her house she draws her mom floating in the sky (and she says, "that's my mom, in heaven"). later she writes a story about a flower saying it's her mom, since her mom died and grew into something beautiful. as someone who was once a little girl with no mom, I can attest that this is inane and not realistic.

-dawn running away to stoneybrook. like, did she think that her dad wouldn't notice? she is such a freakin' baby. I hate her so much.

outfits:

joanna (stephie's nanny):

- "Joanna came in, dressed in a short fringed skirt and a tight-fitting beaded top, her dark hair pulled back in a sleek, elegant style."

rhonda lieb (from the news, interviewing the we love kids club):

- "She had short brown hair, a friendly smile, and was wearing a beautiful cotton cardigan over a white T-shirt and gray stirrup slacks."

descriptions of the w<3kc members in the article:

-dawn: "a silken-haired beauty with a laugh like pealing bells."

-sunny: "an aptly named fireball of boundless enthusiasm."

-maggie: "savvy, hip, and just this side of *au courant*."

-jill: "warm and nurturing, the calming force of the group."

the note dawn leaves behind for her father:

I won't be home from school because I'm on my way to Stoneybrook. But I'm sure you don't mind. Now you can spend as much time as you want with your future wife. You won't have a daughter around to cramp your style. Good luck with your wedding plans. Tell Jeff I still love him. And don't be upset. I'll be with people who care about me. UGHHHHHHH.

snacks in claudia's room:

-reese's pieces under her mattress

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!
