



Snowbound

Ann M. Martin

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When Stoneybrook is paralyzed by a massive blizzard, Dawn and her mother get stranded at the airport, Jessi is snowed in at her dance school, and Kristy's boyfriend gets stuck overnight at her house. Claudia, Mary Anne and Mallory are all baby-sitting, but no one has heard from Stacey--could she be trapped somewhere on the way back from the mall?

Snowbound Details

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From Reader Review Snowbound for online ebook

Bethany says

I got this book for myself as a stocking stuffer, as we've been having a white Christmas, and I have fond memories of reading this book (it was my favorite Super Special when I was young). It's so fun to see what everybody is doing at the time of the blizzard... Kristy has a date with Bart, Claudia is at the Perkinses', Mary Anne and Mallory are at the Pikes' baby-sitting, Stacey is off to the mall with her mom to get a perm, Dawn and her mom are off to the airport to pick up Jeff, and Jessi is at dance in Stamford. All of this while the Big Dance is only a couple of days away.

One thing I particularly like, reading the book(s) as an adult, is how Ann M. Martin deals with issues that are **real** issues that young females deal with, like Kristy getting up at 5:30 so that Bart doesn't see her looking fugly, or "screwing up" on the job (when Claudia loses Chewbacca). The author also touches on themes of divorce (Stacey asking her mom randomly why she married her father - it shows that the recent divorce still weighs heavily on her mind), racism (Kristy normally states that "Mal is white and Jessi is black, but we don't care"), puppy love, parental issues (like Mary Anne's father giving her a bit more space, and Claudia's parents loving her and caring about her despite the "disappointment" she perceives them as having for her). It has a little bit of everything, and I would definitely let my future daughters read this book, and the rest in the series, for the fun stories and messages of friendship, acceptance, fun, and love that they promote.

Valerie Best says

I'm a big fan of the Super Specials, which were probably my first experience with multiple perspectives retelling the same event. This event is a blizzard that hits Stonybrook, CT, catching every one of the babysitters off-guard.

I have to hand it to Martin: she is good at plausibility. There IS a storm predicted in Stonybrook, but it doesn't arrive and it doesn't arrive and everyone stops taking the prediction seriously, so everyone is believably unprepared when it does hit.

Least interesting to most interesting storyline: Kristy is trapped at her mansion with her sort-of boyfriend Bart and has to figure out how not to get caught in her pajamas (grow up, Kristy); Claudia is babysitting for Gabby and Mariah Perkins and has to stay with them all night (across the street from her parent's house, so, not that big of a deal); Dawn and her mother wait at the airport for Jeff who's arriving from California (Jeff, like Dawn, is one of those characters the text kind of demands you care about even while it gives zero reason why you should); MaryAnn and Mallory are babysitting the Pike kids and basically run out of food (which, truthfully, is kind of my nightmare); Stacey gets stuck coming home from the mall with her mom (after getting a perm...at the mall, which is peak 1991), and basically could have almost died, had they not been rescued by some guy with a Victorian mansion; and Jessie, the most underrated Club member (junior), who gets stuck at her ballet school and her boyfriend (she's ELEVEN. Why do these CHILDREN have romance storylines, however tame?!) walks through the blizzard from the train station (I've deemed this the most exciting because of Quint's bravery).

I like the bottle episode nature of this story, and that the characters don't interact with each other once the story really gets going. They're separated, each dealing with the rise and fall of their own story while still sharing an experience.

Debra says

For my written review, please check out the link below:

Debra's Book Cafe

Debs :-)

Ciara says

this super special has a place in my heart, probably because there's really not much plot to it. a snowstorm is predicted for stonybrook, but the weathercasters have been predicting snow for weeks & not a flake has descended on our fair town, where parents permit 13-year-olds to raise their children. so no one believes the storm predictions. this is preposterous enough. stonybrook is supposedly in connecticut. i live in boston, just a little bit north. when huge snowstorms are predicted here, people go out & stock up on canned food, batteries, & other supplies, just in case. it's also not as if weather casters are waving bird entrails over crystal balls & just guessing at what weather conditions might develop. there is a science to meteorology, & mistakes happen, but i find it dubious that the weather people are predicting all this snow & everyone in stonybrook is like, "pfft. whatever." everyone makes plans that ignore the forecast. the perkins parents are driving out to the country to have dinner with friends, & they hire claudia to watch their perfect children. the pike parents are going to new york for a full day of tourist-y bullshit, which boggles the mind a little. why? why not do it on a weekend? why not bring the kids? why do it at all? but whatever. they follow through on their plan & allow mallory & mary anne to watch the rest of the clan. jessi of course has a super-important ballet rehearsal in which she has a ludicrously large role for her age, & she is at her dance school, awaiting the arrival of her boyfriend from NYC (because eleven-year-olds have boyfriends). kristy invites her "boyfriend," bart, over to watch videos & have dinner. stacey & her mom go to the mall so stacey can get a new perm. dawn accompanies her mother to the airport, where they are picking up jeff, dawn's brother, who is coming to stay for the holidays. & then the snowstorm hits. bart is trapped at kristy's house & kristy is so embarrassed that she curls her hair & wears make-up. claudia is trapped at the perkins' house, watching the girls, who are perfect, even though the dog gets shut in the basement. stacey & her mom get trapped in their car on some back country road, but are rescued by a nice stranger who takes them home to meet his wife & their baby (of course). dawn & her mom are trapped at the airport & jeff's flight is re-routed to DC (dawn also makes the acquaintance of a baby--seriously, all these parents are lucky that their children meet the babysitters club & not, like, child snatchers). mary anne & mallory are snowed in at the pikes' & the pike parents can't get home & they are running low on ood, so they eat everything in the fridge. what? & jessi is trapped at her dance school with all the other kids, including little children, of course, which jessi calms with her magical eleven-year-old babysitting ways. & her boyfriend somehow walks to the school from the train station in the blizzard & arrives safely & without frostbite that could sideline his professional ballet career forever. & everyone is safe & sound the next day. mary anne & the pikes are saved from starving to death when mary anne's boyfriend, logan, cross-country skis over with a backpack full of food. kristy convinces all the babysitters to write up their FASCINATING blizzard experiences & sends them to the newspaper. WHAT? seriously, this is why i like this book. nothing happens except for a lot of snow, & the babysitters are still convinced that the whole town of stonybrook is thirsting for news of their hijinks...& they are probably not wrong, because this whole town seems designed to cater to these girls' every whim. logan needs a steady after-school job? no problem! the rosebud cafe will hire a 13-year-old as a bus boy! the babysitters needs someplace to stage countless festivals & outdoor circuses & such forth? i have the solution! the

schafers' barn, which was widely considered a death trap in book #9, is now safe for children of all ages! whatever. it's okay. i still love the BSC.

Zoe T says

As I was sitting in my apartment during the bomb cyclone of '18, I couldn't help but think back to reading this book as a wee child living near the beaches of Los Angeles. I haven't read this book for at least fifteen years, but I vividly remember certain parts of it, like them eating ice cream after the power goes out so that it doesn't melt and Logan cross-country skiing over to give Mary-Anne a hand. Having now been snowed in a number of times this book is much less charming and romantically exotic but the fact that I still remember it says a lot.

Samantha says

I always liked to read this particular super special in the winter, for obvious reasons. It's light, it's fun, and there's no insane plot point (like winning the lottery, a school trip anywhere, or anything else like that). It's just the girls getting snowed in in various places, some of which are more dire than the others. Claudia is alone with the Perkins girls (but right across the street from her own house), Stacey is trapped in the car with her mother, Bart is stuck at Kristy's house, Mary Anne and Mallory are alone with the Pike's, and Jessi is stuck at her dance school. The different scenarios are pretty interesting, except that Jessis' bored me quite a bit.

Then again, Jessi always gets screwed over, so what else is new?

Claire says

This was the first Super Special I read when I was younger, so it has a special place in my heart. I think that as a child I was fascinated by that amount of snow (living in Queensland, Australia probably didn't help, considering this usually means Christmas is stinking hot), plus reading now as an adult unfortunately coincided with the recent spate of wild weather we are having here - wild, howling winds and heaps of rain! So it felt a little creepy reading it.

It's kinda funny reading it because when they get snowed in and the babysitters have to stay overnight with their charges my adult brain goes - "Jeez I hope these kids get paid extra for having had to spend the night!" Which is shocking! I shouldn't think such things especially if lives are in danger. (*Yes, I am aware this is a work of fiction.*)

Mary-anne is really out of her shell here which is great to see. There are lots of funny moments in this one mainly cause these little kids are saying the funniest things. The Perkins kids would have to be my favourite.

Now I will got back and start at #1 like I should have!!

Jenn says

3.5 stars

This one was on the verge of being boring but then it pulled out the fun and outrageous in the end. It starts out with Kristy being super annoying, writing the Stoneybrook newspaper about the blizzard they had and offering to sell them the Baby-Sitters Club's story as an article. She's all "your story was good but mine is better" and "by the way, do you need a baby-sitter?" And she basically spoils the whole story for us, by listing what happened to everyone during the blizzard. THEN we go back to the beginning of the story.

It's a normal weekend at home for Kristy...homework, daydreaming about her "boyfriend" Bart, helping Karen with her sweater-pants, searching for missing rats, etc...The weather people are calling for a huge snowstorm, but since that's the 4th time they've predicted snow with nothing, Kristy doesn't think much about it. Oh and there's another dance: the Winter Wonderland Dance. And it's pretty close to Christmas. For some reason, we get the intro chapter in this Super Special and they lay out what everyone is doing on Wednesday: Mary Anne and Mallory are doing a marathon baby-sitting job for the Pikes, Jessi has a rehearsal for The Nutcracker, Dawn is picking up Jeff at the airport, and Claudia is baby-sitting for the Perkins girls. So they decide to actually cancel the Wednesday meeting (I don't know how Kristy didn't have a heart attack) and then they gab about the dance and all the awesome guys they're going with. Claudia already has her dibbly outfit picked out too:

I was really looking forward to dressing up. I'd bought this black velvet knicker outfit and was going to wear it with a lot of silver jewelry, including snowflake earrings.

Okay, let's start going down the list of where everyone is and what happens to them when it finally snows! The snowstorm finally starts up late Wednesday afternoon, conveniently when the BSC meeting was cancelled. Mary Anne and Mallory are doing their huge sitting job because Mr & Mrs Pike are having some weird touristy day in New York. I guess that's the only way they can afford vacations. Mary Anne is staying the night and Mrs Pike says there is enough food for them, but she'll have to go to the grocery as soon as she gets back. (Important point for later.) When it starts snowing, the triplets scare Claire with stories of the Abominable Snowman. As it gets later and the snow gets heavier, the Pike parents call and say they aren't coming back that night, then they realize they are almost out of food, then the phones and power go out, and suddenly everyone is starving. Like, 30 minutes after dinner. They make it thru the night but the next morning they're all still hungry and Mary Anne even calls Logan and whines that she's hungry. So what does any self-respecting 13 year old boy from Kentucky do? Gets on his cross-country skis and brings a backpack full of food over to his girlfriend. Yeah, seriously.

Stacey and her mom are at Washington Mall, getting Stacey's hair permed for the big dance. Her mom doesn't like to drive in snow and starts freaking out when they leave the mall to see big snowflakes coming down. They get on the highway and start inching their way slowly home. Until they fishtail and her mom decides to take the backroads home. Then she pulls over when it gets too hard to see. And they get stuck on the side of the road. Pretty scary, especially once Stacey gets hungry and the car dies. To keep their minds off things, Stacey asks her mom how & why she fell in love with her dad. Kind of like that part in The Parent Trap. And then they get rescued by a desperate criminal...just kidding, it's a kindly gentleman with a wife and a baby at home. He takes them to his country home, which is decked out for Christmas. It looked like a house from a fairy tale, lit inside and out, a green wreath with a plaid ribbon hanging on the door, the gold lights on a Christmas tree twinkling through a window. Have I mentioned how ready I am for Christmas this year? I am full of holiday spirit lol. Stacey mentions that this will be her first Christmas as a divorced kid. They fall in

love with the Schiavone family and even trade Christmas cards afterwards. Once Stacey gets back home, Claudia rushes over, all worried, because everyone had noticed they were gone and says "Don't ever think we wouldn't miss you." Aw...

Claudia is busy baby-sitting the Perkins girls when it starts snowing and of course, the parents can't get back home and the power goes out. Instead of taking the girls across the street to her home, she decides to just stay at their house. And then Chewy, the big destructive dog, goes missing. Turns out he was in the basement the whole night. Not a lot happens for Claud, so we'll put in this gem from Myriah Perkins:

[We can make] *"a whole snow family! A snow mommy and a snow daddy and three snow girls and a snow dog and two snow cats."*

"You are going to be very busy tomorrow," [Claudia] said.

"That's what happens when you're five," Myriah replied.

And on to Jessi...she has her big Nutcracker rehearsal, which of course contains plenty of small children. Quint, her New York boyfriend, is on his way to stay with Jessi for the week and go to the dance with her. The snow starts, parents can't get there (doesn't anybody leave early when they see there might be bad weather?), everyone is stuck there overnight. Quint shows up a few hours later after WALKING there from the train station. Seriously, that's just dumb. Jessi & Quint help corral the younger kids, because apparently all the adults there can't do it. The next morning, they have a romantic breakfast across the street.

Dawn's mom is the only adult in the whole book who actually leaves early, to pick up Jeff from the airport. Doesn't matter though, because his flight is diverted to Washington and Dawn & her mom get stuck at the airport for the night. Luckily, Dawn has a baby in a nearby family to keep her occupied. Jeff arrives the next morning, understandably upset over the whole ordeal, but by the time they get home, it was a grand adventure.

And finally...Kristy. The only person who was actually in her own home (besides Mallory I suppose). She invites Bart over to watch some movies and have dinner with her entire family (not too bright for Miz Prez) and he has to stay the night once it starts snowing. Kristy freaks because ZOMG A BOY!!! And sets her alarm for 5:30 the next morning so she can get up and make herself pretty. I'm not sure why, because he's never seen her pretty before. Ooh...zing! She even shaves her legs, for the first time, with an electric razor. Ouch. All her brothers make fun of her, of course, but Bart says she's beautiful. After the storm, everyone catches up on everyone else's story and back to the present...Kristy gets a call from the newspaper that they do want to publish her article. I hope it's not as long as this blog post! (Sorry!) And the girls all go to the Winter Dance together, with their various boy toys. The End.

Reviewed at Give a Hoot Read a Book. (Click thru to check out Claudia's special snowflake outfit!)

Rachel Brand says

I didn't love this book as a kid but I loved rereading it as an adult. It seemed particularly appropriate to read it last night as there was horrible wind and rain and hail, to the extent that I could feel it through my windows! So I was snuggled up in bed with a zillion layers and this book. We didn't have any snow (but I live right on the coast, literally, I can walk to the beach in 20 minutes) but I did feel a sort of connection to the BSC girls while reading this book. For once, the girls didn't do anything terribly remarkable - Kristy is embarrassed about Bart meeting her family, Mary Anne and Mallory have to look after the Pikes over night

and run out of food, Claudia gets stuck with the Perkins girls and loses the dog, Stacey and her mum get stuck on a back road in their car, Dawn and her mum have to wait overnight for Jeff's plane, and Jessi is at her dance school and worried about whether Quint will make it from the train station on his own. But it was still fun to read about their little adventures, and it was nice to see that their parents helped out - both Mary Anne and Claudia's parents popped round to see if they were managing on their own. There were a few stories that weren't quite as interesting as others, but all in all this was a fun book to reread. 9/10

Amie says

I first read this in sixth grade. Now, as an adult, I can't imagine leaving my toddler alone with a 13 or 14 year old. Not happening. This book would be good for modern kids to read to get a glimpse of what life was like before cell phones were common. We freak out when someone doesn't check in on social media or text back right away, but 20+ years ago you wouldn't have any way of getting a hold of someone stranded on the side of the road. Also, I really feel this book proves Kristy isn't (or doesn't grow up to be) a lesbian. She's very concerned about what her boyfriend thinks and looking her best for him. Just my opinion.

Meaghan Steeves says

This was pretty engaging. I liked the mini cliffhangers and the unexpected charcoal artwork.

Shira says

note: this is one of my all-time favorite baby-sitters club books. for some context of how many times I've read it, check out what my copy looks like:

the local news sources in stoneybrook have been forecasting snow for weeks, but no snow has fallen. so when a huge blizzard (over 2 feet fallen) hits a couple days before the stoneybrook middle school winter dance, nobody expects it. all of the bsc members get stranded or stuck in weird, uncomfortable, or potentially scary positions. the framing device is that kristy is trying to write a human interest story for the local newspaper about her friends' experiences, so she gets them all to write up what they went through. see the individual character plotlines for more info.

character plotlines:

-kristy: bart gets stuck at her house overnight. her siblings are delightfully annoying (in a super-realistic sibling way, calling him her boyfriend loudly in front of him and such). she barely sleeps and then in the morning freaks out and primps so bart won't see her looking like morning kristy.

-mary anne and mallory: were supposed to sit for the pikes overnight anyway, but the overnight turns longer than expected and they start to run really low on food. logan rides over in the morning on cross country skis and brings them food.

-stacey: the one seriously dangerous/not just inconvenient situation. she and her mom go to the mall so she can get a perm and while driving home they pull off the highway due to crappy roads and get stuck on a back road. they don't have food with them (beyond tiny snacks) so stacey's diabetes is in danger. also they run out of gas and can't heat the car anymore. finally some kind stranger arrives and brings them to his house where

they have food and a cute baby, so it all works out okay.

-dawn: jeff is coming from california so she and her mom go to pick him up at the airport. his plane gets rerouted (arriving the next day) and dawn and her mom stay in the airport overnight.

-claudia: baby-sitting for the perkinses. the only notable part is when the dog chewy disappears, but it turns out he was in the basement. really the most boring and pointless story (considering the mary anne and mal baby-sitting story is already in here).

-jessi: gets stuck at her dance school overnight. quint (the boy she met and kissed in New York, New York!) is coming to stoneybrook to go to the dance with her, and he finds his way from his train to the dance school. jessi and quint essentially baby-sit the younger kids because the adult ballet teachers apparently hate kids.

highlights:

-this book was the first place I heard of saying XYZ meaning "examine your zipper"

-in writing the letter to the journalist proposing a human interest story, kristy starts to advertise for the bsc. oh, kristy!

-david michael sings the name song about bart, which makes you realize that nobody should be named bart. bart bart bo bart, banana fana fo FART.

-the second time jessi will ever hang out with quint (meaning the few days they saw each other in new york), he is staying with her. wild! especially for 11-year-olds, having a boy staying at your house?!

-dawn narration: "according to adults, kids are always going through phases." LOL.

-nicky pike's new thing is that when he says crumble, claire has to fall to the floor. he says that years from now he's going to do it at her wedding when she's walking down the aisle.

-stacey can't get her hair done at gloriana's because she gave karen brewer a mullet one time (in Karen's Haircut, which is the only little sister book I really like)

-stacey puts in a tape (*shout it!* by the tin can voices -- I love bsc band names so much), but vivaldi's four seasons plays because stacey's mom swapped the tapes. haha, ADULT'D.

-while stuck in the car, stacey asks her mom what made her fall in love with her dad. apparently they liked the same things, including having the same favorite I Love Lucy episode, same favorite bandleader, and levi's are both's preferred jeans brand. this even made me laugh when I was a kid reading this book.

-quint is so romantic! I want to date him!

-mal: "this may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. what with global warming and all." she does not understand global warming, apparently.

-I LOVE the chapter where kristy wakes up early and makes herself up for bart. yes, she's a tomboy. so what? I was a baggy t-shirt kid, but when I was thirteen I absolutely would have shaved my legs, curled my hair, and worn the tiny bit of makeup I had if I was sleeping in the same house as a BOY I liked!

-stacey appreciates seeing her mom scared because it helps her realize adults aren't perfect. I love these types of things in kids' books, since I definitely thought adults were perfect.

-the photo from the dance! I love claudia and stacey's cool outfits and everyone else's lumpy gross 80s dresses (in 1991).

lowlights/nitpicks:

-mary anne calls logan and whines that she's hungry before she even greets him. I hate mary anne so much. she pretends like being sensitive means it's okay that she's a self-centered jerk.

-mr and mrs schiavone act like they're christmas fanatics because they put their decorations up about a week ago (this is a few days before christmas) -- HUH? if you're a fanatic, you put them up in AUGUST!

-the newspaper is going to pay kristy for the story. unrealistic.

claudia outfit (for the dance):

-*"I'd bought this black velvet knicker outfit and was going to wear it with a lot of silver jewelry, including*

snowflake earrings."

everyone's dates to the dance:

-kristy: bart

-mary anne: logan (obvs)

-mallory: ben hobart

-stacey: austin bentley

-dawn: price irving

-claudia: iri mitsubishi

-jessi: quint

no snacks in claudia's room.

Etola says

When I was in 5th grade, I was sick enough to warrant a week off from school. My dad bought me the BSC #5 to keep me busy, and that was my introduction to this world. I was a huge fan for many years. Eventually I outgrew them and gave the books away to the daughter of one of my mother's coworkers.

A few years later, Ann M. Martin showed up in town to do a book signing. It was one of those where anyone wanting a signature had to buy one of the books for sale at the store, so I picked up this one, which I had never gotten a chance to read before. I've always had a soft spot for snow days and black-outs.

After the signing, this book sat on my shelf unread for over ten years, before I finally got around to picking it up and reading it. I can't say I expected a whole lot out of it. And I didn't particularly get a whole lot. The girls, considering their maturity and the responsibilities they're given, strike me as being closer to 16 and 14, rather than 13 and 11. And there isn't really "magic" to the writing--just a lot of "this happened, and then this happened, and then I did this," etc.

I did derive some vicarious pleasure from remembering the feelings I've gotten when I was young and lost power, or eagerly listened for school closings on the radio. But the writing didn't do anything special that evoked that wonder in me.

The one exception was Stacey's plotline. She was the one in the most danger, her mother seemed the most realistically vulnerable, and the conversations they had in their car when they thought they might freeze to death overnight were surprisingly moving.

Beyond that, there was really nothing to engage me. Good reading for its target audience? Certainly. It does what it needs to do, which is why I give it three stars instead of two. But nowadays, I want a little more from my reading experience, even when reading fluff.

Lynda Wylde says

True Confession: I still read this book once every couple of years, usually while we are getting slammed with a huge snowstorm. I love it. Thankfully, after almost five years of marriage, my husband is pretty used to

finding random kids books lying around the house and only makes fun of me a tiny bit. They're like snacking on rice krispie treats or putting extra marshmallows in your hot cocoa; a completely comforting guilty pleasure.

Amanda Mae says

Honestly, I've been wanting to reread one of my favorite BSC books for awhile, but wanted to wait until December. Not a bad read all these years later! At times I did want to shout, "Stop your whining and worrying! You're thirteen! Calm down!" Stacy was the only one in real dire straits. I always wanted an excuse to eat all the ice cream in a power outage like Mallory and Mary Anne. And I can't decide if being stuck at an airport like Dawn and her mother would be better or worse these days. All the same, I had fun reading this again. :)
