



## Baby-Sitters Beware

*Ann M. Martin, Nola Thacker*

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The Baby-sitters are stalked by someone who is out to get them while at home and on a ski vacation with Kristy's family at Shadow Lake.

## **Baby-Sitters Beware Details**

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Author : Ann M. Martin , Nola Thacker

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## From Reader Review Baby-Sitters Beware for online ebook

### **Jenny says**

24/25

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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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### **Leah says**

I thought this one was boring. It took past the halfway point to get to Shadow Lake. Kristy, Stacey, Claudia, and Abby go to Shadow Lake with Kristy's family for skiing and skating. They are working on solving the mystery there. Mary Anne, Mallory, Jessi, Logan, and Shannon stay in Stoneybrook to baby-sit and try to solve the mystery. Dawn is living in California with her brother and dad. Stacey is still with Robert, but he wasn't in this story. Sam was, though. Too bad Stacey and Sam didn't get back together.

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### **Ciara says**

abby & kristy are walking to a babysitters club meeting one afternoon, passing through the rodowskys' neighborhood. they suddenly hear breaking glass & think maybe jackie accidentally broke a window. they race around to the side of the rodowskys' house, but no one is there. suddenly a short man wearing a ski mask & a bomber jacket comes barreling out of the house next door & jumps into a battered ford escort idling at the curb. they freak & bang on the rodowskys' door until mrs. rodowsky answers & lets them come in & call the police.

that afternoon at the meeting, after they've filled the other sitters in on what they saw, kristy invites everyone

up to watson's cabin at shadow lake for some winter adventures. not everyone can make it, but claudia, kristy, & abby all agree to go. mallory & jessi have to stay home & babysit for mallory's siblings while the pike parents re-insulate the house. mary anne stays home because she has a hot date with logan planned for sunday night. abby starts yakking away about how excited she is to go skiing & what a great skier she is. claudia becomes unexpectedly prickly. before abby joined the club, she was far & away the best skier in the group, & she seems to think abby is bragging.

a few days later, kristy is babysitting at her house when she notices someone lurking around outside. she calls the police & then she calls mary anne. while she's on the phone with mary anne, the lurker smashes a window. kristy races into the other room & finds a rock on the floor. when she opens the front door, she finds that someone has spraypainted it with the words, "you're next". that evening, mary anne glances out her bedroom window & sees a man standing underneath a tree, staring at her house. she freaks, but for some reason chooses not to share the info with sharon & richard. why the fuck not? she says something about "not wanting to worry them" but i'm sure they would rather be needlessly worried than have someone break into their house, right?

the next day in school, mary anne finds a note in her locker in logan's handwriting. it says, "stop crying." she can't imagine that logan would have sent her a note like that...but if he didn't, who did? & why is it in logan's handwriting if he didn't send it?

claudia, stacey, mary anne, & kristy start getting creepy anonymous phone calls at home from someone who doesn't say anything & finally mutters, "you're next," before hanging up. they even get these calls at babysitters club meetings. the babysitters start investigating the possibilities. it could be cokie mason, who has a history of sending the babysitters creepy notes. but the voice on the phone is a man. abby & kristy wonder if the robber they saw perhaps figured out who they were (they were wearing name tags because they'd just come from a meeting at school) & is threatening them. they start investigating the robbery a little more & realize it didn't turn up in the police blotter. kristy calls the cop who investigated, sergeant johnson, & he says they don't have a complainant. the man whose house was broken into, mr. seger, claims that the window had already been broken by himself the day before while he was doing yard work, & that nothing was stolen. the babysitters start staking out mr. seger's house & they look him up at the library. they determine that he lives alone with his teenage son & is self-employed, & is a member of the stoneybrook better business bureau. but none of those things help them figure out who the robber was or why mr. seger isn't pursuing the break-in.

& in addition to the creepy phone calls, mary anne gets another note in her locker, ostensibly from logan. it says, "why do you do the things you do?". kristy doesn't know what it means, or why logan hasn't mentioned the notes. she also, bafflingly, chooses not to mention the notes to logan. one afternoon while she's home alone, tigger enters the pet door & mary anne notices that there's a note taped to his collar. she unfolds it & it says, "you're next" in creepy ransom letters cut out of the newspaper. even though this is REALLY FUCKING CREEPY, she again chooses not to share the threat with the police or with her parents.

kristy & the others leave for shadow lake. after all the confusion with mr. seger, the phone calls, the notes, etc, they are glad to get out of town. claudia is still being really defensive about skiing. at the lodge, they make the acquaintance of a college-aged guy named woodie. he's living in a cabin near watson's place & is helpful to the girls in various ways--bringing them firewood, telling them where to rent skis, etc. they also notice a scowling, angry old guy with an eye patch who freaks them the fuck out, as well as a suspicious-acting red-haired woman who seems anxious whenever they are around.

they have some hijinks at shadow lake. kristy is still concerned about watson's heart attack & goes nuts

trying to prevent him from over-exerting himself, until he finally catches on & explains that he needs to exert himself at least a little because the doctor says it's good for his health. stacey is concerned that sam might want to start a romance up again at shadow lake. she's not interested because she's dating robert. sam flirts with her a lot, & finally stacey is like, "i like you, but i'm dating robert." sam is like, "that's cool. i like you, but only as a friend." another problem solved. claudia acts out in response to abby's "bragging" & tries to ski down a double black diamond trail to prove she is a good skier. abby realizes the trail is closed for the season & goes after her, successfully preventing claudia from skiing right into a ravine. they talk out their differences & make up.

but bad things happen at shadow lake too. kristy is blasted by a snowblower on a trail & almost skis into a tree. the sign indicating that the double black diamond trail was closed had been removed & buried in the snow, which is why claudia didn't see it & tried to ski the trail anyway. someone jams up the gears on the ski lift & stacey gets stuck on it for god knows how long. & then a blizzard rolls in while all the kids are at the cabin & the adults are out getting more firewood at the store. stacey & sam go out back to bring in the last of their firewood, & stacey sees blood in the snow. sam says it's just from a bird that was killed by a fox, but then she sees the red-haired woman in the woods. with a gun. & she notices that kristy's ski poles have been snapped in half. back inside the cabin, she realizes that her insulin is missing from her kit, & someone has slashed claudia's pillow & poured nail polish all over it.

back in stoneybrook, the babysitters remaining are working with some more clues. before stacey left for shadow lake, she was almost run down by a red mercedes with a better business sticker from the previous year, but not this year. they get their hands on copies of the membership lists for the better business bureau for the last two years & come up with three names of people who had been members the previous year but not the current one. one of them is mr. tate, whom the babysitters had arrested after they discovered that he was behind a dog-napping ring (dawn & the disappearing dogs). mallory consults the babysitters club notebook & confirms that mr. or mrs. tate had a red mercedes. they call sergeant johnson, who tells them mr. tate was released from jail for good behavior. shannon, mary anne, & logan stake out mr. tate's house, but astrid (shannon's dog) escapes & chases a cat right through the pet door & into the tates' empty house. logan tries the door & finds that it's open, so they go inside to retrieve her. they find her in the room that must have been mr. tate's office before he went to jail. when they try to leave, they find that they are locked in.

mary anne & logan end up having a fight about the weird notes. turns out logan has been receiving weird notes in mary anne's handwriting. they both confirm that they did not write the notes & they make up. then they start investigating. they find a photocopy of the newspaper article about mr. tate's arrest, complete with a photo of kristy, mary anne, stacey, claudia, & dawn (who is in california & hasn't been victimized by phone calls or creepy notes). mallory & jessi were supposed to be in the photo too but got cropped out. & they have not been getting any threatening notes or anything. neither has abby, who wasn't in the club during the dog-napping situation. they realize that mr. tate or someone close to him blames the BSc for his arrest & is coming after them. they try calling the shadow lake cabin, but the reception is poor & then the phone dies.

claudia takes the call & hears them say mr. tate. then the phone dies. then woodie knocks on the door to make sure they're okay. when he walks away, claudia thinks he looks like mr. tate from behind. but does she just think that because she was thinking about mr. tate? when she goes back inside, smoke has filled the cabin. someone has jammed the chimney. they empty out of the house & woodie comes back to suggest they all walk to the lodge together.

meanwhile, in stoneybrook, mrs. tate comes home & finds shannon, mary anne, logan, & astrid in the study. she recognizes them & starts crying, telling them they have to stop her son, woodrow. she says she couldn't bring herself to call the police herself, even though she should have. apparently woodrow couldn't handle the

shame & poverty that accompanied his father being sent to jail, & he blames that babysitters club & is out to get them. mr. tate discovered his plot & has gone after him...in shadow lake. the babysitters freak & call sergeant johnson, who says he will handle it.

in shadow lake, the kids are walking to the lodge when suddenly woodie grabs stacey & starts backing toward the lake. he starts cackling & reveals his whole sordid plot. then kristy beans him with a flare, & the red-haired woman comes out of nowhere, along with a bevy of shadow lake police officers, to arrest him. turns out she was a policewoman who followed mr. tate to shadow lake because leaving the state was a violation of his parole. after she arrested him, he explained woodie's plot & she has come after him. & sergeant johnson called the shadow lake police, who came out as back-up. woodie is arrested & the babysitters continue on to the lodge, where they are re-united with watson & elizabeth & the little kids. they explain everything that has been happening, & although the adults are not at all pumped about how much the babysitters kept from them, they're happy that everyone is okay.

mary anne & logan confirm that they never figured out who was sending them the weird notes. obviously woodie was not involved in that at all. & the babysitters learn that mr. seger's own son was stealing things from the house & making it look like burglaries by strangers because he owes someone a lot of money & didn't know how else to get it. mr. seger knew what was going on & wouldn't press charges for the burglaries because he didn't want his son to get in trouble. the son agrees to counseling. problem solved. i guess?

this book was pretty exciting for a babysitters club book, but also completely ludicrous.

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### **Amy Holcomb says**

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

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### **Sarah Hyatt says**

I remembered this as being the best and creepiest BSC mystery and I was not disappointed revisiting it as an adult. Stalking! Attempted murder (multiple times)! It puts ghost cats and secret diaries to shame.

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### **Hannah says**

\*3.5

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### **Deborah Harris says**

AR Quiz No. 19388 EN Fiction

Accelerated Reader Quiz Information IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 6.0

Accelerated Reader Quiz Type Information AR Quiz Types: RP, RV

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### **Rachel says**

i've got to say it did make me scared at some points but in the end like always i put the pieces of the puzzle together before they did which is what i do during a subject i'm good at during school and it was very interesting.

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### **Jessica says**

poor editing job in one of the last Claudia chapters, as she decided to refer to herself in the third person. also, the plot is insane, although if it were written for an older audience, it might have been a bit more realistic, better edited, and not so God awful.

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### **Samantha says**

Okay, so! For a BSC mystery, this was actually pretty good! I mean there was even someone with a gun! Can you believe it!?

I won't rehash the entire plot, just trust me, as far as BSC mysteries go this was on is actually pretty good. They even return to Shadowlake for ski season and the crazy stalker follows them there.

A for real stalker too! This isn't just Cary Retlin being a douchebag!

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### **Noirfifre says**

I like hearing the different narrations of the members of the Babysitter's Club. At times I thought the story was too 'grown up' for the girls and they should leave it up to the police to solve by themselves. However, in the end the girls they found all the clues for the police.

The story captivated me from the beginning to the end. If you startle easily do not read at night in an extremely quiet place.

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### **Maria Elmvang says**

Rather spooky, and not as 'out there' as the other mystery books, so I rather liked it.

I'm still not fond of Abby though.

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## Shira says

in this second ever super mystery by ghostwriter Nola Thacker, the babysitters are getting stalked--lots of calls and hangups, notes that say things like "you're next" delivered via tigger the kitten's collar or spray painted on kristy's door, stacey almost getting run over by a sportscar, the trash cans outside claudia's house getting set on fire, etc. they think it might be connected to an incident where kristy and abby saw some burglars break a window at the rodowskys' next door neighbors' house. they also suspect it might have something to do with karl tate, the guy who was smuggling dogs in Dawn and the Disappearing Dogs, since they find a photo of the bsc from the local paper after they helped solve that case in the library's copier machine, and it's only the bsc members depicted in the photo who are getting harassed. some of the babysitters (kristy, claud, stacey, and abby) go to shadow lake with kristy's family for the skiing, and the harrassment gets worse: kristy's ski poles are broken, they find blood outside the lodge, and someone blocks up the chimney so the house fills with smoke when they attempt to light the fireplace. it turns out that the stalker is karl tate's SON, who is mad at them for helping to catch his father, who was STEALING NEIGHBORHOOD DOGS AND SELLING THEM TO OTHER PEOPLE. I mean, this guy definitely deserved to get caught. anyway, the burglary was really a red herring: the burglar was the son of the guy who owned the house who was stealing from his father just because he was in trouble and needed money. some subplots include claudia being jealous of abby's talent at skiing, since she thinks of herself as the best skier (this actually has basis in reality--she was really into how good she was at skiing in Baby-Sitters' Winter Vacation), mary anne and logan each respectively receiving mean and creepy notes in each other's handwriting, and mal transferring information about the previous mysteries into a new mystery notebook, at the expense of being a good babysitter. this book is a piece of work (not in a good way) and feels like a frankenstein's monster of a book, with lots of pieces all jumbled together and none really well fleshed-out. don't bother.

### highlights:

-there's a guy at the lodge at shadow lake who is described as having an eyepatch and a mean expression which makes him look sinister. wait, for real? really, nora thacker, you're gonna go this route? one of the suspects will be a man who has an EYEPATCH and a MEAN EXPRESSION and therefore looks SINISTER. I know this sounds like it should be in lowlights/nitpicks based on my reaction, but I was straight up laughing out loud and the unnuanced writing here. it's like those neighborhood watch signs that have a guy with a hat and trenchcoat:

-there's skiing-related sabotage that happens, which will always remind me of the jem and the holograms episode.

### lowlights/nitpicks:

-the biggest problem of the whole book is that the karl tate plotline comes back. disappearing dogs was already a really, really crappy mystery. it's like when frank grimes's son comes back. I already hated frank grimes and found his whole episode infuriating, so why would I care about his son? these are the kinds of things that happen when a series becomes too self-referential because the writers have run out of original ideas.

-the mary anne subplot where she finds mean notes in logan's handwriting (and he finds mean notes in her handwriting) and they NEVER TALK ABOUT IT. they just stew privately and resent each other, but they NEVER TALK. and it's like...well, I guess they're made for each other, because neither of them is remotely equipped to have any kind of healthy relationship.

-becca ramsey has been seeing a man with a blue tattoo around town and the bsc entertains the idea that he

might be the stalker. what a miserably small old fashioned town you must live in if you've been noticing a man with a blue tattoo around and it's notable enough to talk about.

-there's a reference to jackie and shea calling cookies "edible slammers" which (according to mallory) is a reference to "their pogs and slammers games." first off, mallory is 11 and it's 1995, which means she's almost exactly my age and therefore should know that they're not called "pogs and slammers games" but the game itself is just called pogs. secondly, by 1995 nobody was playing with them anymore. a classic case of ghostwriters trying to be hip by referencing a trend that had already fallen out of vogue.

-mal is working too intensely on the mystery notebook and pays no attention to babysitting, and jessi has to have a talk with her about it. it's kind of obnoxious.

-the bsc members that aren't at shadow lake meet at shannon's house. why? she lives far from all of the others (on the same block as kristy and abby, who are both at shadow lake). all the other bsc members live walking distance from each other.

-back in stoneybrook the other bsc members get stuck in karl tate's house when following astrid, shannon's dog, who chases a cat through the cat door. she is a fully-grown BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG and she runs through a cat door. none of the kids can fit through it but astrid can. has nora thacker ever seen a bernese before? trust me, they can't fit through cat doors. most of them are bigger than eighth-graders.

-stacey's insulin is stolen but it's okay because she has extra in her backpack. huh? does she have a perpetual ice pack in there too? because insulin doesn't work well if you don't keep it refrigerated.

-woodie (karl tate's kid) falls down a snowbank, through ice, and into the freezing shadow lake. at night. during a blizzard. and yet the police manage to get there in time and save him before he dies. I just don't buy it.

claudia outfit:

*-'Claudia...was wearing leggings, too--purple ones--with black Doc Martens, red slouch socks, black bicycle shorts over the leggings, a big T-shirt with the words "This Might Be Art" scrawled on it in purple (I knew she'd made it herself), and an old black suit jacket of her father's, with the sleeves rolled up...Claudia's earrings were purple feathers (she made those herself, too).'*

stacey outfit:

*-"Stacey...wore black leggings with cowboy boots, an oversized turtleneck sweater, and this cool black suede vest with pearl buttons...Stacey had gone for your basic gold earrings."*

jackie disasters:

-while sweeping, knocks over a chair, which hits the trashcan, which tips over and spills garbage in addition to hitting bo the dog's food and water dishes and spilling their contents everywhere

-cuts mallory off, opens the oven door, and then slams it shut, knocking a pot off the stove onto mallory's foot

-slams the door on his cookie and it falls to the floor in crumbs

snacks in claudia's room:

-assorted halloween candy (n.s.)

-chips (n.s.)

-dove chocolate bar (n.s.)

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