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Kristy and the club investigate a century-old mystery involving an heiress who disappeared with her fortune—a fortune that just might belong to Kristy.

Kristy and the Missing Fortune Details

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Author : Ann M. Martin

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From Reader Review Kristy and the Missing Fortune for online ebook

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

I really was hoping Kristy would find a huge fortune and be rich, but this is a BSC book and Kristy already has a rich stepdad, so eh...

Amy Holcomb says

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

Ciara says

could this book be more boring? my sources say no. let us plod through it together.

kristy is babysitting for her younger brothers & sisters & they have cabin fever. they don't want to do anything that kristy suggests. finally karen says that they should play in watson's library (they're allowed to do that). so they do & kristy finds an old book about the history of stoneybrook. she checks to see if there were any thomas back in the day & uncovers the secret of christina thomas. she was only 16 when her parents died in a grisly carriage accident (it really says that). their death made her wealthy--she split their fortune with her two brothers. but two years later, she disappeared & neither she nor her fortune was ever seen again.

kristy decides she might be related to christina & she wants to find out what happened to her & her fortune. meanwhile, jessi accepts a planet-sitting gig, but the plants are not exactly flourishing under her care. she decides to visit the local arboretum, which sounds like the isabella stuart gardner museum but for plants, & get some gardening tips from the curator. the curator is bummed because the city owns the house in which the arboretum is placed, but the lease for the land is long-gone. now developers are sniffing around, & they may want to tear down the arboretum to build condos or something. the only hope the arboretum has is to get all spiffed up so a wealthy woman named mrs. vanderwooten or something will want to buy it & preserve it. jessi volunteers the babysitters club & their charges to help clean up the arboretum.

snorrrre oh, sorry.

so they're cleaning up the arboretum. kristy, meanwhile, does some genealogical research on christina's family. she traces christina's brother edward's family line & discovers a woman named mildred abbott who would be christina's grand-niece or something. she calls mildred & gets invited over for tea. mildred knows all about christina's mysterious disappearance. word on the street is that her evil brother devon wanted her to marry his best friend simon so that simon & devon would gain control of christina's share of the family fortune. christina refused & ran off the pennsylvania to marry her real true love, a union soldier named henry. she wrote a henry a letter announcing her intentions & giving ahim a clue about where the fortune is hidden in case they fail to reunite. because somehow it's awesome & empowering for christina to give her fortune away to some random dude that she may or may not succeed in marrying? anyway, she does not

succeed because henry dies the day before christina arrives in pennsylvania. his family sends the letter to devon, who keeps it hush hush. he doesn't want anyone to know his sister defied him & ran away rather than submit to his nefarious machinations.

mildred lets kristy make a copy of the letter, which involves an elaborate drawing of a rosebush inside a big circle.

at the arboretum, jessi takes kristy aside & says she thinks someone is sabotaging the clean-up efforts. her clues include mysterious footprints, weeds strewn all over the yard, a broken trellis, & most hilarious of all, a missing bucket. jessi goes on & ON about how she was washing a statue & then her bucket disappears. where's her bucket? someone took her bucket. she wants her bucket back. NOW! i just kept imagining jessi as a walrus. it was pretty awesome.

mysterious things keep happening at the arboretum to derail the attempts to tidy it up. finally the babysitters decide that the evil developers are behind it. they're trying to make the place icky so mrs. vanderwooten won't buy it & they can turn it into condos. but then they forget about that & get obsessed with looking for christina's fortune. they tear the arboretum apart, digging holes everywhere...& of course, that's when mrs. vanderwooten shows up. she passes on the pace because it's all grimy & torn up. whoopsie. also, cokie mason is lurking around all the time, eavesdropping while the sitters talk about christina & her mystery.

eventually the babysitters realize that the roses christina drew on her letter to henry are a clue. the circle represents the full moon. on the next full moon, they all lie to their parents & enlist charlie to drive them to the arboretum after dark. they dig in the rose bushes for a while but are interrupted by mysterious sneezing near the fountain. it's cokie. turns out mildred abbott is cokie's grandmother, so cokie is descended from christina thomas & thinks she is entitled to christina's missing fortune. then dawn realizes the roses christina drew might represent the wooden roses carved on the porch. everyone runs over but they can't figure out what the clue means. then they realize that while they are sitting on the porch, the full moon is perfectly silhouetting a big tree in the front yard. they run over to the tree & start digging & find a box christina buried.

the box does not contain any fortune (much to cokie's displeasure), but it does contain a locket with christina's picture in it. christina looks exactly like kristy. it also contains a deed granting the disputed land to the town of stoneybrook for public works usages (like the arboretum). turns out the arboretum is actually christina's ancestral family home, squiremore or some ridiculous shit like that. so the babysitters didn't find the fortune, but they did save the arboretum.

they attend the celebratory party the arboretum curator throws & mildred pulls kristy aside to give her christina's locket. kristy is convinced that she is related to christina after all because both she & christina are headstrong, independent women. everyone points out that that means she's related to cokie, but kristy doesn't care.

oh, & the curator helps keep jessi from killing all the plants she is supposed to be plant-sitting. *yawn*

Amie says

This was okay. I don't remember reading it as a kid.

Maria Elmvang says

One of the better mysteries, even if it did have its usual share of incredible coincidences.

Samantha says

The mysteries were always super hit or miss for me. Some of them were fun, other ones were just dull. This one is somewhere middle of the road. I like genealogy, and always did even when I was young, so that part was pretty cool. Finding out potential ancestors of Kristy's and that sort of thing was by far the best part of this book. The actually missing fortune aspect not so much. I just appreciated that, in the end, they didn't find an actual "fortune". That was a nice change of pace for one of these books.

The plot within a plot about the arboretum was okay, nothing fantastic. Though it does remind me a BIT of the plot from the BSC movie where they turn the old arboretum into their future BSC office and then end up not using it after all.
