



## Bummer Summer

*Ann M. Martin*

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When twelve-year-old Kammy has difficulty accepting her new family after her father's remarriage, a summer at Camp Arrowhead helps her to put her home life in perspective.

## **Bummer Summer Details**

Date : Published May 1st 1986 by Scholastic (first published 1983)

ISBN : 9780590413084

Author : Ann M. Martin

Format : Paperback

Genre : Childrens, Fiction, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Bummer Summer for online ebook

### Michelle (MichelleBookAddict) says

I grew up reading Ann's Baby-Sitters Club books (mostly the 80s and early 90s stuff). I haven't read any other books by Ann, so receiving this from Netgalley was a great gift. I am looking forward to reading more books. Like Rain Reign, A Corner of the Universe and A Dog's Life are all on my TBR list.

Bummer Summer was good. It was realistic and had a lot of likable characters. Kammy had some pre-teen angst and didn't like changes from her little bubble of a world. Kammy, her father and new family did change; a new Step-Mother (but not like the Evil ones in fairytales that she's knows), a very young new little Step-Sister and a baby Step-Brother.

Kammy then goes on a trip to Summer Camp to escape from the drama at home (unpacking and so on). I have never been to a Summer Camp, so it was fun reading about all the adventures she had there. The description of the camp and there activities was great.

A fun and nostalgic reading.

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### Alexandra says

i would have LOVED this book as a young girl. absolutely loved it. i loved it *now* of course, but i would have loved to have read it as a kid. how many times can i say love jesus christ. but it was SO GOOD. first off, i just happen to love (omg) ann m martin. she was such a huge part of my childhood, like an iconic part of it. karen and nancy and hannie and kristy and claudia, dawn, stacey, mallory pike, maryanne. ????????? i could go on and on.

bummer summer's protagonist was kind of an annoying pain in the ass like karen brewer (of the babysitter's little sister series) but she was so...good too, deep down, that i really enjoyed her perspective of things.

i also loved how this was ann m martin's debut novel and a lot of the names of the girls in the story would be used again in her babysitters little sister series ?

i guess if i were describing this book to someone i would say it's your typical summer camp book full of ghost stories, toasted marshmallows and capture the flag, but it's also so much more. there are so many important and relevant topics for young girls in here. death of a parent, parent getting remarried, step-parent and step siblings, puberty (this is only \*slightly\* touched upon and by no means a primary focus of the book), being away from home for the first time, making new friends, adjusting to change. god DAMMIT ann m martin can do no wrong.

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### cubbie says

lots of fun. it's a great mix of spot-on preteen angst and fun plot. not quite as sugary as some of the baby-sitters club novels, but still nice and cozy.

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### **Beth says**

ARC supplied by publisher via NetGalley

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### **Dianna says**

A good read for the pre-teen girls.

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### **Jenna says**

I received Bummer Summer from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Bummer Summer, first published in 1983, was Ann M. Martin's first book. Yes, that Ann M. Martin, author/creator of The Baby-sitters Club series. Along with the BSC, I had read some, but not all, of her other work before I picked up Bummer Summer. I was worried that the book would be slightly dated, but other than a few minor details (like the references to alligator shirts, or the camp director's surprise that Kammy's parents both work), it wasn't. Kammy didn't seem to have a cell phone, but I don't remember her taking or receiving any calls before going to camp. Sure, most kids her age in 2014 are probably glued to their phones, but Kammy didn't have many friends who would have been calling or texting anyway.

Kammy went through a lot of changes in a short period of time, and she didn't deal with them very well. Kammy had always had all of her father's attention until he met a newly-single pregnant younger woman. Six months later, they were married and Kammy had a new stepmother, a three year old stepsister nicknamed Muffin, and a two month old stepbrother who didn't have a name yet, which is the stupidest thing ever. By this time, the woman had almost a year to think of a name for her baby. What was the holdup? Kammy just called him, privately, Baby Boy. Good enough.

Kammy had a difficult time adjusting to living with these new family members, which is what led her father to suggest she spend the summer at camp. Kammy and I were both torn between feeling like her father was sending her away and thinking it was a good idea to get away from the chaos at home.

Even though Kammy had trouble getting along with her new stepmother, Kate wasn't a bad person or even a wicked stepmother. She was just looking out for her own children, who were much younger than Kammy, and sometimes lacked the very patience she expected Kammy to have. She really reached out to Kammy through letters she sent to camp. I thought that was a great way for them to connect and yet not have to deal with each other on a day-to-day basis. Kammy's father put it very well when he said the new family had to learn to settle into a routine and that when Kammy returned from camp, things would be calmer and easier. At the same time, I'm not sure that letting Kammy skip out on the settling in period would be beneficial for her in the long run — wouldn't she feel more left out? — but he was right that she wasn't happy at home.

Muffin sounded adorable in her good moments, when she wasn't being too rough with Kammy's kitten or dumping her paints into the toilet. I can see her looking up to Kammy as they grow up and wanting to be just like her. Kammy would be a good role model for a little girl. She wasn't perfect and had a bad attitude

sometimes, but who doesn't?

I never went to camp, so I love camp books. Bummer Summer was not short on the fun activities of camp life: horseback riding, arts and crafts, and swimming in the lake. The only thing missing was the ever-popular Color War, but maybe that came later into the camp season. Camp lasted 8 weeks, I think, and Bummer Summer only covered the first two.

While there was nothing new or unique about it, Bummer Summer was a fun read, perfect for summer. It put me in the mood to read more middle grade books, and I'm hoping for more camp books, too.

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### **The Styling Librarian says**

Bummer Summer by Ann M. Martin – I thoroughly enjoyed this novel. Really lovely angst from a girl dealing with her father finding a new love and her getting a stepmother and two step-siblings. Appreciate the camp interactions and activities that she dealt with as well. I had no idea that this actually was Ann's first book written, before the Babysitters Club series. Loved the personal history that was shared at the end of the book about the author. Appreciate that it is getting republished.

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### **Michelle Kidwell says**

Bummer Summer Ann M Martin April.2014 Kindle Edition

This is a great book for eight to twelve year olds or those who are simply young at heart.

Kamillia is facing a lot of changes a new Mother a little sister and a baby brother when her father remARRIES she is not ready to face any of this including the camp she really does not want to go to. By the time her two week trial period is over and her parents come for visiting day she decides to stay.

I give this book five stars and though it is a rerelease of a book released in 1983 it is relatable to todays children as well...

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### **lisa says**

If I had read this book when I was young I might have liked it a lot, and then had nostalgic memories about it while reading it as an adult. However, despite the fact that I was a big Ann M. Martin fan when I was younger I hadn't read this book before now. I know it was her first book ever, and I often read (and enjoyed) her non-BSC books, but this one slipped past me somehow.

At first Kammy's brattiness really bothered me, but I enjoyed seeing how she mellowed out as the book went on. It was actually a really nice progression of a sheltered only child into a more self-assured kid who learns to share her family, and her interests, and who learns not to fly off the handle over every little thing. There were a lot of things that were pure early-Ann M. Martin such as descriptions of camp (almost exactly like The Baby Sitters' Summer Vacation, right down to the unpronounceable lake name) and using childish, dangerous pranks as "revenge" against so-called enemies (exactly as they do in Kristy and the Snobs).

This book did nothing for my adult self, but my child self would have loved it.

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### **Ashley says**

**2/8/2018** - After finishing *Stage Fright*, I looked through to see what I had rated Ann M Martin's other books. And apparently I didn't write a review for this book. And I hate when I don't write reviews.

Soooo... I've read this book twice and only barely remember it. I remember "Baby Boy"... and that's pretty much it. Guess I'll have to read it again to leave a real review, but at least I won't agonize about a blank review next time.

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### **Erin says**

Ann M. Martin's first book...loved this as a kid and enjoyed it equally as a re-read. As a kid, I loved books set in summer camps because I really wanted to go to one, but my mother totally vetoed that idea. Great 80's classic.

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### **Cas H. says**

Ann M. Martin is best known for her Babysitter's club books. She has written many, many novels for young teens, which I have loved throughout the years.

Ann originally wrote *Bummer Summer* in 1983 and in 2014 she has republished it under the same title. This was her first book ever written and I am proud to say that I read it in the 80's and again in 2014.

*Bummer Summer* is about a twelve year old girl, Kammy, whose life is changing at a rapid pace. Kammy lives with her father, and she loves her life, until he brings home a woman who he wants to marry. This woman, Kate, has two children. Muffin, is what they call the little girl and the baby boy has not been named yet. Kammy's wonderful life is thrown into instant chaos and she does not know which way is up. Everyone is having trouble adjusting to life together, so Kammy's dad suggests that she go to the summer camp that they had previously discussed. Kammy did not want to go at all, but agreed to give the camp a two week trial. Only thing is, well she has to get along with the people at camp, and when Susie starts making trouble, Kammy is ready to give up.

I thought that this book was really good when I was a young teen. I remember loving this book. Now that I am an adult, and my kids are entering the teen age years, I think that it is a lot of unnecessary drama. (I know just like my mom, right!) Ann M. Martin really captures the essence of being 12 years old and having life constantly change around you.

I give this book a rating of 4 out of 5.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in return for my honest opinion.

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### **Marna says**

My favorite ever. Though I didn't get the whole alligator shirt thing until much later, as I was still a toddler then. Anyway, I always consider Kammy a bit of a prototype Kristy though I like that she is also sort of a wuss. I could relate to that better. Though I really think this book gives a bad bit of advice: that in order to not be teased about not wanting to undress in front of everyone you should act as though you have no shame. This was also bad apparently and everyone at Jesus/Girl Scout camp thought I was super weird.

'She just gets undressed right in front of everyone.'

OMG.

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### **Emma says**

Full disclosure: I've never read a Baby-Sitters Club novel and until I've read the little afterword written by Ann M. Martin at the end of this book, I thought it was a series of MOVIES not BOOKS \*blushes\*. What can I say? It never was a thing in my country (to this day).

Anyway, I absolutely don't remember when or why I've downloaded *Bummer Summer* and when I started reading it, in the middle of a bad insomnia attack, looking for something very easy to read, I totally thought it was a very recent YA book.

And I didn't realize it wasn't (it's been published in 1983) until I did some googling... all this to say, this book aged EXTREMELY well.

I thought the story was totally charming (and I say that as someone who dislikes camp in all forms), very realistic, and all in all a pretty fun read! Is it groundbreaking and totally memorable? No. Is it the perfect middle school summer read even in 2016? In my opinion, yes, certainly!

My only little qualm is about the ending, I thought it was a tiny little bit rush and I wish I had learnt more about the rest of Kammy's summer.

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### **Rachel says**

Nostalgia fix met! I was actually looking for a completely different book. I was driving myself nuts trying to find a book I loved as a kid about a girl that takes care of a horse. I did finally crack the case on that but in the meantime I stumbled upon this book. I couldn't believe it! My parents bought this book for me before I left for camp myself.

Well since I was able to read it for free.....why not. An hour later I felt like I had time travelled back to that summer I went to camp.

That's it. No big literary meaning. I just wanted to read a book I loved from my childhood. That's it.

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