



Dawn's Big Move

Ann M. Martin

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It's a Baby-sitters Club shocker--Dawn's moving back to California for six months to live with her dad.

Dawn's Big Move Details

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From Reader Review Dawn's Big Move for online ebook

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!

Kate says

Yes, who would consider leaving the fickle New England weather for constant 70+ degrees and sunshine? Who could leave the analyy structured Baby-Sitters Club for the We Heart Kids Club? Where else can Dawn fit in with her vegetarianism and baggy "California casual" button down shirts? Please. Ever think she might miss her father and little brother?

Amie says

I don't remember reading this book as a kid, but I think I did, because I remember Dawn and Stacey were ALWAYS making pro/con lists. It's a tactic I use to this day. Anyhoo, why can't you ever tell Dawn and Stacey apart on covers? If Dawn is "California Cool" in denim, why does Stacey feature prominently on the cover of her book? Stonebrooke strangeness...

I love Dawn's mom's reaction to her move. As a mom who's been there, it was perfect. I've now been in Dawn's shoes and her mom's, and I agree with the way both handled the situation.

Why does Stoneybrooke have lame festivals/relay activities every other book? Is it next to Stars Hollow? It seems to be about the same size. A Gilmore Girls/BSC crossover would be fun. Not happening, but fun to dream about. I also find it weird that Dawn doesn't leave permanently here and California diaries start. Side note: I forgot about the book Farewell Dawn. Obviously I never read either as a kid.

Alex says

I've been re-reading a lot of the early BSC books, so when I got to this one I immediately noticed a change in the writing from the ghostwriters. I never noticed as a kid, but it's so obvious to me now.

Ciara says

this book is dreadful. dawn misses california, her father, & jeff. she finally asks her mom if she can move back to california for six months. mrs. schafer calls mr. schafer, they both talk to the guidance counslors at their local middle schools, & they give dawn permission. she is stoked. at the last second, she becomes concerned that claifornia won't live up to her memories of how awesome it is, & she decides not to go, but mrs. schafer gently talks her into it. the babysitters club give her a surprise going away party attended almost exclusively by sitting charges & serving almost nothing but sugary sweets. that's it.

the B-plot involves the run for your money charity field day thing. the schafer-spiers enter, as does the babysitters club. stoneybrook teams are playing against teams from nearby mercer & whiever town wins the most events will have money donated to the charity of its choosing. stoneybrook wins. there's some light amusement when richard considers entering an underwear race, & an even tries to practice for it, but other than that...boring.

Joey Susan says

Awe this was a really cute book, Dawn is feeling homesick for her dad, brother and California so starts to become gloomy and sad. She eventually speaks up and shares her feelings and her parents arrange everything but moving isn't as easy as she thought. leaving her friends and family she has in stoneybrook is harder than she expected it to be. But everyone supported her knowing she needed to go.

The secondary story in the book was interesting the whole town were preparing for a huge event to raise money for charity in the town, all playing fun and wacky games as family teams and friend teams to win the most points against another town. All the local kids had something fun to prepare for all having fun.

It was a good book, very sweet and sad that Dawn was leaving them but I love the way it was written, it was delicate and gentle like her character is which I really liked about it.

jenn says

Ugh. Why was this my favorite book series as a kid? I suppose it's because the writing is perfectly geared toward the precocious, know-it-all demographic. Gotta love the well-placed vocabulary lessons and Dawn's obsession with "health" food. Ravioli? Ceasar's salad? Really, Dawn?

And Palo City sounds TOTES real, you guys.

Logan Hughes says

Dawn finds herself aching for California. She outbursts during a day of family fun with her Connecticut family that she wants to go home. Arrangements are gradually made; custody is split; Dawn will now be in

California for six months out of the year. Subplots involve a secret goodbye party (where have we seen that before? (hint: Good-bye Stacey, Good-bye)) and a charity game competition event thing.

I never liked this book particularly; I don't mind getting rid of Dawn for awhile, but it felt like it rehashed a lot of the same-old, same-old from other Dawn and Stacey move stories. On rereading during a major life change, though, some of the angst about decision-making rang more true for me, especially Dawn becoming briefly convinced she has had a last-minute change of heart: that feeling of, "wait, despite all the work and uphill battles I put in, now that it's set in motion and has momentum of its own - why did I do this again???" I also appreciated the wisdom of her mother gently/sadly reminding her that, if she doesn't make this change now, she will continue to have the same feelings indefinitely.

Lingering Questions: This six-months-in-each-place arrangement just makes no sense at all with school schedules. I understand that, while inconvenient, Dawn can't help feeling that she Must Move in September; and I understand that she's really only telling herself she'll go back and forth (really she'll want to stay once she's out there). But it's so silly to deliberately plan to transfer back to SMS in April; I just can't believe her parents and guidance counselors are on board with that. How can her SMS teachers possibly grade her based on eight weeks at the end of the year, most of which she'll spend catching up? Just add a couple extra months in California, and you'd end up with the much more reasonable custody plan of school year in one place and summer in another.

How come people keep ringing the doorbell to enter their own home in this book? It happens at least twice. Richard or Sharon ring the doorbell, and then let themselves in. It's weird.

Timing: September of eighth grade (again!)

Revised Timeline: *This is where I figure out how old the girls would be if they aged one year for every year of book time.* This is where my revised timeline basically becomes fanfic. The older sitters have graduated high school by now, so we have to assume that they all decided to go to college locally and continue living at home. Let's say there's a UConn Stoneybrook or something.

Actually, this scenario has a lot of potential explanatory power for this plotline. Suppose all the girls were looking at different colleges, and Dawn was seriously weighing the option of going to college in California. She was accepted to a school there, visited, saw her old chums, her father, Jeff (who's like 15 now), pictured herself living there. Then the entire rest of the BSC decided to go to college together, and she couldn't bring herself to be the only one who broke away--besides, she really did like the idea of staying with Mary Anne and the club, not having to worry about what kind of campus job to get, perhaps paying less tuition to go to school in-state. As the first semester starts, though, she realizes she has made the wrong choice, and she applies for transfer (or late admission) to a Cali school.

Her plan to move back and forth every six months even makes marginally more sense in a semester-based academic environment, although only if she plans on taking classes at community college or something where it's less about being admitted to a particular program and more about signing up for classes a la carte.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

Gasp, Dawn is tired of Stoneybrook, though I can't blame her because New England winters suck to the ones in California. Naturally this creates a new dynamic in the BSC.

Shira says

this is my first time reading this book!

in this entirely forgettable dawn book by ghostwriter/dawn-lover extraordinaire Peter Lerangis, dawn is longing for california; she misses her dad and jeff, she misses her friends, and she misses the "hot" california weather. she decides to move back to california for six months. the subplot is that there's a group athletics day, and each of the bsc members' families compete in some of the events, and the bsc does too. it's *super* boring, and feels like filler.

highlights:

-jessi goes to see her cousin/other best friend keisha back in new jersey, and she has a bad time since keisha is sort of laine-ish now (see Stacey's Ex-Best Friend for what I mean). this makes dawn reconsider going to california. but also I just like it because it's such an 11-year-old plotline. you can never really go home, and 11-year-olds change best friends every five minutes.

-perfect claud moment: *"I read that athletics can be harmful for your health," Claudia remarked, stuffing a Ring Ding in her mouth."*

-finally (!) there are references to the papadakises being super greek. they have a lamb roasting on a spit for their family reunion/party, plus spanakopita and tiropita. they always describe the kids as swarthy and they have such a greek name, but there's never been any acknowledgment of greek culture in their family.

lowlights/nitpicks:

-at first, dawn's dad sounds wary about her moving back to california, and she interprets it as him not wanting her. dawn is such a drama queen.

-when the bsc members (mary anne especially) are happy for dawn that she will get to go to california, dawn gets mad and thinks that means they won't miss her. I repeat, dawn is **such** a drama queen.

-they have a surprise going away party with the kids. how many surprise going away parties/homecoming parties are there in this series? I want to reread it all and keep a running tally.

dawn outfit (in this quote, mary anne tells her what to wear):

-"I haven't seen you wear those nice cream-colored drawstring waist pants you bought last month, and that ribbed cotton T-shirt with the buttons down the front."

snacks in claudia's room:

-holiday m&ms behind a very full rack of clothes in her closet

-sesame crackers (n.s.)

-ring dings (n.s.)

-popcorn rice cakes in her dresser drawer

-chock full of chakra macrobiotic dessert snacks cookies (n.s.)

-raisinets (n.s.)

Aubree Bowling says

This is a really thoughtful book. I am so thankful I have never been in the shoes of a child whose parents are

divorced, but I think the emotional turmoil Dawn experiences in this book are vividly and sensitively portrayed. I cannot imagine having one parent and one sibling 3000 miles away from my other parent and stepsister/closest friend. It is no wonder a 13 year old would feel very pulled apart inside. I fell like this book is really honest and shows there is never a great choice in this situation, just an evolving situation and choices are sometimes made for temporary solutions instead of solving the bigger picture issue, which is essentially impossible.

Nancy says

In which Dawn moves back to OMGCALIFORNIA for the first time and I throw a mental party celebrating. Too bad she comes back. STFU, Dawn.

I always wondered just how Sharon and Jack were able to work out the six month switch thing in the middle of the school year. And so quickly! I guess it's too much to ask, that things make sense in the BSCverse. Of course it is...

Natia says

I liked this book. It is kind of depressing though. I mean, why does Dawn have to move? She is so happy in Stonybrook and she has a great family and great friends. I liked the way the book ended. It was short and sweet. I like dawn a lot. She may be a health freak, but she is a really good character. I really liked this book.

Marian says

If one were playing the BSC drinking game, this is one of those where you'd have to drink quite a bit. Dawn decides to move back to California... because she misses her father and her brother. Which isn't surprising, but I do wonder how many divorced kids resented Dawn being able to just fly back and forth like it was no big deal.

I also wonder if the series were done today, if Kristy would have been jealous of Dawn for this as well. (Kristy's MIA father is frequently mentioned as living in California for all the good that does her.)

Nitpicks aside, it's a Dawn book where she isn't all stereotype all the time. When she's being inconsiderate, she realizes it and tries to change, but the fact that it's difficult for her is all the more realistic.

Book is worth the price of admission for the mondo ball and Richard Spier practicing the underwear race.

Samantha says

Dawn is gone for six, glorious months! Thank you, Lerangis! I mean it sure doesn't feel like she was gone, because she has other books ahead, but still. Almost as good as when she permanently left the club.

Why was down insufferable in the regular series, but normal in the California Diaries series? One of life's greatest mysteries.
