



## Malibu Summer

*Francine Pascal (Creator), Kate William*

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**Malibu Summer** Francine Pascal (Creator) , Kate William  
*Summer dreams...*

Summer's here, and the Wakefield twins can't wait to join Lila Fowler in fabulous, beach-lined Malibu. Elizabeth and Jessica have arranged jobs as mother's helpers and are looking forward to a dream vacation filled with Hollywood stars and gorgeous guys.

But the girls soon find out things aren't always as they seem in sunny Malibu. Elizabeth's heart is won by someone much too old for her. Even though she feels guilty about it, she begins to see him secretly. While Elizabeth tries desperately to keep her sister from finding out, Jessica is busy trying to get bronzed Cliff Sherman to notice her. Can the girls straighten out their summer romances, or will Malibu's magic be only an illusion?

*Come along with the Wakefield twins for all the sun and fun of a **Malibu Summer!***

## Malibu Summer Details

Date : Published July 1st 1986 by Bantam

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Author : Francine Pascal (Creator) , Kate William

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## **From Reader Review Malibu Summer for online ebook**

### **Denise Kettering says**

So in going through things at my parents' house, I found this book along with a few others I had read as a tween/young teen. I quickly re-read it and while the characters were generally as I remembered them--Elizabeth the bookish and serious sister while Jessica is the more daring sister--I found the plot to fall pretty flat. There is an element of the unbelievable here. Also the popular culture references in the book, although they are limited, are very dated and probably would make no sense to a contemporary reader. I was happy for the chance to walk down memory lane, but I found this book would have only been believable or appealing to a tween/early teen.

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### **Forever Young Adult says**

#### **Graded By:** Erin

Read the drinking game and review here.

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### **Sheila Read says**

I remember the cover just not the story.

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### **Lydia Rose says**

I love sweet valley books.

Jessica begs Elizabeth to go to Malibu with her for the summer, but Elizabeth doesn't want to. Finally, Elizabeth said yes, but Jessica has to set everything up. So, Jessica gets jobs for both of them, and they head out to Malibu.

Jessica can't wait because she got picked to baby sit a rock star's cousin's baby. She can't wait, but when she sees the house Elizabeth gets to stay in, she hesitates. She stays with the house she has, and hopes to see the rock star, Tony.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth gets stuck with a spoiled little girl, and the girl's parents are never there. She tries her best to make the little girl feel better, but nothing will help. Until Jessica tells her a secret, about a naughty little girl. Then the little girl wanted to be with Jessica.

One night, Jessica wanted to go to a party with the boy that lived next door to Lizzie, but the boy's parents were going out, too. So she gets Lizzie to baby sit for her, and she heads out to the party. While Lizzie was there, a friend of the boy's parent's came, and Lizzie showed him to his room. During the time she was there, Lizzie fell for him, and he fell for Lizzie. They started to see each other more and more after that, and

strange things happened.

It was definitely a keeper. I loved it, and it made me cry at the end.

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### **The Kawaii Slartibartfast says**

Ahhh, Sweet Valley High. Where high schoolers are menaced by knife wielding cons, rock stars disguise themselves as Yale students, and a little girls lie at the brink of death.

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### **Lauren says**

Lacked depth, but a quick and brainless read. Not really that enjoyable but if you're desperate to kill time, then it's something

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### **Hil says**

This is probably the best SVH book I've read so far - it's not even a Super Thriller but it's pretty exciting in parts. Great story.

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### **Keli Wright says**

Loooooooovvved it

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### **L.H. Johnson says**

It's been a long while since I read a Sweet Valley book, and even longer since I've seen the TV adaptation, but I've got neither out of my head. There's something about these books that I've grouped with something like The Babysitters Club, Bug Juice, and A Horse Called Wonder, those stories and shows of glossy sunlit Americana that did nothing but appeal to somebody who was more familiar with rain and bare, grey days. And the TV show! That theme tune! Could there be two different girls who look the same as Sweet Valley High ?! These are my madeleines, Proust, deal with it.

The delight of the Sweet Valley books comes in their matter of fact bluntness; they are what they are and they make no bones about it. Elizabeth is sensible, Jessica is not. Everyone is incredibly foxy, and spend much of their day foxing about the beach or foxing at the shops, looking foxily at beautiful and expensive yet foxy clothes. There's usually some sort of slender moral, but mainly there's foxiness, and it's oddly spectacular. We, the adults, the patriarchy, whatever, we often denigrate books like this, all too easily, because we're simply not comfortable with the fact that there's a space for romance and simple, bold brushstrokes in young adult literature. In young adult life, really. We laugh at the way people obsess over bands, and find comfort in fandoms, when really these are all just facets of life and have no reason to not be

in literature. I will fight you, Britishly, with severe looks and tutting, if you suggest that they should not be.

Malibu Summer is spectacularly unapologetic in doing what it does: there's romance, several jaw-dropping subplots, some delightfully nutty nuance on Lila's choice of swimming costume, and I loved it. Yes, certain aspects may have dated at this point, but as a whole the book is wonderful. Nothing makes sense. Everything glows. Everyone is foxy. Everyone gets a job or a hottie or some sort of moral fulfillment. It's brilliant. I loved it. What a ridiculous, gorgeous, honest book this is.

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### **Lindley Walter-smith says**

For once, Liz is between boyfriends in a SVH special, so she doesn't have to cheat. Instead, she decides to date a 21 year old, so that she still has a reason to sneak around and lie. She also goes on a date in a hurricane, because although the radio is telling everyone to keep off the roads, she's a very good driver. She was supposed to be the nice, well-behaved, level-headed twin again, right? The book keeps telling me so...

Also, Jessica is chasing a pop star who is blatantly Liz's sekrit romance, and Lila cradle snatches. Good times.

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### **kylajaclyn says**

3 1/2 stars. I really liked this one, ya'll. It had feeling and not too much fluff, and it even made me tear up a bit towards the end. I can't believe I'm admitting that about a Sweet Valley book. Online. Which is forever. Alas...

Welcome to "A Very Hannah Montana Summer" or Sweet Valley High Super Edition #4, "Malibu Summer."

I grabbed a few SVH's to review for you all before I sprinted back to my parents' house for the summer. I, of course, did feel so inclined to grab a SVH summer book to add to the rest of the stash. I have given up reading these all in order. How boring would that be, anyway?

So, here's the 411:

The book starts out like all the others (i.e. so headache inducing that you want to smack the fictional Wakefield twins heads together). In case you were wondering, the twins still have eyes bluer than the ocean. They are still skinnier than all the flagpoles in all the nation. And, being from Southern Cali (duh!), they are also tanner than that Leather Face mom. They are also forever young, and I mean that literally because Jess & Liz have been Juniors in high school since before dinosaurs roamed the Earth. So, just in case you thought anything had changed in good old Sweet Valley, I found it my civic duty to remind you that "always stays the same - nothing ever changes. English summer rain seems to last for ages."

So what are the identical fair-haired filles up to in this one? Well, nothing new (initially). Jess wants Liz to do something she doesn't want to do (this time it's go to Malibu with Lila to be Mother's Helpers). Liz agrees after a bit of pretty persuasion (read: none at all). Jessica pawns off all the interviewing to Liz. They both lie

to each other about what family situations they are getting (Jess doesn't tell Liz that the Sargents are cousins of Tony Sargent, Jess's favorite singer. Or that Liz's child, Taryn, will be a pain in the ass. Liz doesn't tell Jess how small her living quarters will be.) And this wouldn't be a Sweet Valley book without Jessica realizing her mistake and trying to talk Liz out of something. When Jess finds out she has to share a room with a baby and she can't be right near the beach, she goes ballistic. She whines about HOW TRAGICALLY SMALL the Sargents' home is. I really want to know what would happen if Jessica ever had to use a Port-A-Potty. Would she have a seizure?

So there's all of this blah blah back and forth for the first 100 pages until the book starts to gain momentum on page 99. Jess has been trying to get Liz to trade jobs with her ever since she realized how big the house of Malcolm and Audrey Bennet really is. Then she meets this guy named Cliff Sherman on the beach and that seals the deal - he lives right next to the Bennet's, so she absolutely MUST get Liz to switch with her now. Thankfully it never works. I would have murdered this book if Liz had a miserable summer while Jess lived it up with another guy.

You would think Liz would hate hanging out with Lila all summer, but strangely she doesn't. It could be because she is so delighted to get away from the sad sack that the ghostwriters have made her best friend, Enid. They all have boys (and men) at this point. Oddly enough, Cliff and Jessica's romance isn't the focal point of the book. This could be because Liz meets a rock star (durrrr, Tony Sargent) on the run as Jamie Galbraith, Yalie. Apparently he had one drink with some crazy guy's girlfriend, and now this dude is determined to make Tony pay. With a knife, because that's the weapon of choice for all the scumbags of Sweet Valley and Malibu. I thought Liz was cheating on Todd in this book. It's the natural conclusion. This was actually when Todd was in Vermont and before she started dating Jeffrey French. So, what do you know? Liz didn't have to cheat. But there has to be something woebegone about their relationship so the solution, natch, was to make the illusive Jamie Galbraith a grown-up 21 years old (snort). Liz thinks that he's SO OLD (which, to be honest, I also thought that 21 was ancient when I was 16), so she sneaks around to see him and doesn't tell Jessica about the relationship. That Jessica doesn't get more pissed off in the end for not dating a rock star is beyond me. I think it's hilarious that "Jamie Gilbraith" isn't trying to sleep with Liz every five seconds. My fiance is the horniest 23 year old guy you will ever meet. Every dude that age is. I mean, come on.

Meanwhile Lila has a problem because she has fallen for a guy TOO YOUNG for her. THE FUCKING HORROR OF IT ALL. His offending age is 15, a mere ONE YEAR younger than her. Though I have to side with Jessica on this one. If I had been in junior year for half a decade I would also feel really goddamn superior to anyone 15 years or younger. To Lila's credit she doesn't dump Ben like the sniveling idiot Jessica would have. Instead she endures Jessica's merciless teasing and carries on with her summer romance. Brava, Miss Fowler!

So what about the kids? I feel a little better about Jessica having a kid in The Sweet Life now, because she warmed up to baby Sam pretty quickly. No Margo-like thoughts of suffocating the child, even though she was up at 6 a.m. every morning. Then she managed to charm the pants right off of Liz's charge, Taryn Bennet. Normally this would be really fucking annoying that Jess can do everything, but I truly liked Taryn and hated that her life was so empty. Jess told her stories of a "wicked little girl" which Taryn ate right up. She doesn't really like Liz much throughout the whole book (which is a laugh riot, because Liz is supposed to be the perfect twin). Little girl T hears her parents fighting about how they shouldn't have had her one day, and so she decides to run away from home. She also chooses the worst storm to do it in. I don't have to tell you, smart readers, that Jessica saves the day and finds her before she falls to her perilous death. Taryn had also been sick with a horrible fever, so she and Jessica and the police and the OTHER nanny immediately rush to the hospital.

Liz can't because she's on a date with Mr. Hannah Montana himself. She also finds out that Gilbraith is really Sargent because Frankie LaSalle, the crazed psychostalker, has come after Sargent in Malibu. The whole fight (knives flashing!) takes about two pages before the cops intervene. Wow! I'm impressed. The cops in SV never arrive, and if they do they are stupid and woefully incompetent. Essentially Jamie Galbraith/Tony Sargent needs seven stitches after the fight, so Liz and Tony join Jessica and Taryn and her family in the hospital. Jess has made such an impression on Taryn that she keeps calling out for her underneath her fever. Jess tells Taryn's mom about the Wicked Little Girl stories and so Audrey (Taryn's mom) uses one to tell Taryn how wicked she and Taryn's father, Malcolm, have been to her. Luckily this breaks Taryn's fever. I totally got teary-eyed at this part. I really liked Taryn in a way I never connected with any other SVH character. I had a fear that their whole fractured family situation would wrap up too quickly, and I suppose it did a little... but I felt an open-endedness that you don't usually get with 30 minute comedies or SVH books. I felt like they weren't trying to tell us that the Wakefields could completely solve every family situation.

In the end Liz knows she can't be with Tony, but they go to his concert anyway and he dedicates a song to her called "Summer Girl." I remember one by LFO with the same name that was just as cheesy. Some things, it seems, never change. "I like girls that wear Abercrombie and Fitch..." Btw, the lead singer of LFO passed some years ago. How depressing is that?

All in all this was superb Wakefield summer novel. A little too much typical Wakefield at the beginning, but then it got where I didn't want to smack either of them in the face. I suspect that's mostly because this is the first one I've picked up to read in quite some time. I don't think I'll be quite so forgiving of all the others (I have some SVU and Sr. Year to review for you guys as well). Of course, since I haven't done too much snarking this time around, I'd be remiss if I didn't give you all a taste of some direct quotes from this book. Behold:

"And his voice! 'You're On My Mind' made shivers run up and down Jessica's back. When he sang the lines 'But, baby, still I find/ That you're on my mind,' Jessica felt like crying. His voice really got to her."

Yes, pop music gets to me as well. When Ke\$ha sings "Tik tok / on the clock / but the party don't stop," I feel like hyperventilating because I've never heard anything so BRILLIANT, you know?!

"Elizabeth needn't have worried. Lucy and John\* Sargent were two of the nicest, most easygoing people she'd ever met. She was in her late twenties, and he was about thirty\*, but they both seemed years younger."

\*It's JOSH Sargent, not John. That's a huge typo! Omg.

\*What's the difference between being in your "late twenties" and "almost thirty"?

And, finally, they looked years younger? So, in other words, we all look extremely old by the age of thirty? Wth? Is Liz saying that they look like teen parents? That's extremely creepy. Extremely.

"Jessica pulled the Fiat up to the address listed on the agency card. Her worse\* fears were confirmed. 'This can't be it,' she whispered, staring in dismay at the tiny ranch house. It was so small!"

\*Wow, I didn't realize how many typos there were in this upon first reading. It's WORST fears, not worse. Things GET worse, but you don't have worse fears.

Anyway, right after this Jessica gets out of the car and takes what she imagines to be a "noble breath," and I rolled my eye straight back in the skull. How is it possible that every house Jessica sees that isn't a mansion or Spanish-tiled and split-level is somehow "too small"?

Until next time...

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

2.5 stars

You should have seen my face expression when I found this series in a used bookstore. Sure, it's for the young adult crowd, but I remembered reading these when I was younger and just had to walk down memory lane....again. You guys must think I'm a complete sentimental nut. Most people don't care about getting the books back that they read when they were that young, but alas, I'm never normal.

Once I jumped in...err, well. My enthusiasm flattened. The material was younger than I remembered, for one thing. I can read Pike with ease and still think many of his books are adultish, and R.L Stine pushes it at times but still tells a great little tale, but this...too young. The bigger stinker of the thing was (Hey, I read Judy Blume too remember?), that the plot just isn't good. I don't care what age level it's meant for, the realism is too anorexic. I read a few other reviews before penning this one, and found some feel the same and cite other stories as more defined. It's too much that one sister falls in love with a rock star (who no one recognizes). The unbelievability probably failed to move when I was wetter behind the ears, too.

Character wise, it's decent. Jessica and Elizabeth are always perfect opposites of each other, both endearing in their own ways. Things are too dramatic for the most part with them, but I can see why young adults would be drawn to the females. It is frustrating never to see what developed with Jessica's friends younger guy, but I suppose the moral of that sub-story was summed up. Still there is something undeniably attractive about reading a story about two girls so popular, outgoing, with everything at their fingertips.

For young teens it's worth a try but nothing they should savor much. I'd gear them toward other books in the series or other authors first. The writing style is thankfully pleasant, if not catering to the Valley Girl exclamation mark style. When suspense is there for this type of book, it was done well. I did feel a small heart squeeze at the end, so emotions are stronger than you'd think. Even if I didn't find myself enjoying this one at this age, I'm still glad I became reaquainted.

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### **Jodie says**

Long before Sarah Dessen wrote girly books, Francine Pascal perfected them. Such a great part of my childhood....

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### **jenn says**

This one has a psycho killer. You know, for a change.

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**anolinde says**

[he's actually only a year older, BUT he's secretly a famous rock star (he dyed his hair) who's on the run from a member of the mob named Franke LaSalle. (hide spoiler)]

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