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More than she can handle...

Jessica Wakefield can't wait for the school fair - until she gets stuck in charge of the water-balloon booth. Who wants to be drenched by every kid at Sweet Valley Middle School? So when her twin sister, Elizabeth, is offered a baby-sitting job that day, Jessica sees the perfect opportunity to steal the job away and stick her sister with the water-balloon booth.

But Jessica's plan backfires. The kids she baby-sits turn out to be real monsters. The minute their parents leave, they begin tearing up the house - and her! Jessica needs help fast. But will Elizabeth feel too betrayed and too wet to come to her sister's aid?

Jessica and the Brat Attack Details

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From Reader Review Jessica and the Brat Attack for online ebook

kylajaclyn says

Well, folks, here we are: my last book of 2013!

The sixth grade fair is coming up, and both twins are excited to be a part of it. Liz is just helping with posters, while Jessica wants to run a booth. Naturally, she won't take ANY booth. Jessica was made to be a fortune-teller (i.e. someone who spits out lies for a living - perfect!), and she wants the Wheel of Fortune booth (clever name, eh?). Unfortunately for Jessica, booth assignments are chosen randomly out of a hat. Caroline goes first and gets the Wheel of Fortune booth. Lila gets the bottle toss. Jessica draws third or fourth and ends up with the water balloon booth, the one notoriously known for being the worst booth in the fair. Being both mean and green, Jessica is a Wicked Witch who can't stand the thought of being drenched with water balloons all day (and she likes the beach why? oh, right, she doesn't swim, she just tans!). Meanwhile, Liz takes over a babysitting job of Amy's so that Amy can enjoy the fair. Mrs. Sampson's kids are known monsters, but Liz needs the money to buy birthday presents. While Liz is out and Jess is moping about the current state of her life, Mrs. Sampson calls to relay information about the baby-sitting gig. Jess writes down the particulars. But as soon as she hangs up she realizes that baby-sitting is the EASIEST gig in the world, and in order to beat Lila at life she will need that \$70! So she calls Mrs. Sampson back and tells her that Liz is busy that day but that she is free. Now she has to find someone who doesn't melt under water to take her job at her booth.

Jessica not-so-innocently tells Julie Porter, the organizer of the fair, that Liz is free that day. Julie asks Liz to take over the booth at lunch, where there was no sign of Liz's backbone to be found. Liz goes to the fair but coos over the fact that Amy told her the Sampson kids are monsters. Liz manages to avoid getting wet the first half of the day. She even has fun! Jessica, meanwhile, calls Liz twice groveling for her help. Lila has brought her cordless phone to the fair as a convenient plot device, you see. Otherwise, Jessica would have to get herself out of her own mess. Liz gets bad at ducking halfway through the day and ends up soaked - only to realize that in the Sweet Valley heat, it doesn't feel so bad. Well!

Jessica meets the ruthless bitch named karma at the Sampson house. At first she just has two of the kids. Then the other two come home, and she ends up sitting for FOUR kids. They steal the key to the forbidden living room. They kick and fight each other. They watercolor the walls and break vases of flowers. Jessica corrals them all under the sprinklers outside only to have everyone complain that they are hungry. Jessica ruins lunch and has to soothe the youngest as he vomits into the toilet after eating too much ice cream. At this point, Jessica is ready to give up. But, she has a twin, so she doesn't have to! On the third try Liz realizes that with four kids home, Jessica isn't exaggerating her troubles (for once). She asks Jessica exactly what she is wearing and tells her that she will be over there as soon as she can.

Jessica wouldn't know a good idea if it punched her in the face, so obviously she has no idea what Liz is up to. Liz comes over and tells Jess that all she has to do is get everyone outside and then when they start misbehaving she has to threaten them that she is going inside. The only catch is that she has to yell where she is going loud enough for Liz to hear. Jess thinks Liz has gone off the deep end, but she does what she's told. Jess threatens the children and says she is going inside to the living room and that she wants to be left alone. The kids immediately try to beat her there, but they can't since Liz is already in the living room. She and Jessica keep up this charade for about twenty minutes until the kids believe that Jessica is a baby-sitter with magic powers (ha! ha!). Liz later sneaks off, and the rest of Jessica's day is a breeze. Only, she can't read her latest copy of *Ingenue* magazine because the littlest girl tore it up. *Snort* Jess uses her "magical" powers to

make the kids clean up the house. When the Sampsons come home they give Jessica a \$10 tip, making her haul \$80 dollars for the day (what is it with these books and \$80?). Jessica goes home to tan by the pool and crow about her awesomeness (oh, really, Peter Pan?). Oh, the cleverness of her! Of course Liz walks out on the patio to hear all this gloating and gets peeved at Jess all over again. This time, though, she gets even (and keeps \$30 of Jessica's money). Lila, who was saddled with the balloon booth while Liz helped Jess, is especially eager for sweet revenge. They stage a mock fair the next day where they all try to hit Jessica with a water balloon. Only Liz succeeds.

I don't know what all the hullabaloo about hating water balloons in a naturally hot climate is about. Water balloons were one of my favorite things as a kid.

Alternate Title?: "Jessica, the Middle-School Brat"

Tagline: "Jessica meets her match when she takes up baby-sitting!" (Except Jessica would never take up baby-sitting willingly, duh.)

On a Scale of 1-10, How Annoying is Elizabeth?? 3

On a Scale of 1-10, How Sociopathic is Jessica? 8. She steals Liz's baby-sitting job, saddles Liz with the worst job at the fair, and takes all the credit with her family when it's Liz who saved the day.

The Big Deal: Sixth-Grade school fair

Lingering Questions: Yes, why are there no child psychiatrists around Sweet Valley to diagnose Jessica?

Cover: Good or Bad?: Jessica looks like the Cheshire Cat, and I think this was intentional.

Quotes from the Book: "Caroline crowded behind to get a look. 'She got the water-balloon throw!' she exclaimed. Jessica looked as if she had just found out the world was coming to an end."

Can you imagine if a real zombie ever approached her? In fact, I think it's the only creature never to be in the books. That could be why she was so unfazed when she made out with a vampire later on.

"What could she say? It was clear Jessica had maneuvered the whole thing so that she had no choice." Wouldn't it be nice if the word "no" came hopping across the lunch table right about now?

"It was unbelievable peer pressure. You should've seen the looks that Ellen and Lila were giving me! I had to come up with someone!"

Imagine if she ever got offered heroin or molly...

"She'd brought a backpack stuffed with the latest issue of *Ingenue* magazine, a couple of paperbacks, and even some homework."

Jessica, reading books and doing homework? Not on your life.

"Maybe she should have let Elizabeth baby-sit after all. It had never occurred to Jessica that you could duck and avoid getting hit."

Wow.

"Jessica looked at the microwave and frowned. She couldn't remember now what Mrs. Sampson had said about it. Does she set it on high or low?"

I'm going to tell you what I tell my fiancé, Jessica: Always start low and work high.

"Susan wiped away the last tears. 'We promise,' she said, her eyes shining. 'We've never had a magic baby-sitter before.'"

Aw, this is so cute.

Moral of the Story: It's more of a conclusion than a moral: Jessica will melt like the witch she is if she gets pelted with more than one water balloon.

Final Rating: Two stars. Jessica makes me nauseous.

Cws says

JAR4-Pas

TRACE says

In this one, Jessica forces Elizabeth to trade places with her and ends up in a worse spot than she was at to begin with. Wild! To our surprise, she ends up having to call Elizabeth for help, again! Elizabeth, when you about to stop putting up with ha shit??

Jodie says

I enjoyed the stories in each of these books. The characters were always so vivid. I loved them.

Alex says

Another cute one. And I laughed way too hard at "Do you have a microwave at home?" This was published in 1989, not 1969!

Samantha says

I was a pretty good. I give it 3 stars
