



Jessi's Wish

Ann M. Martin

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When Jessi volunteers to help supervise the Kids Can Do Anything Club, she meets nine-year-old Danielle. Danielle has a beautiful smile and a great sense of humor. And she has cancer.

Jessi has never met anyone like Danielle before. Even though she's very sick, Danielle is courageous and hopeful. She even has two wishes. The first is to go to Disney World. The second is to graduate from elementary school. Jessi knows she has to be strong for Danielle, and so she makes a very special wish of her own.

Jessi's Wish Details

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From Reader Review Jessi's Wish for online ebook

Kate says

This was another Very Special Episode wherein Jessi baby-sits for a little girl with cancer and helps her deal with being bald.

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!

Samantha says

I actually don't remember this book from when I was a kid. It's possible I forgot about it, or maybe I didn't read it. Jessi books used to bore me, so it's very possible I skipped this. Not LIKELY, but still a possibility just the same.

This one was actually sort of sad, but also a little bit refreshing. At no point did they attempt to sugarcoat Danielle's cancer diagnosis, and the ending was not the usual happy ever after BSC crap we tend to get. It was nice to see that they were perhaps trying to help kids understand that cancer is a serious thing, and that sometime people don't just get well and stay that way. So, kudos for that at least.

So92 says

Questo è stato il primo volume che ho letto della serie del Club delle Baby Sitter, una collana che mi ha fatto compagnia per molte estati della mia infanzia. Si tratta di una storia piuttosto semplice in se' e per se': quattro ragazzine delle scuole medie decidono di fondare un club allo scopo di mettere a disposizione delle famiglie della loro città un servizio di baby sitting a pagamento, in modo da rendersi utili, guadagnarsi qualcosa con cui integrare la magra paghetta e soprattutto aiutare le famiglie in difficoltà. L'intera serie si basa sulle avventure e vicissitudini delle protagoniste, amiche per la pelle ma disposte ad accogliere nel loro club anche nuovi elementi che diverranno parte integrante della solida amicizia che le lega. Ogni libro è narrato dal punto di vista di una delle ragazze, facilmente identificabile dal titolo; i miei preferiti erano quelli in cui la voce narrante apparteneva a Claudia o a Dawn, anche se non so dire il perché. I volumi, coloratissimi e adatti

a un pubblico estremamente giovane - benché privi di figure - si trovavano soprattutto in edicola, e nei miei ricordi di ragazzina erano letture piacevoli e anche abbastanza diversificate, vuoi per la presenza di protagonisti diverse (7 in tutto), vuoi perché alcuni erano più incentrati sulla scuola, altri sullo sport, altri sui problemi familiari, altri ancora su un progetto da realizzare o su un mistero da risolvere. Non avendo mai letto nulla dell'altra serie per giovani lettrici che andava alla grande in quegli anni - Le Ragazzine - non so dire se questi libri fossero meglio o no; stando alla mia personale esperienza li consiglio comunque come letture per bambini perché a me avevano dato molto. E ancora adesso se trovo qualche volume che non possiedo spesso cedo alla tentazione e lo compro, si tratta sempre di piacevoli letture stuzzichino da intervallare a testi più pesanti e che mi riportano piacevolmente di una decina di anni indietro nel tempo.

Nancy says

In which Jessi volunteers to help run the Kids Can Do Anything Club and meets Danielle, who has cancer.

Ciara says

i like jessi, but her books are such a yawn. this is the one where jessi introduces the kids can do anything club, the after-school volunteer club that her little sister becca joined. the kids do things like stage toy drives for kids in the hospital, make up food baskets for the old folks' home, etc etc. becca is really into the club, but the second teacher assistant that runs it has decided to go away on a long trip with her husband (during the school year? huh?) & the first teacher assistant can't find a replacement & doesn't think he can handle running the club on his own.

so jessi decides to volunteer her services while the teacher is away. this inspires the other members of the babysitters club to put sitting on hold for a month & explore volunteer opportunities. stacey volunteers to counsel kids who have been given a diabetes diagnosis at a new clinic in town. kristy volunteers at the day care program that david michael used to attend. dawn volunteers at a special needs school for disabled kids in stamford. claudia volunteers with an after-school art program for seven-year-olds. apparently mary anne & mallory's volunteer choices were too boring for me to remember. the whole book is really boring, honestly.

also, question about david michael & child care: as the series progresses, the babysitters club's genesis story keeps changing. the claim now is that one of the older kids was responsible for looking after david michael after school before mrs. thomas got home from work, but sometimes they were all busy & mrs. thomas would have to spend a lot of time calling around to find another sitter. but in book #1, mrs. thomas actually has a regular sitter for david michael everyday--an adult. one day, something comes up for this sitter & mrs. thomas asks the older kids if they can take over, just once, but they're all busy. so mrs. thomas starts making calls, & kristy thinks up the babysitters club. somehow this adult sitter has been written out of the story. & this is the first time that we ever hear about david michael being in day care at any point. i guess that was less a question than an observation.

anyway, when jessi starts working with the kids can do anything club, the kids have just finished up their toy drive & have received a stack of thankful letters from child patients. including their classmate, danielle, who has been in the hospital for a long time, in treatment for leukemia. the good news is that she's healthy enough to come back to school & re-join the club. but becca is still freaked out by the idea of a kid getting that sick. jessi is kind of freaked out by it too.

when danielle rejoins the club, she tires easily & is bald from chemo treatments. at first, the other kids are kind of scared of her. she handles it amazingly gracefully for a child...or even an adult. she lets them ask questions & calms them down. kind of fucked up that it's the cancer patient making everyone else feel better, but...lets roll with it. becca & charlotte become fast friends with danielle & everyone is happy she's out of the hospital. danielle tells jessi that she harbors a dream of going to disneyworld & graduating from the fifth grade.

jessi tells the other sitters about danielle's wishes, & mary anne tells her about an organization called your wish is my command, which grants the wishes of sick children. this is clearly patterned on the make-a-wish foundation, & i think it's weird that they maybe didn't let scholastic just use their real name. anyway, jessi puts your wish is my command in touch with danielle's mom, & danielle's wish of going to disneyworld is granted. jessi is pleased for the whole family, because it seems like they could really use a vacation. because it's such a vacation to escort two little kids to disneyworld, amirite? i guess it'll be fun for the kids.

but shortly after danielle gets home from disneyworld, she gets sick again & has to go back to the hospital. becca & charlotte are really worried, & jessi is sad. she hopes danielle will get better soon. & that's how the book ends. which is kind of refreshing. it's nice that ann didn't try to sugarcoat that shit for her child readers & have danielle get all better. but it was still...a little anti-climactic, i guess?

Rylee says

This is a good book. I like it but it is not one of my favorites.

Amanda says

3.5 Stars for me. It was a great book but seemed to lack a lot of the strong BSC book traits. It is also open ended so you don't have a satisfying ending that ties up all loose ends. Overall I really enjoyed this book, just wish there was a little more to it to really make it feel like a complete read.

kb says

Still a heartbreakin read even after all this time. While it would be ideal if we could discover the cure to cancer already, my prayer is that everybody just gets to lead the happy, well-lived life we all deserve. (This book, by the way, is open-ended, and I hope Danielle is okay wherever she is :))

I loved the BSC growing up, and have decided to re-read (or read for the first time) some of the books in the series. Which of the members are you? :)

Shira says

this is my first time reading this book!

in this installment of abc afterschool special, jessi suggests to the bsc that they take a month off from babysitting to volunteer. don't ask me how kristy lets that happen, but she does, so they do. jessi's volunteer work is to help out with the kids can do anything club, an afterschool club that becca belongs to devoted to doing small acts of kindness (sending care packages to the elderly, yadda yadda yadda). one of the kids in that club is danielle roberts, a walking cancer-patient-in-fiction archetype (never gives up on herself, inspires everyone, just wants to run around like the other kids, etc). jessi connects her with the "your wish is my command foundation" who send her and her family to disneyworld. f'real.

highlights:

-a kid at the day care where she volunteers asks kristy how to spell leonardo and donatello. when she asks if he's writing about his favorite artists, he says, "I'm writing about my heroes, the teenage mutant ninja turtles."

-danielle's parents are named faye and ray:

-claudia, in her volunteer work as an art teacher, outsmarts karen brewer. karen has tried to convince all the kids that her sculpture is coming alive, and claudia says they won't be able to stick it in the oven because it would be inhumane. BOOM. out-karen'd.

-I kept thinking about how much augustus makes fun of hazel for having spent her wish on the disneyworld trip in The Fault in Our Stars. seriously, I don't want to insult terminally ill kids, but is there really nothing more exciting you can think of than a trip to DISNEYWORLD? come, now.

-dawn volunteers at a center for kids with developmental disabilities. one of them, kendra (who has cerebral palsy) writes en essay called "why I hate tomatoes" because her mom ate her eat a tomato the previous night. I chuckled. such a perfect little kid snippet.

lowlights/nitpicks:

-in general, it's kind of implausible that they could take a month off from baby-sitting (they still sit some, but shannon and logan do the bulk of it). this is seven kids' worth of sitting jobs, many of which happen simultaneously. do shannon and logan quit school for the month and baby-sit 24-hours a day?

-jessi's narration of "the pikes won't even let mallory get a nose job." as though getting a nose job is a totally routine, reasonable thing for an 11-year-old to get.

-danielle never stops wearing the bald is beautiful shirt. it's like, we get it. you're SO inspirational.

-danielle, becca, and charlotte wear war paint at some point. enough! does there have to be a racist playing cowboys and indians scene in every book? on the bright side, they put the war paint on all of their barbies too, which is almost cute.

-they say charlotte and becca are both in third grade. char should be in fourth grade, since she skipped a grade. she is in the same grade as vanessa pike, which they say is not true in this book. inconsistency! agh!

-as danielle's hair starts to grow back in one of the kids in the kids can do anything club asks to style it. based on the fact that she had zero hair the previous month, there is no way she has anything beyond a buzz cut, which can't be styled. I don't buy it.

volunteer roles:

-jessi: kids can do anything club, is emotionally moved by danielle

-kristy: day care, prefers babies to older kids

-stacey: emotional support to recently diagnosed kids with diabetes, models the struggle she had for a kid who refuses to stick to her diet

-mary anne: cares for a brain damaged kid

-claudia: art class (karen brewer's sculpture comes alive)

-mallory: playground -- no details at all

-dawn: center kids with physical disabilities (the examples we see are cerebral palsy and muscular

dystrophy)

jackie disaster:
-squeezes the clay in art class and it shoots out of his hands

no outfits. no snacks in claudia's room.

lisa says

Jessi volunteers to help out with Becca's Kid's Club that helps people in need and meets Danielle, a little girl who's fighting leukemia. In a completely bizarre move Kristy orders, I mean suggests that the other club members take a month to volunteer with other organizations in town.

Things I remember from reading this as a kid:

Not much. I only remember two things clearly: that Danielle lost her hair to chemo, and that when it grew back it was a different color and texture, which fascinated me to no end; and that her brother throws a tantrum because he's not getting any attention and screams that he wishes he had cancer too.

Things I've considered since reading this as an adult:

This book feels uncomfortably like a message. It Is Good to Volunteer. So everyone takes a month off baby sitting, even though in the book previous to this one, Mallory on Strike, it was a big deal that she take two weeks off to do a separate project. What the hell, BSC? And then Kristy says it OK to have people show up to the meetings whenever they can make it? And everyone's super psyched about volunteering? This whole premise is ridiculous. The one thing that makes it realistic though is that these teens and preteens will volunteer at random places for a month, get bored and quit, and then make themselves feel good for years to come by saying that they volunteered to help poor and sick children. They'll get to put it on their college applications! Sounds like every teen volunteer I know.

Jessi finds out about the Your Wish is My Command organization (I guess the Make A Wish foundation didn't want their name attached to this book? but it's free advertising!) and is very proud of herself for letting the Roberts know about it. I would think that parents that have been dealing with their daughter's cancer would already have been told about this. Also, when I was a kid I knew all about the Make A Wish foundation. Why does Jessi act like it's some special secret?

I couldn't quite figure out the point of the Kid's Club. Maybe to help kids be aware of the potential needs of others? They seem to do a lot of random projects that have good intentions behind it, but that are kind of useless. (Making wreaths to put on people's doors? Making popcorn for people who live in a nursing home?) Are they actually asking the community what it needs, or are they just assuming they know what they need, and are going to be insulted when their gifts aren't accepted with open arms. People really need to get in touch with the organizations they want to help to find out what they need before just thinking they know best. Unfortunately, most people want to be able to donate tangible things like toys and food, or volunteer around their schedules while most organizations have no use for more toys and food, but really, desperately need monetary donations, and volunteers who can work a graveyard shift.

On the whole this book was pretty boring, but it did have some good things about it. First it explains a little

tiny bit about cancer and chemo, but it doesn't go into a deep lesson about it, which I appreciated both as a kid and as adult. Cancer can be so complicated, and its symptoms and causes and treatments vary so widely from one person to another that it would be impossible to summarize even one person's experience with it. It's enough to know that Danielle has it and that the treatment seems to be working, but that could change (and does change at the end of the book). It's also enough to know that Danielle still can't be as active as she wishes she could be without going into a long list of chemo's aftereffects. Her exhaustion after an afternoon of playing, and her frustration over that exhaustion is well done; worrisome, but not over the top. When Danielle goes back into the hospital at the end of the book Becca and Charlotte are stunned and devastated. They can't believe someone they know and like so much could be so sick. Welcome to the world of cancer, girls. It really really sucks. At the very end of the book Danielle writes Jessi that she is "very hopeful" about the future, and for once, this sentiment does not sound sappy or overused. It sounds like the hope of a little girl who wants to someday be completely well.

When Danielle comes over to play she and Charlotte and Becca put on "war paint" and call themselves "Indian warriors" and then scream and run around and terrorize their Barbies. I hadn't realized how offensive these books were until I reread them as an adult, and I'm glad I didn't notice as a kid because it would have ruined the series for me. Just for this scene I am giving this book one star.

Jenn says

Ugh, this is a "Very Special Episode" book. :P Jessi's sister, Becca, comes home from school upset one day because her volunteering group, Kids Can Do Anything, might break up. One of the teacher volunteers is leaving for an extended amount of time and the other teacher can't find anyone else to help out. Jessi thinks this is rotten, because Becca really loves the group, so she decides to volunteer for the group. And then she brings it up at the next BSC meeting and suggests that all the members spend some time volunteering. Surprisingly, Kristy agrees with this, even though it isn't earning her any money. And amazingly, there are no emergency baby-sitting jobs that come up. So they all have time to volunteer for like a month.

We don't get a lot of story about the other sitters' gigs, unfortunately, because some of them could be pretty interesting. And wow, are there a lot of volunteering opportunities in the area for 11-14 year old girls! Kristy helps out at a day-care center that David Michael used to go to (which contradicts their original story, I believe?); Dawn helps some physically disabled kids; Stacey counsels kids who are newly diagnosed with diabetes; Claudia helps with an art class (way to get out of your comfort zone, Claud); Mary Anne is helping (baby-sitting) a boy who is mentally disabled; and Mallory volunteers at a recreational program at a park. We get to see a little bit of everyone's story except Mary Anne and Mal, which is kind of odd.

But the main focus is on Jessi, of course, and her time at the Kids Club. The kids have recently gathered and donated toys to the local children's hospital and they receive letters from the patients, thanking them and such. One of the letters is from a girl named Danielle, who used to go to their school and has leukemia. (Here comes the "Very Special Episode" part.) Danielle is getting better and will be released from the hospital soon and probably joining the Kids Club again. Most of the kids are a little stunned that one of their own is sick and don't really know how to process it at first. When she shows back up at school, the kids are all a little shy around her for awhile but Becca & Charlotte actually befriend her and the 3 girls start hanging out together outside of school and become good friends.

At an informal BSC meeting in Dawn & Mary Anne's barn, Jessi tells them all about Danielle and how she only has 2 wishes: to go to Disney World and to graduate from elementary school. Excuse me, I seem to

have something in my eye. *sniff* Let's take it down a notch on the drama train for a minute, okay? Here's a funny little passage from Miss City Girl, Stacey McGill followed by a totally made-up, totally dibbly, What Claudia Would Be Wearing This Summer. :)

[Stacey] *climbed into the loft and stretched out flat on her back. "This is the life," she said with a sigh. "I think I was meant to be a country girl."*

"You mean, life without Bloomingdale's?" asked Claud.

"Oh. No. What was I thinking? I'm not a country girl at all. My mistake."

Okay, back to the serious. Mary Anne tells Jessi about a program called "Your Wish is My Command" (essentially Make-a-Wish Foundation...I guess they couldn't use it, which is odd since there's a blurb in the back of the book about it) that helps sick kids get their wishes. Jessi calls them up and asks all sorts of questions and tells them all about Danielle and they tell her to have the parents call. They do and surprise! They get Danielle on the list right away and she gets her trip to Disney within, like, 2 weeks! Oh BSC-Land, you are so naive. After Danielle gets back from her trip, she gets sick again and has to go back to the hospital. Becca & Charlotte are totally distraught, of course, and scared for her. And dang, I have something in my eye again. This book is really emotional. And it doesn't end with Danielle getting better either, she's still in the hospital at the end. I wonder if we'll get a mention of her again later? Okay, I have to go hug my cat now. ;)

Read my full review at Give a Hoot Read a Book! Includes 3 outfits Claudia should be wearing this summer! :)

Logan Hughes says

Jessi volunteers to fill in for one of the two teachers who runs the "Kids Can Do Anything" club at her sister Becca's elementary school so Becca won't have to go two months without improving their community. She's just in time to witness the return of Danielle Roberts, a club member who took a leave of absence when she spent most of the year in the hospital with leukemia. Jessi thinks a lot about Danielle as she and Becca become friends, and she gets in touch with Danielle's parents after finding out about the Your Wish is My Command (i.e. Make-A-Wish) foundation which, by the end of the book, sends Danielle and her family to Disney World.

Jessi also convinces the rest of the club to try volunteer jobs, a proposal which Kristy is surprisingly OK with despite the time it takes from her employees. Stacey answers questions for kids newly diagnosed with diabetes; Claudia helps with a kids' art class; Kristy works at a day-care center because of her special connection to working moms; Mallory works at free afterschool camp; Mary Anne works with a brain-damaged boy; Dawn works with kids who have muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis because somebody has to. (What, not cleaning up litter?) It's all wonderful and fulfilling and we never hear about it again.

Not much really happens in this book, and the character of Danielle is very poorly-rounded-out here (she gets better in Jessi and the Troublemaker). She is just a generic oh-so-brave, oh-so-special cancer kid. The general musings on life and death and mortality and hope are decent I guess, but the overwhelming sappiness can get hard to take. Still, I like that the book ends on a bit of a minor note, with Danielle in the hospital again after her return from Disney.

Read as a kid: Yes, I remember Danielle Roberts clearly, although maybe it was more from her second book since I remember her being better? Leukemia was one of the diseases I knew about because of children's books. I also read another book from the Troll catalogue from the POV of a girl who gets leukemia, and the first symptom is a lot of bruises. To this day, I assume I have leukemia if I have several bruises, and diabetes if I'm unusually thirsty because of Stacey's Emergency.

Lingering Questions: Why does Jessi think that Danielle's parents wouldn't have heard of Your Wish is My Command, and why is she right?

Nitpick: I know it's just to fit it into one book, but you would think that Kristy would insist that the girls do their community service in shifts so as not to disrupt the running of the club. Also, I find it hard to believe that they could all even FIND short-term gigs. In my limited experience (mostly being rejected), volunteer orgs are pretty hardass about insisting on a long-term, dependable time commitment.

Revised Timeline: October of junior year (ninth for Jessi). This is one of those cases where the revised timeline clears up some things. A high school kid filling in for an adult at a club for 8- to 10-year-olds makes more sense than an 11-year-old.

Joey says

I didn't enjoy this book quite as much as the others, maybe it was the storyline, the pace or maybe even Jessi herself I'm not certain but it just wasn't as fun or enjoyable as the others have been.

Jessi gets all the BSC into volunteering instead of babysitting as her sisters after school club was going to be shut down and she didn't want to let that happen so she volunteers there herself, while there she finds out and eventually meets a girl with Leukaemia and feels sorry for her and decides to focus on her and making wishes for her come true.

To me the way the authors wrote the illnesses within this book were so generic and didn't feel like they researched enough, such as the leukaemia and with dawns kids with cerebral palsy I just think they could have given better information and not just done what the generic versions of these conditions are.

So yeah I didn't overly enjoy this one it was okay but the others have all certainly been an awful lot better than this one.

Alex says

I forgot for a moment why I never liked to re-read this one, but I was quickly reminded as soon as I started. I'M NOT CRYING, YOU'RE CRYING!

Also, the brief mention of the kid with CF in the hospital always, ALWAYS, gets to me, as well as another kid wondering, "I wonder if you can get well from cystic fibrosis?"

Ugh, sorry, I have something in my eye again.

