



Sharing Susan

Eve Bunting

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Twelve-year-old Susan is shocked to find that she was switched with another baby in the hospital and that the parents who have raised her may have to give her up to her true biological parents.

Sharing Susan Details

Date : Published October 1st 1991 by HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN : 9780060216931

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Format : Hardcover 122 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Contemporary

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Lucy says

Susan's parents are fighting and talking in low voices, and Susan and her best friend Clemmie are convinced that something bad is going on. Susan thinks her parents are divorcing. Clemmie refers to it as The Big Worry.

The truth is far worse than divorce. Turns out that on the night Susan was born, there was a mixup at the hospital, and Susan is the biological daughter of different parents.

This book is hilarious because it's so old. The descriptions of clothes are fantastic—Susan dresses up in a cream dress with a lace collar and cream tights and shoes with bows on them, and feels really fancy. I love it.

The plot is a little stale. It's an exciting concept, but it doesn't go anywhere with it. Eh.

Issa says

I was 12 when I read this one, the whole conflict of Susan and this new found family was comforting somehow (8 years later I'd find that I had my own "Great Wondering" of sorts), Susan and Clemmie make a great duo and Jeremy is so adorable asking for allergies and jacuzzis.

The main trouble with this book for me, at 12 years old, was that I had to know what happened at the end, did Susan finally accepted that she had two sets of parents? Did Jeremy ever stopped fearing she'd call him Germy? What happened with Clemmie and Douglas?

Overall the book is fantastic, it's an easy reading and it kept me hooked the whole time, I must add that at 12 years old nothing that wasn't Harry Potter related kept my attention for more than 15 minutes. I do still hate the open end though.

Nattie says

I thought this would be good considering the subject matter, but it was somewhat of a dud. It did make me think about how I might handle a situation like the one The Moretti family and the Stobble family went through. I watch Switched at birth, but for some reason I doubt things play out like the storyline on that show, and those girls were nearly 16.

I think it's easy to imagine that anybody would want what is rightfully theirs, but to me, Susan belonged to each family in a different way. Obviously she was a Stobble biologically, but she was a Moretti in every other way that counts, but unfortunately, when a hospital mixes up babies, the life you have had since the mix-up doesn't count, only biology does. If the birth parents want you back, there is nothing the parents who have raised you can do. Is that wrong? I suppose I'm not sure one way or the other.

Sandra McLeod says

There were elements of the story I loved, especially the relationship between Susan and her best friend Clemmie, but I had difficulty identifying with the Stobbels. I had trouble believing they would really uproot Susan from the only home and family she has known for all of her twelve years, and I felt Susan's adjustment to her new family seemed a bit premature and unrealistic. Ms. Bunting tackled a difficult issue and her book is still a very good read and should provoke some great discussions.

Eli Schuster says

I read the first chapter or so in the hospital's waiting room.

Even in the circumstance that your baby and someone else's was switched at first, and then when your child (who is not really yours) is twelve dies, you have it investigated and find out she's not yours--would you go and find your real child and try to take her back? I think that's kind of terrible. I wouldn't...

Valery says

This book is about Susan going through the "issues" of being adopted and shared between two families, brothers and parenthood. I adore Susan. I have read this book like 6 or 7 times. Its cute and YOU should give it a try.

Mary Bronson says

I picked up this book because I wanted to read it for years and when my public library had it I decided to check it out. It was a short book so I was able to read it in about an hour. It was an interesting story line, but it did not seem to play out well. This book came out in 1991 so in today's standards it might be out dated. We now have a show called *Switched at Birth* and that seems more realistic than this book. I mean if this had a companion novel I would have given it a benefit of the doubt so that it can build up to a deeper story, but it didn't. As a stand alone it was too short to have anything. The characters were alright, but just did not seem realistic. I would like to see the story continue to show the transaction between Susan and both of the families. Just seemed to be a little forced and made me cringe at times when Susan met her real parents and little brother.

Sarah says

And 20 years later this storyline appeared in my Legal Research and Writing class...

Molly says

I first read this book when I was a tween when I was going through a phase of reading really intense and emotional books. I recently reread it for fun and it was pretty good, but some of the language is a bit dated now.

Holly Ristau says

This was a book in contention for the Maud Hart Lovelace book award during the 1995-6 school year. This was my response at that time: A young girl finds out she was switched at birth. I didn't think she was very realistic.

Connie says

I wouldn't be surprised if this was based on a true life story. It was an emotional rollercoaster ride for both parents and Susan's life was completely changed by the death of Marlene. I was glad to see that Susan eventually connected with Jeremy - children, at times, have an amazingly calming, non-confrontational effect on people.

For example, when a child stares at you, you might stare back, shrug your shoulders, and not think about it again. However, if an adult does the same thing, you mull it over in your head, wonder "What's up? Why are you looking at me?" It becomes a mind-game. (Those are fun books to read.) Ha ha

Anyway, I think this book would be helpful for someone who is struggling to let a new, currently unwanted, person into their life. It is perfectly normal and encouraged to let that child experience the shock, denial, defiance and finally the acceptance of someone new. I think this book could help children 10 yrs and up come to accept such life-changing circumstances.

Theresa says

I really didn't like this book. It made me angry. I'm not sure something like this could ever happen. I thought the story was hard to read. I can envision certain people who would definitely enjoy this type of story.

Beth says

Susan's life changes when she discovers she was switched at birth and will now be shared between her birth family and the family that raised her. Questions of identity and family are presented through a likeable protagonist and realistic scenarios.

Caity says

This book was amazing! I am SUPER disappointed that there is no sequel no movie, no nothing! I loved this book and all the characters. Once I met Tony, I figured it all out! Thanks for such a great book!

Maria says

I read this book at LEAST 5 times in middle school and I absolutely love the story.
