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Claudia and Stacey have been fighting over a boy. Now it's Claudia's chance to finally get him - and maybe save her friendship with Stacey.

Claudia Gets Her Guy Details

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From Reader Review Claudia Gets Her Guy for online ebook

Hannah says

*1.5

Selu says

I *loved* BSC as a kid so when I came across a book from the rebooted series for *FREE* at a book exchange table in my local coffee shop, I grabbed it (and left a book like a good person!), especially when I realized it would work for a book title challenge that I am working on this year.

Yes, it's YA (or maybe middle grade) and there is a rough semblance to the books I remember but it's *still* worse than I'd guessed (and I say this while taking into account that I am not the target audience). It's taken me days to finish this thing and I am still not quite sure what the story was supposed to be about—there's no main idea here. Claudia seems like a facsimile of how I remember her and the other BSC members barely get a mention. It's all very shallow, even more so I remembered. I won't be revisiting this reboot again.

Alex says

Once again, I find myself utterly confused by Jeremy. Seriously, what is this guy's deal? He dumps Stacey for Claudia, but then proceeds to ignore her until another guy shows interest, then gets mad at her for responding to that guy. His character just makes no sense, and I can't believe Stacey and Claudia actually stopped being friends for almost an entire school year over this guy.

I have such a soft spot for Alan Gray, though, so I always enjoyed this book. Plus, tomorrow is Valentines Day so it was perfect timing to read this one!

Jay says

Oh, Alan Gray. How my heart loves thee.

And oh, Claudia, who spells her name Caludia and spells madly maldy. Where would we be without you?

I am wondering, though, who would pair a Japanese family, who is struggling with English, with American Claudia who can't even pass third grade English. Speaking is one thing, but surely spelling would come into it at some point?

Ah, well. You go, Claudia Kishi. You get your guy. You tap dat ass.

Nicky says

I thought this book was actually quite sweet. It was nice to see Claudia find a guy who treated her right. It was also a relief to get some resolution over the Jeremy/Stacey/Claudia triangle.

I also enjoyed the subplot of Claudia teaching English to newly arrived Japanese immigrants and all of the tidbits about Japanese culture. There was nothing new to me but it was a nice touch.

This book certainly isn't going to go down as one of the great works of literature but it was an enjoyable little read for fans.

Logan Hughes says

Claudia hears that Stacey and Jeremy broke up and it's back on the train to Sweaty Palm Village. Although Jeremy gives her no more attention now than any hi-bye friend, Claudia decides to put it all on the line and ask him to the Valentine's dance. Shy, she writes him a note, telling him she's admired him for a long time; not wanting to risk misspelling Jeremy's name, she addresses it "To a good friend." She slips the note in Jeremy's locker, but Kristy reports that Jeremy didn't find it, and Claudia realizes she put it in the wrong locker: Alan Gray's! Kristy and Claudia enlist Cary Retlin to help them break into Alan's locker and retrieve the note, but by this time, the note is already gone.

Alan pulls Claudia aside and tells her he's touched that she saw beneath his goony prankster surface to the incredibly tender soul beneath, and of course he will go to the dance with her. He's so thrilled to have landed such a hottie that he begins showering her with presents, such as extravagant flowers and a romantic lunch date in an empty classroom. Claudia has never been attracted to Alan, but she is impressed by the presents. This turn of events has its downsides, though: the BSC, especially Kristy, are shocked and horrified that she's dating Alan; Jeremy's suddenly hurt that Claudia's showing interest in somebody else; and Cary Retlin talks to Claudia like a Dutch uncle, telling her not to break poor Alan's heart. At least Stacey and Claudia are back on good terms; back with Ethan, Stacey is no longer threatened by the daily prospect of losing fickle Jeremy, and of course she is perfectly happy to help Claudia go after Alan.

At the dance, Claudia actually has fun with Alan. Jeremy cuts in, and Claudia enjoys dancing with him, but it doesn't feel as good as she daydreamed it would. She realizes she'd rather spend time with Alan, because although he is still an unattractive jerk whose only redeeming feature is his wallet, Jeremy is a huge douche. I mean... romance!

In a subplot, Claudia volunteers to teach a Japanese immigrant family English. Erica works with her. We hear a little more about Erica's adoption-search plotline; I wonder if this was meant to be a longterm thing for a future book, had the Friends Forever series not been rightfully canned, or if it was just like, "Frig, gotta find something for freaking Erica to do. Uhhh.... what did we make up for her last time?"

This is basically the same plot a #113 Claudia Makes Up Her Mind, only in that one, both the cool-guy and dork love interests were well-drawn, compelling characters with positives and negatives, inviting the reader to have an opinion and to root for one or the other. In this book it seems clear that the only person the author cares less about than Jeremy is Alan.

At least Alan Gray is a longtime BSC fixture and gets plenty of hijinks in other books. I actually like the turn

of events of Claudia dating him and it could have been done really sexy with a little effort. But Alan is barely a character in this book. While he often gets background flavor stuff to do in other books where he's not even important, here, he's not even mentioned until chapter 4, when he's offhandily introduced in a parenthetical aside. It's both insulting to him and just odd storytelling. Cary Retlin, a minor player in this story, is introduced in the same paragraph and gets several sentences of description. Jeremy, meanwhile, gets plenty of screentime, but he's a giant zero of a human being.

Seriously, what is Jeremy's deal? He's taken up a massive amount of emotional space in both Claudia's and Stacey's books, but we still know nothing about him. All he does in this book is (1) be good-looking; (2) not talk to Claudia; and (3) get all huffy and snitty when Claudia shows interest in another guy, despite showing zero interest in her, having rejected her in the past, being five minutes out of a relationship with the girl he rejected her for, and otherwise having given every indication that she is at best friendzoned. I find it interesting that he doesn't show any interest in Claudia until after she's safely embroiled with Alan, suggesting that he never would have risked actually having to date her. He just seems to want credit for liking her. "Hi, Claudia, bye Claudia, hi Claudia, gotta run, Claudia, really got this thing I've got to get to Claudia, oh, you're with another guy? Darn... Missed my chance!" Does he feel bad that he didn't return her affections before, or does he just get off on being the unattainable object of desire?

Timing: It's Valentine's time again!

Revised Timeline: February of the third academic year post-grad. At least if time has passed it's conceivable that high school class clown Alan could have substantiatively changed. Also, become rich.

Nancy says

Book the Seventh: In which Caludia gets her guy, except it's not J-Man. So J-Man and Stace call it quits. CK is thrilled because she wants the J. So instead of just talking to him, she writes him a note inviting him to a dance, to slip into his locker. Typical middle school behavior! OMG! Being CK, she can't spell Jeremy, of course. So she doesn't put a name on it. Sigh. She could've put "J-Man" on there. Anywho, she puts it in the wrong locker and the adorable Alan Gray gets it and thinks it's for him. He accepts her invitation to the dance, even though it wasn't for him. AG starts acting super sweet. CK is all kinds of freaked out, because what will people think if she goes out with ALAN GRAY?!?! She still goes to the dance with him and has a great time. I love Alan Gray.

Sella Malin says

didn't like these books much.

Samantha says

Claudia and Alan Gray!!? I never knew I wanted this until I had it! Oh bless you, Friends Forever! You are giving me the BSC as I always dreamed that it would be: less baby-sitting, more drama, more insanity of the good variety!

Ciara says

jared is doing his taxes, so i am free to write descriptions for more ridiculous BSC "friends forever" books written for an audience approximately twenty years younger than myself. in this book, claudia learns that stacey & jeremy have split up, & claudia wonders if maybe they broke up because jeremy secretly has his heart set on her! a valentine's day dance is coming up, so claudia decides to take matters into her own hands & ardously writes jeremy a note, expressing her feelings & inviting him to the dance. pretty gutsy. i'd like to see the 13-year-old girl with the confidence to do something like that. she puts a ludicrous amount of effort into the note, writing it out on her computer first & running it through spellecheck & grammarcheck & then copying it out letter by letter on to nice stationery. she decides not to write his name because she doesn't know how to spell it. i don't know. i have always been good at spelling, so maybe i just can't relate to claudia's educational problems, but when i was a teenager (or even older) & i had a crush on someone, saying & spelling their name over & over was just something i did to amuse myself & bask in the crush. if i wasn't sure how to spell someone's name, i snooped around until i found out. it's not even like jeremy spells his name in some weird, unusual way. but of course, the note had to not have a name on it for events to unfold as they did. plot device!

after putting all this effort into getting the note just right, & after almost being late for school because of agonizing over the best "what to wear to school when i am leaving a note asking my crush to a dance" outfit, claudia fucks up the entire game by leaving the note in the wrong locker. sorry, i call shananigans. i was a 13-year-old girl once & if you manage to pluck up the courage at that age to write your crush a note, you are going to take every precaution to make sure the note does not fall into the wrong hands. no way are you just going to guess which locker belongs to your crush. if he is really your crush, there will be no doubt in your mind which locker is his anyway, trust me.

after claudia realizes her mistake, she & kristy draft <3 cary retlin <3 to jimmy open the locker & retrieve the note, but it's gone! oh no! & then they discover that the locker belongs to alan gray, gross-out kind of the eighth grade! claudia is certain that alan will find the note, guess it was for jeremy, & do something awful, like broadcast it over the morning announcements. exactly! this is why middle school girls don't take chances stuffing notes into random lockers.

instead, alan finds the note & thinks it's for HIM, because there's no name on it. he is very touched & accepts caludia's invitation to the dance. ruh roh! what will everyone say when claudia is on a date with alan gray? who the fuck knows? but alan is acting really nice & charming, bringing her burger king for lunch & complimenting her outfits. suddenly claudia's heart begins to race when she sees alan, & she isn't so interested in jeremy anymore. jeremy, however, is pissed. he's good friends with alan & thinks it was treacherous of claudia to go out with alan when she had to have known that jeremy was interested in her, & even broke up with stacey to go out with her. except...jeremy had MANY chances to ask claudia out & he never did. she wrote the note before he got around to it. so, i mean, it's his loss for dragging his feet & dating the wrong girl in the first place. he's a selfish jerk for acting like claudia should have KNOWN that jeremy was into her & waited around for him to ask her out. shut up, jeremy.

the sub-plot is all about claudia volunteering at the community center to help teach a new immigrant family english. see, this is what i mean when i complain about the idea that, "oh, claudia is so smart, she just doesn't apply herself." well, she's applying herself to teaching a family english, which can't be a walk in the park. that kind of volunteer activity surely takes more time, energy, & skills than doing your math homework. i

don't get why her parents let her do all this extra-curricular crap when she can't even hack pass middle school. whatever.
