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*Ann M. Martin*

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## **Mary Anne Misses Logan** Ann M. Martin

It was good for Mary Anne and Logan to break up for a while. Mary Anne had some time to herself, and she's been having lots of fun with her friends. But now Mary Anne can't help it. She misses Logan.

When she and Logan are both assigned to study their favorite author, Mary Anne thinks it will be the perfect, most romantic way for them to get back together. Until Cokie Mason, Mary Anne's mortal enemy, decides to steal Logan from her!

## **Mary Anne Misses Logan Details**

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# From Reader Review Mary Anne Misses Logan for online ebook

**Shira says**

**this is my first time reading this book!**

the 8th graders at SMS are getting assigned to grade-wide groups for a contemporary author project. mary anne ends up in a group with logan (whom she has just started pining for again) and cokie mason (who sort of gets character development in this book). logan and cokie start dating, which is really crappy of logan to do when they're all working together. cokie doesn't do any of the work and embarrasses herself when the project actually involves presenting to the author (who has come to the school for a visit). at the end mary anne and logan get back together. meanwhile, way too many chapters are devoted to a boring baby-sitting story introducing the kormans (who have moved into the delaneys old mansion) who think there is a monster in their toilet.

highlights:

-mary anne narrates that if dawn tells her one more time that carob is just as good as chocolate, she will make her take a taste test. LOVE IT. carob, while fine, is in no way as good as chocolate.

-skylar korman needs to get a lullaby to go to sleep, and her preferred song is "breakin' up is hard to do" by neil sedaka

-mary anne hypothesizes that mr. kingbridge (assistant principal) would, around royalty, speak like this: "whereas turnarounds our hallowed halls do seek for the greater imperious notions of sanctified nations. blither, blither, blither." I laughed out loud. mary anne isn't usually funny.

-it feels sort of thrown in as an afterthought in the last chapter, but at least it's addressed that mary anne isn't gonna be a pushover with logan anymore. I feel slightly better about them getting back together (though not as much better as I would have if she dated someone else in the meantime).

-the handling of being forced to be in a group with people who don't do any work is effective. I was so irritated at logan and cokie about this.

-the cover. this cover straight up has NOTHING to do with the book. I'm pretty sure the story is that hodge soileau had painted a postcard for the Postcard Book and they wanted to use that art to save money.

seriously, I kept waiting for the roller rink scene! but also I kind of love the idea of having a cover that has nothing to do with a book.

lowlights/nitpicks:

-when working on the project, mary anne waits to see what logan wants to drink (water) and then asks for it too: "I wanted whatever logan was having." barf.

-mary anne's revisionist history says that she took too long to consider things after taking a break, or logan took it the wrong way when she asked for the break, and that was why they broke up. no, remember how he assumed you guys were back together without asking? and you were justifiably angry, so you dumped him?

-dawn and kristy both say or imply that mary anne invented the toilet monster. lies! it was melody korman. also, if the kormans are rich enough to live in the delaneys old mansion, how is it that it takes them this long to get a plumber to examine the growling toilet?

-cokie is such an idiot when it comes to boys she likes. like, she refuses to listen to the other people in the group and keeps asking logan things only. I hate when girls are like this. ugh.

-logan dates cokie while they're in the group together. that's kind of crappy. at the end, he says the reason he dated cokie was because he missed mary anne and cokie kept wanting to hang out with him. mary anne, are you sure you want to get back with this jerk?

-mary anne manipulatively figures out cokie didn't read the book she said she did by saying the wrong title

and cokie not correcting her. this is crappy too. don't dance around it -- if you have a problem, talk about it. -kristy is so smug when she thinks she got rid of the toilet monster. in the notebook she says, "you have to really understand children, which I do." ugh.

-in the last chapter logan vaguely says he feels bad about using cokie. even though I hate her I almost feel bad for cokie in this book.

-also I'm confused, because it wasn't cokie who liked logan in the first place. her best friend, grace blume did, and cokie was just trying to help grace get him (in Mary Anne's Bad-Luck Mystery).

kristy cafeteria comment:

-"look. lookit that brown thing," she said pointing to a blob on claud's plate. "you know what that could be? it could be something that just, like, *fell into* the pot while the cooks were stirring..."

### **no outfits and no snacks in claudia's room**

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### **jacky says**

I read about 20-25 of these books. I read them in fifth and sixth grade. I strongly remember wanting to read these because they seemed cool and my older sister read a few of them. I remember that our library had a little display of them and I also bought a lot of them through the book catalogs we got at school. I remember most strongly the set up of the books; each book started explaining the club and describing each of the members. I also strongly remember the covers.

The cover of this book has stood in my mind for a long time; as silly as it sounds, it helped define friendship for me.

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### **Samantha says**

I was honestly pretty indifferent to this book as a kid, and I still sort of am now as an adult. I mean obviously Mary Anne had to get back with Logan, or she'd lose her "I'm the one with a steady boyfriend" trait. Or at least she will until the other girls (ie: Stacey) start to get more serious with boys omg.

I always did find the project part of this weird. Working in groups: normal. The entire grade working in groups on a class project: weird. I mean we did things as a whole class all the time, but never an assignment for a specific course like English. That always seemed super strange to me. Did schools really do that?! Because mine sure didn't.

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### **Shani says**

### **Closure**

For real, I was expecting and left wanting for closure on why Cokie didn't read the books and why her house was so out of step with her personality. I feel like a very special episode is forthcoming about rehabilitating Cokie.

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## **koza says**

Not the strongest plot, but oh, the snark in this one! This book contains my favorite thing Pete Black ever said: "Yes, that's always been my dream. To read aloud to Logan." Then Cokie calls him a "pea brain," but who cares what she thinks? As Mary Anne totally wonderfully recounts, Cokie is someone who "let it be known that at the age of ten she had read four Beatrix Potter books in just a week." Burrrr. Kristy would be proud.

There is also actual lasting character development in this one, for Pete and Logan, at least. Sorta. C'mon, you take what you can get.

I assume Hodges Soileau was also very disappointed that the roller rink scene was removed. In favor of what, Kormans?

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## **GraceWastheAnswer says**

Yay! Mary Anne and Logan are back together. \*buys book\* I liked this one.

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## **Rachel Brand says**

Despite the focus on Author Day, this is one of the more boring BSC books. Half of it focused on the Korman kids being afraid of the Toilet Monster, a sub-plot that I couldn't even vaguely connect with Mary Anne's desire to get back together with Logan. On the plus side, I could sympathise with her jealousy over Cokie flirting with Logan, and could totally understand her annoyance that Cokie didn't do any work on their English project. It was nice to see Pete featuring in this book, he's always a nice secondary character to have around. But most of the BSC girls barely featured in this plot, sadly. I'm not sure what it was, but this book just didn't interest me very much. I vividly remembered the Author Day incidents with Cokie, but rereading it was a bit of a let-down. 7/10

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## **Kate says**

A short 6 books and one major roller skating accident later, Mary Anne changes her mind about Logan. Who cares if he's a little controlling when he's so cute - and who doesn't love that Southern drawl?

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## **Logan Hughes says**

**Fear not: Mary Anne and Logan's long estrangement is at an end.**

Mary Anne is assigned to a group author research project with Pete Black and Logan. Cokie Mason, Mary

Anne's rival, worms her way into the group as a way of getting close to Logan, which actually seems to work; he agrees to go on dates with her. While Logan and Cokie spend their free time at games and concerts, Mary Anne and Pete feel it's up to them to do the work. Logan finally ditches Cokie and catches up on his part of the project, with Mary Anne's help. They bond.

The project gets a little unrealistically high-stakes when the kids find out at last minute that the authors they are researching will be visiting the school. (Although I do sort of like that there are so many details about fake author Megan Rinehart--most of the books mentioned in BSC books are real, and the way Megan Rinehart is mentioned alongside them, and the details of her fake oeuvre, make her seem realistic. You get a real sense of the kind of books she writes.) In the end, each group member except Cokie delivers a solid speech, and Logan asks Mary Anne out again.

I like Logan and Mary Anne getting back together, and I think their problem--basically that Mary Anne was too much of a wimp to state what she wanted--is the kind of thing that time apart can believably solve. But I would have liked the break-up to last more than five measly books! I remember it being longer, perhaps because I had to wait for a new allowance every time I wanted a new book, and I didn't necessarily read them in order. Looking back at them now, it would have been nice if there had been an intervening Mary Anne Stands Up For Things! book.

This is a fairly unsatisfying execution of an inherently satisfying plot advance. While there's a certain amount of yearning and excitement, I feel like more could have been done with the set-up. Neither Mary Anne nor Logan is particularly likeable or romantic. Cokie at least seems more interested in improving her own life than ruining Mary Anne's, for once, but she's just as much of a ridiculous caricature as ever (airhead variety). The babysitting subplot in which Bill and Melody Korman (new kids who moved into the Delaney house) become afraid of an imaginary Toilet Monster is thoroughly meh.

**Cover Art Oddity:** For all their shortcomings in depicting accurate proportions and physics (the spilling liquid on the cover of Stacey's Emergency is an embarrassment), the cover oil paintings for BSC books tend to be true and accurate to the content of a particular scene in the story, with outfit details and so forth generally correct. This is the one of the very few books where the cover art depicts a scene which isn't even in the book: Mary Anne and the other senior BSC-ers rollerskating. Weird.

**Revised Timeline:** *This is where I figure out how old the baby-sitters would be if they aged.* September of eleventh grade

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## Amanda says

This book is about Mary Anne and Logan. Relationships are always tough, especially when going back and forth. I love how Mary Anne is portrayed. She takes the time to think things through and very rarely acts impulsively. This book really captures her growth and I think girls of all ages could learn something from her. 5 Stars.

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## kb says

Ahhh, first love. I knew this was coming—Logan and Mary Anne getting back together—and while I wanted

to cherish the idea of 'forever,' I would've wanted to see Mary Anne explore ~singlehood more.

*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? :)*

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## **Ciara says**

first of all, what the hell is going on with the cover? kristy, mary anne, stacey, & claudia are roller skating. mary anne has fallen down & the others are hauling her back on to her feet. stacey has a pocket wind machine that only impacts her hair, & mary anne is wearing truly questionable mom jeans. this scene does not take place in the book. nothing even casually related to this scene takes place in the book. WTF?

what does happen in the book is that mary anne thinks about how much she misses logan. you may recall that they broke up a few books ago because logan was always bossing mary anne around, wanting her to skip babysitting jobs & other commitments to hang out with him. things have devolved to the point where mary anne & logan aren't even friends. they don't speak to each other at all. yet, mary anne misses him.

she is also very worried about an english assignment facing the entire eighth grade. the students will be split into groups of four or five & assigned a young adult author to study. they'll have to present a group paper. mary anne is really, really worried about who is going to be in her group. she's really shy & doesn't want to work with people she doesn't know or like. she prays that she'll be in a group with the other eighth grade members of the BSC, but we all know that ain't happening. she drives herself & the reader insane with her worrying.

mary anne is so the kind of person i wouldn't be able to stand in real life. one of my #1 pet peeves is when people panic & stress out (especially out loud) over things they can't control. (my #1 pet peeve is when people store pots & pans in the oven. i never think to check before pre-heating.) dawn tries to explain this very basic concept to mary anne, who says that dawn is "too practical." try it some time, mary anne. it's a lot less stressful than the life you insist on leading.

anyway, at the end of the day, study groups are announced. mary anne will be studying megan rinehart, one of her favorite authors, with miranda shillaber, pete black, & logan. she is very, very upset. it hadn't even occurred to her that logan may be in her group. she doesn't know how they can work together on a project when they aren't even speaking to one another.

things go from bad to worse the next day when the english teacher asks if someone will be willing to swap groups with cokie mason. cokie is not a good english student & told the teacher that megan rinehart is the only author that truly interests her. the teacher allowed her to switch in the hopes of helping her become engaged with a school project. before anyone can even consider what's happening, miranda volunteers to trade groups with cokie. miranda hates pete black & wants to get away from him. weird, because pete rules...but let's go with it. so now mary anne is stuck in a group with both logan & cokie. & it swiftly becomes obvious that cokie only wanted to switch to their group to try to get into logan's pants. or whatever the 13-year-old equivalent of that may be.

surprisingly, mary anne toughs it out & doesn't even complain that much. pete is a pretty decent study partner, & he & mary anne put their heads together to get their work done. they want to scrape a decent

grade, so they write the entire paper themselves, rather than waiting on Logan & Cokie to do their shares. Cokie is successful in ensnaring Logan & they are going on so many dates (which Cokie then brags about during their study sessions) that neither one of them has much time left for schoolwork. Mary Anne is sad, because being in the study group with Logan makes her realize that she wants him to be her boyfriend again, but she puts her head down & does the work.

then the students are informed that three authors will be coming to the school for a special presentation. the groups covering those authors will have to present their work to the whole school. one of the authors is of course Megan Rinehart. seems kind of unjust that only like twelve students out of the entire eighth grade population have this extra oral presentation to do...but whatever. it's just the plot device Logan needs to call Mary Anne & arrange to come over & have a private study session with her. she explains that she & Pete didn't have a lot of faith that Logan & Cokie were going to get their work done, so they wrote up Logan & Cokie's parts of the assignment. Logan has to re-structure his paper to fit with what Mary Anne & Pete have done. he doesn't know if Cokie will be able to finish the assignment as well. he & Mary Anne gush a little about how much they miss each other. there's all this talk of "Logan's soft touch" & how Logan can "hug & kiss" Mary Anne just right, & i am like...seriously? they are 13. am i just totally weird for having not so much as held hands with a dude prior to age 15 or 16? guess it doesn't matter now that i am 31 & practically married. moving on.

the presentation goes well for Mary Anne, Pete, & Logan. Cokie just reads the copy on the dust jacket flap & barely gets any applause. Logan asks Mary Anne to dinner, where they discuss the fact that maybe they want to date again. Logan concedes that Cokie is a lot of fun & willing to do stuff Mary Anne won't do (get your minds out of the gutter! he means go to sporting events & parties & whatnot). but he misses Mary Anne. happy endings all around. not that kind of happy ending, you sicko.

the B-plot of course involves babysitting. apparently the Delaneys have moved away (what? when? they were just starting to win me over!) & the Kormans have moved into their mansion. yes, this is the infamous toilet monster plotline. it's as dreadful as it sounds. Melody & Bill, the older kids, are scared of the toilet because they think a monster lives in the tank. the baby, Skylar, is mysteriously afraid of cats. seriously? who the fuck is afraid of cats? they're harmless. especially, how is a baby who has never been around cats before afraid of them? i became afraid of dogs after i was attacked by one as a toddler, but prior to that, it would have never occurred to me to be afraid of them. anyway, who cares? bottom line is that Bill & Melody make their babysitters go monster hunting every night, they try to run back to their beds before the toilet finishes flushing, & they are scared of their super huge house. they also love hot dogs with an unnatural passion. these kids are more down to earth than the Delaneys, but i don't know what their parents were thinking, buying a huge house that their children fear. & then leaving them with sitters every other night. the toilet monster plotline is not resolved, despite Kristy bragging that she cured them & should look into becoming a child psychologist.

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## **lisa says**

The title says it all -- Mary Anne pines around for Logan in this book. When she is assigned to do a huge project with him she thinks she can get him back -- but then Cokie swoops in to capture Logan's attention like the sneaky villain she is.

### **Things I remember from reading this as a kid:**

I learned the word ostentatious from reading this book. The Delaneys are gone for good in this book (where



did they go and why?) and the Kormans have moved in, and Mary Anne notices right away how down to earth they are, and how less "ostentatious" they are.

I actually thought long and hard about who in my school I would like to do a major English project with. The more I thought about it, the more terrifying it seemed, and I prayed that my school would never force an entire grade to get together and do such a massive project. What I really, really liked about this book (even more than the middle school drama of Logan and Mary Anne) was how realistically this project was portrayed. Mary Anne is stuck with one person she doesn't know very well (Pete Black), one person she hates (Cokie Mason) and one person she knows well, but whom she feels very uncomfortable around (Logan). It is torture for her, especially when she realizes that Cokie and Logan have no intention of doing any work. However, she finds an unexpected ally and fellow hard worker in Pete, who helps shoulder some of the stress, although that doesn't quite make up for being forced to a project with people she doesn't like. I understood completely as a kid (and as an adult too, for that matter). I also remember that Dawn and Mary Anne are disgusted with their English teachers for not catching on to Cokie's manipulations.

I read this when I was eleven, just as I was getting my first more serious crushes, and I felt like I totally understood Mary Anne. I thought that if I wanted my old boyfriend back I should get back with him, that Cokie was a selfish bitch, and that of COURSE Logan should get back together with Mary Anne because that's what she wanted. However, as an adult. . .

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

I have much more complicated feelings about Logan and Mary Anne now, especially in this book. The book starts off with Mary Anne obsessing about Logan, and how much she misses him. She goes on and on about great he was, and how in sync they were, and then she mentions that oh yeah, he turned into a controlling freak, so they broke up, but now she misses having him around to comfort her while she broods about an English assignment. "How could I ever have said we needed time apart?" she thinks. I get that people have complicated feelings about their exes, even exes who didn't treat them very well, but it bothers me that she brushes over his previous treatment of her so quickly, and focuses so hard on the fact that if he were still around he would know exactly what to do to make her feel better. It's way too realistic for me, I guess, and knowing that Logan and Mary Anne go on to have a mostly storybook romance from here on out makes this a little harder to swallow. I do appreciate that Mary Anne is not willing to blow her English grade out of loyalty to Logan, no matter how much she wants him back. I almost wish that aspect of the book had been gone into in a little more detail, since it completely went over my head as a kid. But even though Mary Anne misses Logan desperately, and even though it's torture for her to see him with Cokie, she lets Pete draw the line with her: Logan isn't being fair to them, expecting them to pick up the slack on their project, so they need to forget him and move on by themselves. Mary Anne agrees, although she hopes Logan will change his mind, and when he asks for help she gives it to him. I thought this whole thing was a very mature set of decisions on her part.

As an adult, I sort of like the idea of having kids assigned to do a project with people they don't know very well, so that they can expand their horizons, and maybe make some new friends. (That's the adult in me; the kid in me knows that these things never work out the way clueless adults envision them to.) However, I don't quite get the logistics of this undertaking. How random are the groups, and who decided on them? Also, I'm guessing the reason why the school insists on having the kids work from their homes is because they wouldn't be able to coordinate class schedules with the entire grade. But that seems to put a lot of pressure on and expectation from middle school kids. I guess because wealthy Stoneybrook kids don't have an issue with getting rides from working parents, and they angelically do what they're assigned to do in off-school hours, it doesn't really matter. The other thing that bugged me as an adult was the oral presentation that is sprung on Mary Anne's group. Why does she have to give a presentation to the entire school, and the author she loves,

and the other kids just turn in their assignments without having to stand in front of the whole school? With only two days notice? This strikes me as incredibly unfair, no matter how you look at it.

Cokie tells the study group that she once read four Beatrix Potter books when she was ten years old, and "It only took me a week." I think she expects everyone to be impressed. I do not remember this from reading this as a kid, but as an adult I laughed so hard that my boss came running into my office to see what was going on. I thought Mary Anne's reaction was equally funny since she thinks it sounds like something Kristy would say as a joke to make her friends laugh.

I don't understand why SMS suspended Shawna Riverson for cheating off of Claudia's math test, but no one seems to really care that Cokie clearly copied the book jacket to use for her oral presentation. Mary Anne and Logan figure it out right away, and the few words we get are things that no middle schooler in the history of the world would ever write themselves. ("Tautly told tales" is the phrase that really stuck out to me.) Any educator would have realized what was going on in five minutes. I'm guessing Cokie faces no consequences for her clear plagiarism. I did feel sorry for her at the end of the story, and maybe that's what the administration of SMS felt too -- she didn't get the guy, got left behind by her work partners, and has so much trouble with reading that Beatrix Potter is a huge challenge for her. I guess that's punishment enough.

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### **Jenn says**

Let's start with the cover. It's cute right? The girls are roller skating, their outfits are all there: Mary Anne's mom jeans, Kristy's sweater + turtleneck (isn't that hot??), Claudia's totally dibbly vest + fedora, Dawn's "Cali Casual". There's only one problem: this scene DOES NOT HAPPEN IN THE BOOK. What?? This is the first time that has happened and it is super annoying.

Stoneybrook Middle School is doing another ridiculous school-wide assignment (do they ever do any \*actual\* learning, like SAT vocab words or something?). All the 8th graders will be grouped up in 4's and assigned a living author to research and report on. Which is pretty cool, actually. But Mary Anne is freaked out about having to work with possible strangers or even worse, Cokie Mason or Alan Gray. And even though she misses Logan terribly, she doesn't even consider that she might have to work with her ex-boyfriend.

Read my full review here! Includes Stacey's totally dibbly outfit plus an extra special Mary Anne outfit!!

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### **Alex says**

I always remembered the Logan and Mary Anne breakup as being a long stretch of time, but here it is only 5(?) books later and they're getting back together. Maybe there were some mysteries or something in between while they were broken up, because I could have sworn it lasted way longer.

I hate the way Mary Anne pines for Logan here and ignores every problem she once had with their relationship. She had good reason to break up with him, and that's all thrown to the side because she "misses him". And honestly, I feel legitimately bad for Cokie. Logan used her, and I don't care how mean she is, that has to hurt.

I HATE the Toilet Monster subplot, and I feel like it takes up way more of the book than the B-plot babysitting stories usually do. And I still want to know if a rollerskating scene was cut out of this book, because otherwise the cover truly makes no sense. (And where is Dawn?)

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