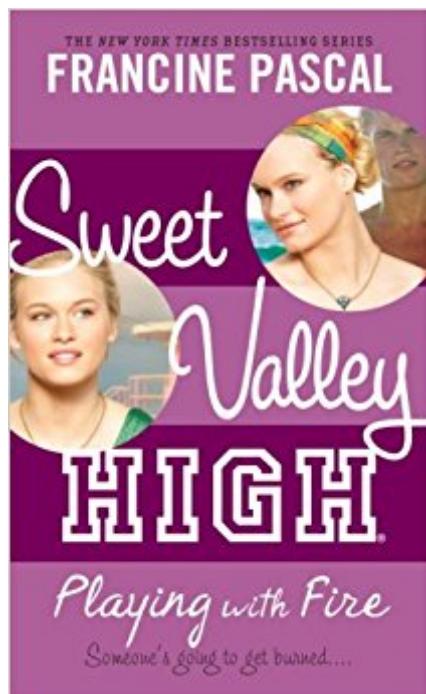


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# Sweet Valley #3: Playing With Fire (Sweet Valley High)



## **Synopsis**

JESSICA WAKEFIELD DEMANDS attention in any crowd, from every boy. After obsessing over him for weeks, she finally lands the perfect guy: Bruce Patman. And she falls hard and fast.

There's nothing she won't do for him. . . .But Elizabeth soon notices a change in her twin. Jessica's usual charm, determination, and attitude are gone. She's a ghost of her old self. And Liz wonders just how far her sister will go for love.

## **Book Information**

Series: Sweet Valley High (Book 3)

Mass Market Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf; Revised ed. edition (August 26, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440422647

ISBN-13: 978-0440422648

Product Dimensions: 4.3 x 0.6 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #548,288 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #2522 in Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

## **Customer Reviews**

Francine Pascal is the creator of many books for young adults. She lives in New York City and the South of France.

OK, I admit it. I have a ton of Sweet Valley books. SVH, SVH senior year, SVU, the Elizabeth series, SVJH, some SVT...I even broke down and bought Sweet Valley Confidential. What's more, I even read them all from time to time. Yes, they are hokey, a bit unbelievable (and filled with editing/continuity mistakes in some cases), but for me, they are a guilty pleasure. So I finally bit the bullet and tried to plug myself in to the Sweet Valley Reboot. What these books are (I've read 1, 3 and 4) is an updated version of the original series. If you are expecting new storylines, you have come to the wrong place. But Bruce now drives a Caddy instead of a Porsche (I think it is a Caddy), the twins are a size 4 instead of a 6, the Oracle is now a website rather than a newspaper. I believe that this reboot is for people like me. Those who look back fondly upon SVH (though fully

recognizing its flaws) and want to revisit the world in a slightly different way. Though I admit that the original was much more campy and wholesome, while the reboot takes on a snarky and meaner tone.

If you are/were a fan of the original Sweet Valley High series, go to used bookstores or Salvation Army. Whatever you do, do NOT buy this 2008 reissue of the series. The plot is boring, the characters are unlikable for the most part, and the attempt at writing teen slang is silly and off-putting. We are meant to root for Jessica, a bratty, flirty 16-year-old, as she finally lands wealthy Bruce Patman as a boyfriend. Since they are both equally superficial and egotistical, it ought to be a match made in heaven. But Bruce is picky about his girlfriends: they can't beat him at tennis, they have to cater to all his whims, and they can't be on the cheerleading squad. (A high school senior who doesn't want to date a cheerleader? Shockingly, yes.) Jessica tries to appease him, but her twin Elizabeth is worried that she's sacrificing too much of herself. Well, since we see Jessica being mean to others and generally being snobby, before AND during dating Bruce, I don't see how exactly Jessica ever really changed. One thing I really disliked was Jessica's attitude towards new girl Robin, whom she pretends to be friendly with only when it serves her interest. Robin, you see, is larger than a size 4 (how much larger? I guess it's up to the reader), and Jessica's thoughts on Robin's body shape are nasty and almost hateful. Again, there is nothing to like about Jessica's character, so it's hard to wish her a happy ending.

Once again, Jessica Wakefield has gotten her way. Fresh from her greatest social triumph, Jessica proceeds to sink her hooks into rich, handsome Bruce Patman, the most eligible, sought-after guy at Sweet Valley High. Or has Bruce gotten his hooks into Jessica? Elizabeth, Jessica's twin, notices a big change in her sister. Suddenly Jessica's dropping everything just to spend time with Bruce. Elizabeth doesn't trust Bruce one bit --- he's arrogant, demanding, and way too fast. Jessica can usually hold her own with any guy, but this time Elizabeth is afraid her sister may be going too far... Winston is still starry eyed in love with Jessica. Robin, on the other hand, has a big crush on Winston and begins to wonder if he has eyes only for Jessica. Meanwhile, the band The Droids start playing at a local club in town and have a new manager. Can they make the big time? Stay tuned for more drama.

This was definitely one of the better sweet valley high books that I read. Jessica Wakefield finally catches Bruce Patman's eye, one of the wealthiest (and not to mention snobbiest) guys in Sweet

Valley High. She has had a crush on him for a long time, and now that Bruce starts showing interest in her, she goes out with him everywhere, and does whatever he tells her to do. Elizabeth starts getting worried because Jessica starts getting a change of attitude. But how can she convince Jessica that Bruce is a traitor, when Jessica worships him like a God? Apart from this, there are also side storylines in this book such as Tony Conover, who claims to be a representative for an agency and wants to make 'The Droids' (sweet valley high's music band) famous. But the members of the group, start fighting over their priorities after this. Also Todd and Elizabeth try to set up Robin and Winston together, since Robin has a crush on him. The main reason I liked this book was because we get to see Jessica Wakefield change her attitude from ordering everyone to taking orders from someone. You would never think that Jessica would sink so low, but that's exactly what happens in this book. I also liked the character of Robin, and how clueless she is about being Jessica's friend. She is one of the main characters in the next book of the series 'Power Play'. All in all, this was a fun read.

I am very pleased with my purchase. I will be recommending it to my friends High quality! Works exactly as stated. brilliantly designed what a deal for the money

In this Sweet Valley High fiction, Francine Pascal captures the true difference between identical twins. Though the Wakefield sisters look exactly alike, Elizabeth and Jessica are two completely different people. Jessica is the popular cheerleader and Elizabeth is the smart and sophisticated one. At the Sweet Valley High Homecoming dance, Jessica, the queen, finds herself dancing in the arms of rich Bruce Patman, a boy with a bad reputation. Soon Jessica begins to spend every waking moment with Bruce. Elizabeth, however, realizes the game that Patman's playing on Jessica. But, the question is, will it be too late before Jessica catches on? Playing With Fire definitely shows what high school is like through the eyes of a teenager. It's really a great book. I recommend this book to any girl who enjoys reading books about the teenage years and high school, and I guarantee they'll love the book!

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