

The baby-sitters club



MRS. DOUBTFIRE

Sure, moms and dads love their kids. But every parent needs a break from the little monsters now and then, which is why they often turn to baby-sitters and nannies. As does Hollywood. The sitter is a stranger dropped smack dab in the middle of a family — and just the sort of character to set off a chain reaction of events. In "The Babysitters," opening Friday, a teen sitter begins offering a father some "extra" services — and then opens a call-girl business. *Mary Poppins, she ain't. From sweet to sexy to psychotic, here are some of Hollywood's favorite kids' caregivers.* **Michael Giltz**

ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING (1987)

The Nanny: Elisabeth Shue plays every kid's dream baby-sitter, a cute teenager who brings them along on an unintentionally wild night where they run across everything from carjackers to homicidal tow-truck drivers and god-like mechanics (Vincent D'Onofrio).

Did She Earn a Tip? Absolutely, if only from drunken bar patrons after Shue and crew stumble on stage in a nightclub and she belts out a song about having the baby-sitting blues.

MARY POPPINS (1964)

The Nanny: Practically perfect in every way, Mary Poppins is perhaps the most famous baby-sitter of all and was embodied with icy, steely (but secretly friendly) efficiency by Julie Andrews in her Oscar-winning role.

Did She Earn a Tip? Mary Poppins does NOT take tips (a job well-done is thanks enough). But reawakening Mr. Banks to what really matters most in life certainly deserved one.

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE (1992) ▶

The Nanny: Every picked-on kid has dreamed of a nanny like the frightening Peyton Flanders (Rebecca De Mornay), who makes Tony Soprano seem timid when she smacks down a schoolyard bully.

Did She Earn a Tip? No. Secretly breast-feeding the family's newborn is innovative, but not appreciated. Not to mention terrorizing the baby's mother.



◀ THREE MEN AND A BABY (1987)

The Nanny: Swinging bachelors Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg see their footloose days come to an end when a baby pops up on their doorstep. Diapers are fumbled, but hearts melt when they croon a lullaby.

Did They Earn a Tip? Not necessary, since nurturing the little cutie gave them all the reward they needed (and chicks dig sensitive guys).

MRS. DOUBTFIRE (1993)

The Nanny: This was never covered in divorce court: An estranged dad (Robin Williams) dresses up as Mrs. Euphemia Doubtfire so he can spend quality time with his kids. Sabotaging his ex-wife's romantic life is just a bonus.

Did She/He Earn a Tip? Yes, because the boyfriend (a pre-007 Pierce Brosnan) was a jerk.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP (1982) ▶

The Nanny: A string of teenage girls provide day care for the children of Garp (Williams again, in a role he would never top) — and a constant source of temptation when he drives them home.

Did They Earn a Tip? Those hurried assignations on the side of the road certainly deserved more than \$5 an hour.

