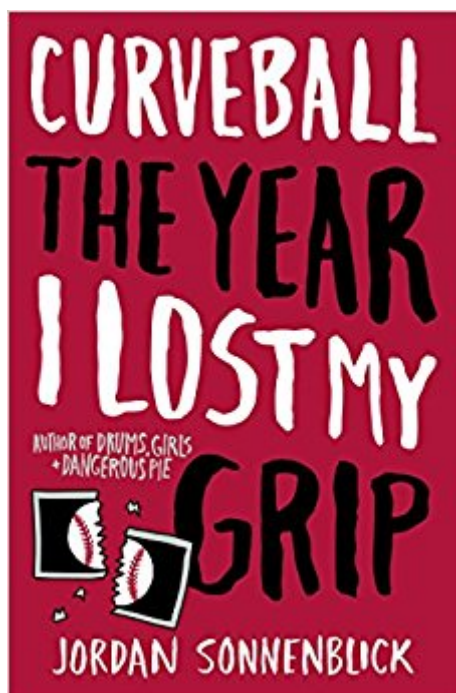


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# Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip



## Synopsis

There's nothing All Star pitcher Peter Friedman loves more than baseball. He breathes it, dreams it, and works his tail off to be great. Most kids are nervous about starting high school, but when you're the star athlete, girls, popularity, and all-around stud status are sure to follow. Then a pitching accident over the summer ruins Pete's arm. If he can't play baseball in high school, what is he supposed to do? If he isn't the star pitcher, then who is he? To make matters more complicated, there's something going on with Pete's grampa -- he's acting weird and keeps forgetting important things. The only person Pete can confide in is Angelika, the amazingly cute girl in his photography class who might like Pete as much as he likes her . . . Only, Angie doesn't know if she can date someone who can't be honest with himself, or with the people he's closest to.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #110,393 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #44 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational #122 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* : "A brave book . . . Jordan Sonnenblick carries it off with such charm and elan, you forget for a moment your heart is breaking." --Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes* \* "Sonnenblick shows that even in the midst of tragedy, life goes on, love can flower, and the one thing you can always change is yourself." --Booklist, starred review "The reader falls in love with the brothers, laughing and crying by turns and rooting for both of them until it

almost hurts." --Kirkus Reviews *Â Praise for After Ever After* : *Â \* â œAs hilarious as it is tragic, and as honest as it is hopeful, donâ™t confuse this book with inspirational reading. Itâ™s irresistible reading.â • --Booklist, starred review* *Â \* â œSonnenblickâ™s intimate first-person tale of survival . . . will leave an emotional, uplifting imprint.â • --School Library Journal, starred review* *Â â œJordan Sonnenblick continues Jeffreyâ™s story in his signature style using an authentic teenage voice and laugh-out-loud humor.â • --TeensReadToo.com* *Â Praise for Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip:* *Â â œJordan Sonnenblick scores a home run with Curveball as he continues what he does best: getting to the core of issues that resonate with teens in a style thatâ™s direct and witty.â • --Book Page* *Â \* â œSonnenblick again shows an adept ability to tackle big-deal life issues, treat them seriously and believably, and filter them into a high-spirited, even fun story.â • --Booklist, starred review* *Â \* â œThe novel is populated with kind, vulnerable characters who care about each other, and the thoroughly enjoyable mix of sports, art, family drama, and budding romance will have readers invested in Peterâ™s struggles to accept his new worldâ |â • --Publishers Weekly, starred review* *Â Praise for Notes from the Midnight Driver:* *Â \* â œ[A] funny, bittersweet tour de force.â • --Booklist, starred review* *Â \* â œReaders [will be] nodding with recognition, sighing in sympathy, and gasping with laughter--often on the same page.â • --The Horn Book, starred review* *Â \* â œSonnenblick revisits several key themes from his debut novel, Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie, to even greater effect here.â • --Publishers Weekly, starred review* *Â Praise for Zen and the Art of Faking It:* *Â \* â œWildly funny.â • --Kliatt, starred review* *Â â œThis light-hearted situation comedy is peppered with genuine Zen insight.â • --Bulletin of the Center for Childrenâ™s Books* *Â â œHilarious and heart-wrenching.â • --Kirkus Reviews* *Â â œThe writing is fresh, the characters appealing, and it looks like the author has another hit.â • --Oakland Tribune* *Â*

Jordan Sonnenblick is the author of the acclaimed *Drums, Girls,& Dangerous Pie*, *Notes from the Midnight Driver*, *Zen and the Art of Faking it* and the sequel to *Drums* called *After Ever After*. He lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with his wife and two children.

Bought this for my 13-year-old son based on good reviews here and on Pinterest. He is not an especially avid reader, but he finished the book in two days and couldn't stop talking about how great it was. And this was after initially reading the back-cover description and thinking it was going to be predictable and "like every sports story I've ever read"-- but it didn't turn out that way at all. Now he wants to read the author's other works. I'm very impressed!

Curveball is another great read from Jordan Sonnenblick one of the very best YA authors. His understanding of adolescence is apparent in the authentic characters, realistic events and witty teenage sarcasm. Curveball is the story of Pete, a typical shy, quiet suburban teen who leaves 8th grade as one of the best baseball players in the state and a better than decent basketball player. He is also best friends with AJ, the super athlete, super popular, super good-looking, center of attention wherever he goes, class leader. Pete is confident his athletic talents and friendship with AJ will help him make a smooth transition into the frightening world of high school - until Pete is told by his doctors he will never play ball again and he and AJ end up with no classes together. Luckily, Pete is also best friends with his grandfather, a famous photographer who taught Pete everything he knows about photography. When school starts, instead of following in AJ's shadow, Pete ends up as one of two freshmen in advanced photography. The other freshman is the beautiful, funny, wise Angelika and much to Pete's dismay, she finds Pete's awkwardness adorable. In addition to trying to figure out who he is if he can't be an athlete, Pete is trying to figure out how to deal with the dementia he sees destroying his grandfather. The dementia his mother and father deny is happening. Angelika and AJ help Pete through this befuddling year and help him discover the real Pete. Curveball will appeal to all readers including reluctant readers. I love Jordan Sonnenblick's strong themes of family and friendship. His characters are not one dimensional or stereotypical and the adults, while not perfect, are loving and supportive. YA readers will love that Pete, AJ and Angelika could be the students sitting next to them.

Peter is a star pitcher in his junior high. He starts to feel pain at his shoulder. One day after day they saw his shoulder keeps hurting. At the last game of the series, he throws a fastball and falls down. When they went to the hospital doctor said he wouldn't be able to pitch again. At the first of the high school he goes to photography class and meets a girl named Angelika Peter thinks she is cute. Angelika becomes his partner at class then he tells Angelika that his grandfather is a photographer and he has awesome equipment so he can use the machines for the project. One day him and his grandfather went to the mountain. He told Peter that he comes here every year for 30 years in June. His goal is to take a picture of an eagle flying through the sunset. Then suddenly eagle appears and he does not do anything and just sit there. HE thought it was weird, but he did not do anything. Angelika becomes Peter's girlfriend meanwhile AJ keeps pushing Peter to work so he can attend the baseball team AJ does not understand that Peter cannot pitch anymore. Angelika tells AJ about his arm AJ tells Peter I do not care if you cannot pitch anymore you are still my best friend. Peter finds out that his grandfather has an Alzheimer he makes Peter worry, but he tells not to tell mom or dad.

He was sitting around with Angelika and then when he call his grand father he tells Peter that I do not know where I am and I am on a car. After this review why don't you read and find out? I bet you this is a good story.

Well, it's the first time I read a book I can relate to so much. My grandma has Alzheimer =/Although it has a very serious background I enjoyed the read.

Curveball is a pleasant enough book for an early teen, as the protagonist is just moving into high school, hoping to play baseball. Ultimately, it is a very kind story of a young man demonstrating a maturity about his grandfather's mental state that his parents feel the need to protect him from. Many references to "old-school" photography may not be of interest to all readers. Early dating relationships, and the requisite nervousness therein, are handled with enough confidence to convince readers that they're quite normal as they foray into boy-girl friendship.

daughter loves it

Nice coming of age story with a male character by Jordan Sonnenblick.. After ignoring symptoms in his arm/shoulder, Peter ends up in the hospital after a game. Surgery, recovery and the knowledge that he will never pitch again weigh on him as he doesn't want to admit it to his best friend and catcher. His grandfather, a professional photographer, teaches him and Peter goes behind the camera to capture images, make a new friend and come to grips that he has to admit he can never play ball again. Nice read for young adult boys.

This was required reading for my daughter's 6th grade summer reading. It looked interesting so I decided to read it too. I enjoyed this coming of age story. This is YA and on the younger end of it, but it was a refreshing change from some of the other books I have been reading lately. There are a fair amount of details regarding photography which I found interesting but not everyone might find it so. I don't think the details will bog down readers who aren't interested in that aspect of the story.

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