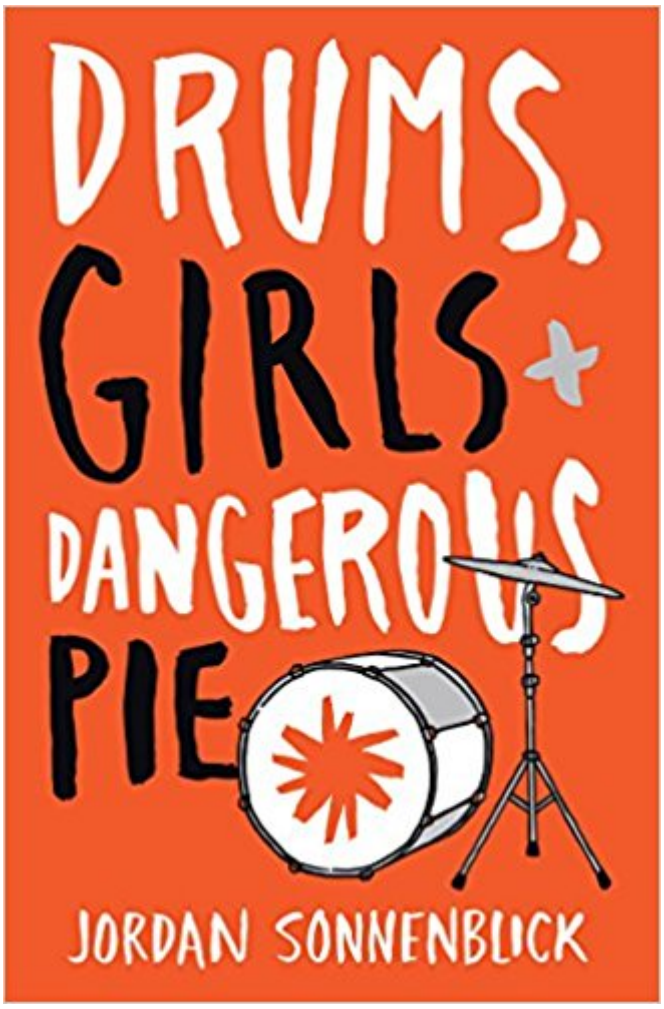
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Drums, Girls, And Dangerous Pie



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Synopsis

A brave and beautiful story that will make readers laugh, and break their hearts at the same time. Now with a special note from the author!Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost).He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9Ã¢â ¬â œOn stage for his eighth-grade graduation, Steven recalls the past school year during which his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey, was diagnosed with and treated for leukemia. Steven is an avid drummer, journal writer, and generally a good student. But the pressures of dealing with Jeff's illness stresses his entire family as his school-teacher mom takes a leave to care for him, Dad withdraws, and Steven stops doing homework. Renee Albert is the object of his lust, while Annette, the piano player in jazz band, gradually becomes beautiful in his eyes. Steven's frequent faux pas seem belabored early in the book, but they do eventually work to show him to be an admirable fellow who grows in his ability to deal with others, including Renee and Annette, the school counselor, his parents, and Jeff. The book does not miss a single emotional beat, taking every

opportunity to demonstrate that Lurlene McDaniel has no stranglehold on jerking tears as Steven details the progress of leukemia's inexorable attack. If the young characters sometimes speak beyond their years and if Steven's wise-ass voice is initially annoying, it is also fresh, energetic, and consistent, becoming more likable as the novel progresses. One stylistic device seemed unnecessary and distracting: characters' speech is indicated by italics, while quotation marks are used to set off Steven's inner thoughts and for special emphasis.Ã¢â ¬â œJoel Shoemaker, Southeast Junior High School, Iowa City, IA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Starred Review Gr. 5-8. Steven Alper is a typical eighth-grader--smarter than some, a better drummer than most, but with the usual girl problems and family trials. Then, on October 7, his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey, falls, has a nosebleed that doesn't stop, and is diagnosed with leukemia. All hell breaks loose. Mrs. Alper's days and nights revolve around getting Jeffrey to his chemotherapy treatments, and Mr. Alper retreats into a shell, coming out only occasionally to weep over the mounting medical bills. Steven becomes the forgotten son, who throws himself into drumming, even as he quits doing his homework and tries to keep his friends from finding out about Jeffrey's illness. A story that could have morphed into melodrama is saved by reality, rawness, and the wit Sonnenblick infuses into Steven's first-person voice. The recriminations, cares, and nightmares that come with a cancer diagnosis are all here, underscored by vomiting, white blood cell counts, and chemotherapy ports. Yet, this is also about regrouping, solidarity, love, and hope. Most important for a middle-grade audience, Sonneblick shows that even in the midst of tragedy, life goes on, love can flower, and the one thing you can always change is yourself. Ilene CooperCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I had the opportunity to hear Jordan Sonnenblick speak to a group of middle school students last week when I was substitute teaching. I had already read After Ever After, the sequel to the book Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie, but had not read anything else he had written. I was impressed by what Jordan shared with the kids. He used to be an 8th grade English teacher and he knows how to talk to middle school kids. He told the story behind the book Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie, which was very interesting and I decided to read this book.This book is about an 8th grade boy whose 4 year old brother gets Leukemia and how that affects him and his family. Jordan wrote this book because when he was teaching 8th grade, he had a student whose younger brother had cancer and

he looked for a book for her about a middle school student with a sibling who had cancer and he could not find any. The book tells how when Jordan's brother was diagnosed with cancer, it threw his family into crisis mode, he stopped doing schoolwork, played the drums more, and how his parents and family life were affected. He did a good job of telling the story and I think that this book can help middle school kids to understand how cancer can affect a family. It is also just a really good story.I enjoyed this book and it's sequel and look forward to reading his other books.Mr. Sonnenblick's newest book, Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip , is coming out on March 1 of this year and he says that if people pre-order it, he can be on the New York Times Best Seller List and his mother will be proud of him.

This book is great! I read this simultaneously with my 13 year old so we could discuss it along the way. I think we both learned a thing or two about when life throws out a curve ball, how to be friends and also how to be a good brother and be a family. My son thought the book was excellent in how it was written and enjoyed knowing how Steven was feeling and coping through all that was occurring. I would highly recommend this book to middle and high school aged kids and also adults.

Bought it for mandatory reading for school. Great price great book! I ordered two but one of the back covers was ripped off and it was supposedly a new item. I never contacted the seller because it wasn't worth my time.

I loved how touching this was and it made me thankful to have a younger sibling. This book showed me that we should be thankful for what we have in our life because other people are in worse conditions then you. Breaking a nail is not the worst thing that could happen, getting needles stabbed in you to keep you alive is a lot closer.

I loved this book. It was one of our in-coming seventh graders choices for their summer book report at Highland West Junior High. I loved it! I laughed and I cried. This book should be a definite read. Steven is an eight grader and he has a story to tell you!

Excellent book. I have given it to my daughter and we are hoping my grandson will read it. Well written and good subject matter. A fast read.

This book is a required reading for school for my son. As soon as the book arrived, I decided to read

it first, so I can make sure my son actually reads it. So far the book is holding his attention. Its storyline is heartbreaking but it will have you amazed. The hero Steven is a normal teenager whose world is turned upside down. He loves playing the drums. Now you will just have to read the book to see what happens. This is an excellent book to read. It a great book for a boy or girl to read. We truly enjoyed the book.

I read this book with my 10 year old boy. It is an easy read that will make you laugh and cry at the same time.

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