

Curveball, The Year I Lost My Grip

By Author, Jordan Sonnenblick

Reviewed by: Tanya, 14

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Peter was one of the “Golden Boys” of 8th grade, but after a serious baseball accident, he will not be able to uphold that reputation in high school. But, baseball is his life, and to him, life without baseball just isn't imaginable. Peter is extremely close to his grandfather. His grandfather is a professional photographer, taking professional pictures of nature, animals, weddings and other events. Peter has always been fascinated by all of his grandfather's pictures, equipment and lab. His grandfather has always wanted to take a close up picture of an eagle, so when the moment comes, Peter starts snapping away, only to find his grandfather standing behind him with a blank look on his face. From there onwards, he starts noticing that his grandfather is forgetting things, blanking out, and not behaving normally. Can he, his girlfriend, his best friend and his family figure out what is going on with his grandfather and what he is going to do about his own life?

I loved this book due to the fact of how relatable it seemed at many scenes of this book. This book also incorporated humor into many scenes and made me laugh at Peter's outlook at certain situations. This book shows how true friends always know when something is wrong, and will always be there to pick you up when you fall, after they finish laughing. One thing that really hit me while reading this book, was that even though it seemed like AJ, Peter's best friend, had a perfect life as the star in pretty much every sport, AJ didn't think he had it all. Even though Peter's life was also considered to have no faults, just a few seconds could turn everything upside down. This book proves that nothing should be taken for granted, and that looks can certainly be deceiving.

I would recommend this book to middle and high schoolers, since a lot of scenes would be a lot more relatable for those age groups. Even though there are many sad scenes throughout the book, the author mixed in a lot of humor to make you laugh. The moral of the book, in my opinion, felt very deep and true. If you try to change everything and everyone to make your life seem perfect, it will never be. Just do your best, and enjoy every moment as it comes, and wonderful things will happen naturally.

Recommended Titles:

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick

Drums, Girls + Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick

Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick

Notes From the Midnight Driver by Jordan Sonnenblick