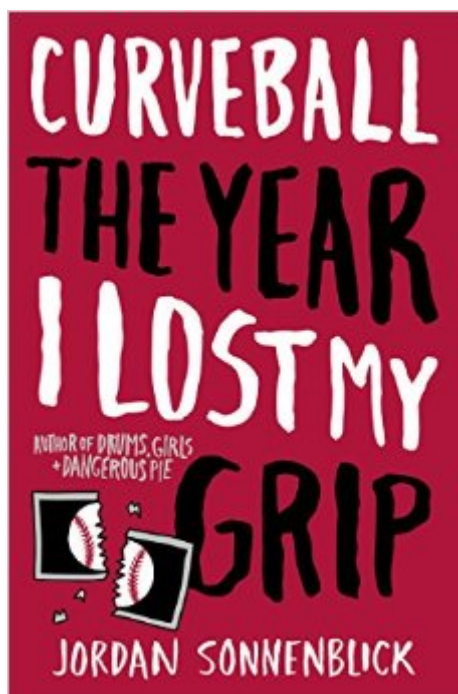


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# Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #195,116 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #70 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational #175 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

Peter is a star pitcher hoping to make the JV team as a freshman, but all those games that he played through the pain have left his elbow in a bad state. He doesn't know what to do with his time after the career-ending surgery other than feel sorry for himself and think about his best friend AJ making the team. When he meets Angelika in his photography class, things start looking up. Peter is familiar with cameras and photography due to watching and assisting his grandfather, a very

well-known wedding photographer. Grandpa has recently started forgetting things and Angelika suggests that he may have Alzheimer's, a disease which her grandmother had. There is no offensive language or sexual content but Peter does drink alcoholic fruit punch at a party, gets sick, and has a hangover the next day. This story has many elements which teens will relate to--sweet romance, having their dreams crushed, sadness at seeing the physical decline of a family member.

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.

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.

This is cute funny and well developed. If you like really good character development. And what do you know the hero isn't the son of some Greek god, an alien from outer space or even a vampire, wow!

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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