



Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie

By Jordan Sonnenblick

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Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie By Jordan Sonnenblick

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!).

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Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie By Jordan Sonnenblick Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #9792 in Books
- Brand: Scholastic Paperbacks
- Published on: 2014-04-29
- Released on: 2014-04-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 5.50" w x .75" l, .42 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9—On 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.—*Joel Shoemaker, Southeast Junior High School, Iowa City, IA*

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From *Booklist*

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, 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. *Ilene Cooper*

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Review

Praise for *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*:

* "A story that could have morphed into melodrama is saved by reality, rawness, and the wit Sonnenblick infuses into Steven's first-person voice." -*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*

"Fresh, energetic, and consistent." -*School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Emma Patterson:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie it is rather good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

Carmelita Ratliff:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Carlos Mendoza:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside along with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can really hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie which is keeping the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

Jocelyn Lee:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got learners? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And you also know that little person like reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the point. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update with regards to something by book. Different categories of books that can you go onto be your object. One of them are these claims Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie.

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