



## After Ever After

*Jordan Sonnenblick*

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Jeffrey isn't a little boy with cancer anymore. He's a teen who's in remission, but life still feels fragile. The aftereffects of treatment have left Jeffrey with an inability to be a great student or to walk without limping. His parents still worry about him. His older brother, Steven, lost it and took off to Africa to be in a drumming circle and "find himself." Jeffrey has a little soul searching to do, too, which begins with his escalating anger at Steven, an old friend who is keeping something secret, and a girl who is way out of his league but who thinks he's cute.

## After Ever After Details

Date : Published February 1st 2010 by Scholastic Press

ISBN : 9780439837064

Author : Jordan Sonnenblick

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction

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## From Reader Review After Ever After for online ebook

### Nancy Lyon says

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick, it was published in 2013 and the genre is realistic fiction. It's a sequels to Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie so that means you have to read the first book first. But it's about this little boy named Jeffery Alper and it starts 8 years after he found out he had leukemia. Now he is in 8th grade and he is cancer free for about 5 years.

But it goes on to say his whole life gets changed by a little letter home from the school. He was not able to move over to the next grade without passing a test that they had to take at the end of the year. But Jeffery is not good in math so he knows that he wont pass the test and he tries to hide the letter from his parents but the guidance counselor tells his parents about it. So he goes to Tads house and Tad tutors him so he could be ready but he meets this girl named Lindsey. Ever thing changes when he starts skipping school and goes and sees Lindsey . He couldn't see her because he was grounded cause of the not passing math. Well he was messing around his friend Tad got his cancer back and he didn't find out 'till Tads mom told him about the treatments. But at the end Tad dies and Jeffery rides his bike 50 miles for the cancer.

I recommend this book for young adults because the is a little bit of swearing in it.

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### Nancy says

#### Posted at Shelf Inflicted

In Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie, Jeffrey Alper was a child recovering from cancer. Now he is in eighth grade and while the cancer is now behind him, the chemotherapy treatments left him with a limp and caused some problems with thinking and memory, making it difficult to keep up with his classmates.

Jeffrey's older brother, Steven, who was a major source of support for Jeffrey needs to "find himself" and is off banging drums in Africa. While Jeffrey's parents continue to worry about him, he has the typical issues an eighth-grade boy must deal with, like a best friend hatching a secret plot, the new girl from California who's totally hot, and the standardized state-wide exams every student must pass in order to enter high school.

I was hoping to find an audio version of this book, since I so enjoyed Joel Johnstone's narration of the first story, but had to settle for the book, which I devoured in one day. Again, some of the situations were predictable, but I laughed and cried, and loved every moment with Jeffrey, his family, and his friends.

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### Reader says

"But most of my earliest memories are of spinal taps, throwing up for two hours straight on my birthday, watching my own hair fall out while my friends were worried about learning how to write their names in crayon. And I guess Steven has lot of those shocks, too, through being my brother. But that's still not the same as being me."

Calling all teachers, parents and educators: Jordan Sonnenblick might just be the most important young adult

author on the market! This man has found a niche that millions of teenagers have been desperately waiting to be filled. In a delicate way that blends good humor with tough reality, his books address critical issues related to family, friendship, school, life and death. Sonnenblick obviously understands what kids are going through and knows how to help them feel more comfortable with their daily challenges and goals through wholesome literature. I wish more authors would write with such purpose and passion to spread meaningful messages to young readers.

In “Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie,” Jeffrey was fighting cancer as his older brother, then 8th-grader Steven, threw his whole life into providing the necessary support for his sick brother. Now, in this sequel to “Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie,” Jeffrey is in remission. In the aftermath of his sickness, a lot has changed besides his health status. Jeffrey’s older brother has gone on hiatus to Africa to escape the responsibilities that he couldn’t avoid when he was playing second fiddle to his sibling’s cancer battle. Their parents continue to worry about finances and state testing requirements following the imposing learning disabilities cancer treatments and medications have handed their young son. Jeffrey’s best friend, Tad, also has his share of challenges to worry about. Together, they face the mystic challenges of deciphering the baffling words and actions of girls, setting seemingly unreachable goals, and clearing up the cloudy meaning of life.

This book hit home for me in many ways. One example is that it reminded me of my 10th grade year, when my older brother – my best friend, idol and mentor throughout my grade school years – joined the Marine Corps and moved overseas to Japan. This person I’d counted on for so long was suddenly nowhere to be found. I remember how hard it was for me to deal with the void he’d left behind. I’m sure a lot of people can relate to similar feelings of loss and abandonment.

“I wish I could remember now what I was thinking during those next two hours, because they were the last good hours I was going to have for a long time. But nobody ever tells you in advance when you should concentrate on the good times — that’s why you’re supposed to try to do it every day.”

Be sure to read “After Ever After” sooner rather than later! Books don’t get much better than this one!

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

First, the things that the students will love. Jeffrey, a cancer survivor, is heading into the 8th grade with flawed self-esteem, troubles processing math and walking because of the cancer treatments, a growing interest in a hot, new girl from California, and a best friend, Tad, who gives him endless grief. This hits so many of the issues that students find intriguing. Jeffrey ends up struggling with state tests, which kids today know far too much about, lies to his parents, and has difficulties with his relationship with Tad, because of challenges that Tad has to face. As with all Sonnenblick, I am tempted to quote half the book here, because his turns of phrase are just superb, and even though this is an essentially sad book, it has so many funny moments. Best of all, Jeffrey is not whiny or courageous or somehow perfect because of his battle with cancer.

What adults will like, and why this should win a Newbery Award (and I don’t say that in my usual tone; I might again have faith in the Newbery if this won): someone dies, and there is a fair amount of introspective navel-gazing. But in Sonnenblick’s hands, it works. It’s not sappy and sentimental, but rather real and completely disarming. I cried at the end; the last book that made me cry was Townley’s *The Great Good Thing*.

While this could be read without reading the first book, it's better to know the background. If your library doesn't have any books by this author, put DGADP, Notes from the Midnight Driver, and Zen and the Art of Faking It on your to-purchase lists immediately. Order two copies of each.

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### **Krista Stevens says**

SPOILER ALERT = Don't read any further if you don't want to know what happened.

Great middle school book about two kids who had cancer when they were in elementary school and what it's like to fit that label in Grade 8 as they struggle with hormones, dating, and the ever looming spectre of "what if it returns". I love the kids' voices, but every now and then I can hear the author through Tad's voice especially. No kid is going to wise-ass comment to his friend "thats' a tortured metaphor" ... it only happened about three times, but each time felt like a Portkey yanking me out of the story and into an analysis of why a kid wouldn't use vocabulary like that. Highly annoying.

Here's the alert. I picked it up because it 1) it was a Schneider Family Book Award (aka A Circle Book) and 2) because my friend's son is best friends with a boy who could have been one of these characters. Even had the same type of leukemia. Recurrent. Wise-ass and sarcastic. Then, he (Tad a character) dies. So, I'm thinking my friend probably doesn't want to give it to her son to read - just a little too close to home and real life. I don't know. I'll follow up on this. But it did give me a lot of insight to what Matthew must be going through.

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### **Eilonwy says**

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Jeffrey Alpers survived childhood leukemia, and has been in remission past the five-year mark. Now he's in eighth grade, taking classes from some of the same teachers who knew his older brother Steven back when Jeffrey was going through his first awful months of treatment. Steven has run off to play drums i

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### **Lauren says**

I love everything about this book. I love how funny it is, how real it feels. I love the characters. I love that the arc of eighth grade is given the weight of drama that feels accurate. I, as a reader, get this feeling for the sensitivity that it takes to treat the little dramas of eighth grade as if they matter and change lives and affect everything. Which is normal high praise that I give to the best middle grade books. But then I realize that that praise doesn't actually relate to this book. The stakes are actually high in this book. People are life-and-death sick. Jeffrey might not be able to go to high school because he can't pass eighth grade. But the sensitivity to contextualize these kinds of real problems inside and around the dramas of "my friends are

keeping a secret from me" and "this girl is sooo pretty and i act like an idiot when she's around" and "my gym teacher is a little nuts" where they all feel like they belong in the same story and are being dealt with by the same boy with the same brain. That takes skill. And sensitivity. And an absolutely amazing grasp of voice. Oh Sonnenblick, your characters have such voice.

Jeffrey is such a sweetie and such a snarkfest and I love him dearly. I love Steven so much, and I love Jeffrey just as much, bless their tiny hearts.

I also love how fast this book is. The design matches the tone wonderfully. I'm just the kind of sucker who gets a surge of comfort just from the shape and the margins and the font of a well-loved series or book. All my AoGG paperbacks look the same and I get much the same sense of "yes" that I get when I open a Sonnenblick book and see that cute little sans-serif font, the widely spaced lines, the wide margins. And honestly, it evens out to not very many words on a page, so these books go Super fast. I read this whole one just today, sitting at the kitchen table, without even getting restless and needing to switch locations until I was in the last 30 pages.

I also must say that I love that most Sonnenblick books have protagonists and journeys that use music and love of music as a central component, and I love that, but I also love how this one is different, the closest we get to how Steven feels about the drums is how Jeffrey feels about biking, which I enjoyed also. He's not a one-trick-pony, that Sonnenblick, and I love reccommending his books to people. I guess I do technically recc this one slightly less often than Drums or Notes, but that's just because, like, you should read Drums first before this one. (You don't have too, though, you wouldn't be lost or anything, if you have this one already just go for it, don't worry about getting Drums.)

Anyway I love this book dearly. I love that it's so short and sweet and unassuming that I forget how often I've reread it (Three? really? wow!) because it's just a small little detour between bigger books that take more than one day to read. Bless this book.

And I can't wait to give it to eighth graders who want to laugh and laugh and laugh and then also cry a little bit.

.....20 October 2012.....

Awww. I was laughing through my tears. Or crying through my guffaws. It went both ways. This book is so good.

.....November 26th, 2011.....

wow. I love this author. Here this kid is, dealing with every kind of issue, and I am laughing my head off. Seriously, Hilarious. And great messages, too. I didn't know cancer had those kinds of after-effects from the treatment. And Tad was so sarcastic it was amazing. Plus, I am a sucker for a well-rounded, healthy relationship that started out as a head-over-heels, my-world-just-stopped crush. It's just so cute.

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## **Beverly says**

I am so blown away by this book, I don't even know where to begin. This is the sequel to Sonneblick's Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie, which was a fabulous book in it's own right. It picks up the story about Jeff, an eight grader, who also happens to be a cancer survivor. Though he has been a survivor for more than five years, he still lives with the effects of his cancer and it's treatment. He has a limp, he sometimes has trouble focusing and he just can't wrap his brain around math. The story is not just about Jeff's struggles with math and a new state mandated standardized test he must pass in order to graduate 8th grade, but it also centers around his best friend, Tad – the other half of the cancer twins. I'll stop here with the summary so as not to give anything away.

This is another one of those books where the author's words jump right off the page and grab the reader by the collar and pull him right into the story. You can't read this book without becoming attached to the

characters. It is truly a moving story. If you liked Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie, even just a little, you must read this book.

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### **Olivia Tiseth says**

Jordan Sonnenblick nails these stories with the right emotions. I didn't think it would be so heart wrenching and emotional and I cried more than I thought I even could. Jeffrey, is recovering from his awful years of leukemia with his best friend. Mr Sonnenblick added so much middle school humor it was hard to remember Jeffrey's struggles at all. He wrote the story beautifully, and he doesn't just write stories. he lives through his books and you can feel every emotion he had poured into his words.

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### **Jennifer says**

This book is about an 8th grader named Jeff, who's a cancer survivor. His bestfriend, Tad is a cancer survivor too. They help each other with their concerns at school/homework and girls until that one dreadful incident. A beautiful book about friendship. This surely will tug at your heartstrings.

*"How am I supposed to figure out my future if I can't even think on my own for one single day?"*

*"It's amazing how life works. Sometimes a day feels like three months, but other times fly by without you even really noticing."*

*"And at least for a moment, I know that the purpose is to keep moving forward. To stick with the people you love, even when they push you away. Even when they're hurting, and especially when you're hurting."*

### **Soundtrack: Iridescent by Linkin Park**

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### **Kitty says**

After Ever After is a masterpiece! A must read!!! (After you read Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie AND Notes From the Midnight Driver, that is). It invoked (I think that's the right word) so many emotions, but mostly you just fall in love with Jeffrey, the main character, and his best friend, Tad (short for Thaddeus). I don't want to give anything away, trust me, you wouldn't want me to. It's one of those types of books that becomes so undescribable, because the feelings it gives you are so strong and... Just read it. I guarantee you would not regret it unless you're one of those people. (You know who you are...)

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### **Sasha C says**

I am currently reading the book After Ever After, the sequel to Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie.

This book sequel is from Jeffrey, the cancer survivor's, point of view. Jeffrey meets a friend in his 8th grade

class named Tad who also had cancer. My favorite part of the book so far is when Tad and Jeffrey make a deal. The deal is that Tad will tutor Jeffrey in math, and Jeffrey will teach Tad how to walk. Of course Jeffrey had a limp, but Tad has a wheel chair. He plans to walk across the stage at 8th grade graduation. A mean girl used to tease Tad about his limp long before he had a wheel chair. I think it was mean to tease him about his cancer, but the author did a really good job on describing every emotion he wanted the reader to feel. I felt like I was in the room when it happened.

I usually don't enjoy reading unless I have to for school work. However, this book really got me interested in finding out what would happen in the story. I think that anyone who likes a funny, very descriptive, and even the smallest little bit of romance, should read this.

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## Orient says

A wonderful after ever after bike ride with my awesome GR friend, **Eilonwy** for our second BR! I loved our first BR for Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie, and it was great to BR the sequel together as Steve and his little bro, Jeffy won my heart. I'm probably getting too melodramatic lately as it's the fourth book this year, which really got me crying. Damn it, how can I turn into a hardcore Godzilla again?! Jk

I expected a lot from "After Ever After", and I must admit, it didn't disappoint. It was a fun, heart-warming, heart-breaking and interesting ride with Steven's little bro. Both books mainly started the same, main characters being in the 8th grade, so it was interesting to compare Steven's and Jeffy's POVs during that period. Why is Jeffy special? Well he survived cancer, duh. But despite that, I met a flawed, kind-hearted teen, who grew up from a sick cute kid and now tries to deal with his problems himself, having time to fall in love. Also he uses humor to mask his insecurities.

*Sometimes it's hard to know whether I should curl up in a ball and die of embarrassment, or give myself a hearty high five.*

*The people around us might get all flipped out about it, but pretty much any illness I get isn't a big deal compared to what I've already been through. That's why I was calm, even when the fever and shakes started at around nine. Mom, on the other hand, was about as calm as Bambi after the forest fire.*

I loved Tad, another special character in this book, too. He's hot-tempered, distrustful, and difficult to understand. Maybe that's why he and Jeff became BFF.

*As soon as the teacher begins telling us about our next social studies assignment, I lean over and whisper,*

*"Hi, I'm Jeffrey. I had cancer, too."*

*He looks at me like I'm a particularly loathsome slice of school-lunch meat loaf and says,*

*"Wow, congratulations! What do you want, a medal?"*

*That's how I meet my best friend.*

I thinks the charm of this series is there, voice of such ordinary but at the same special kids. Oh and the teachers, too. How couldn't I adore such a charming colleague? :D

*“And let me tell you, when I was a kid, we didn’t have any of this Nintendo, Sega Genesis, Wii, three-D GameCube stuff. Our three-D game platform was called a park. Our Nin-ten-do virtual reality war game was called hide-and-seek. And Wii was the sound we made when we jumped fifteen feet from a tire swing.”*

To hells, I have a teen son myself, who's crazy about his bike and basketball and who sometimes has a tough period dealing with his teenage emotional issues as well as meeting girls. It was really great to read this series and spend some memorable hours diving into teen's world and tasting some desserts as well as some sour candies. Highly recommended ;)

P.S.

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### **?????? ?? says**

So this one was a fresh start from THE POV of the little brother Jeffrey. The one with the cancer!! And yes!! He has the touch of his brother's brilliant humor too. Its just wonderful how John kept the sequel separate from the previous book. And the writing is again just brilliant. All the new characters were brilliant too. :) I think i might have found another of my favourite authors(or why else i would read TWO of his books back to back , in the midst of my finals week) . :D recommended for everyone.

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### **Cheney says**

This was a heartwrenching story about two middle schoolers who have and are facing the evil disease called Cancer. I read this book to my 7th grade classes, three times. They all seemed to really enjoy the story and empathized with the characters.

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