

Tonva Summerlin

Dear Jordan Sonnenblick,

I read your book, *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* and it really changed my point of view. My little brother, Tommy, was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia. Which is similar to (the main character-Jeffery's) in the story. Of course, there are some differences in the book to my life, but not major ones. For instance, Steven is a year older than me and his brother has Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Even though their story is slightly different, it still has helped me through the rough times.

Two weeks after Tommy's diagnosis, I sat down and read your book. This book provided me strategies to look at my situation a little differently. Steven, a tremendous role model for me, taught me how to have a sense of humor to overcome the hardships that both of us face. This book and the characters have been phenomenal way for me to understand the many events and feelings that I have been going through.

*Girls, Drums & Dangerous Pie* changed my life by letting me see some of the brighter sides of my brother's sickness. The book also showed me how to deal with some of the changes that I have faced and that I will have to face. Steven, as I said earlier, has a great sense of humor and that helps lighten the mood somewhat. Steven's life was a lot like mine so I had a lot compare with and I think that really helped me as a person, so far, during Tommy's sickness. *Girls, Drums & Dangerous Pie* had a few sad parts that Steven and Jeffrey's situation, like I said above, was the same as mine but different. His brother's case was a bit more serious at times and it reminds me that things are bad right now but they could be worse for us. I frequently compared myself to Steven and it really gave me strength and courage to know others are still having these troubles as well. It also kept me going knowing that there is a way through this and there is a reason to keep going.

At first this whole "leukemia thing" seemed like a dark endless tunnel, but after reading your book it looks more like there's a light at the end. I

learned from the book that it's better to talk to someone instead of keeping it all bundled up inside of you. It also helped me understand, as Steven learned, that I can't change some things but I can do something about the things I can change. I can't change the fact my brother has leukemia but I can help out at home or help my little brother when he's not feeling well. Thank you for writing this book and I hope you continue writing similar books.

Sincerely,  
Tonya Summerlin