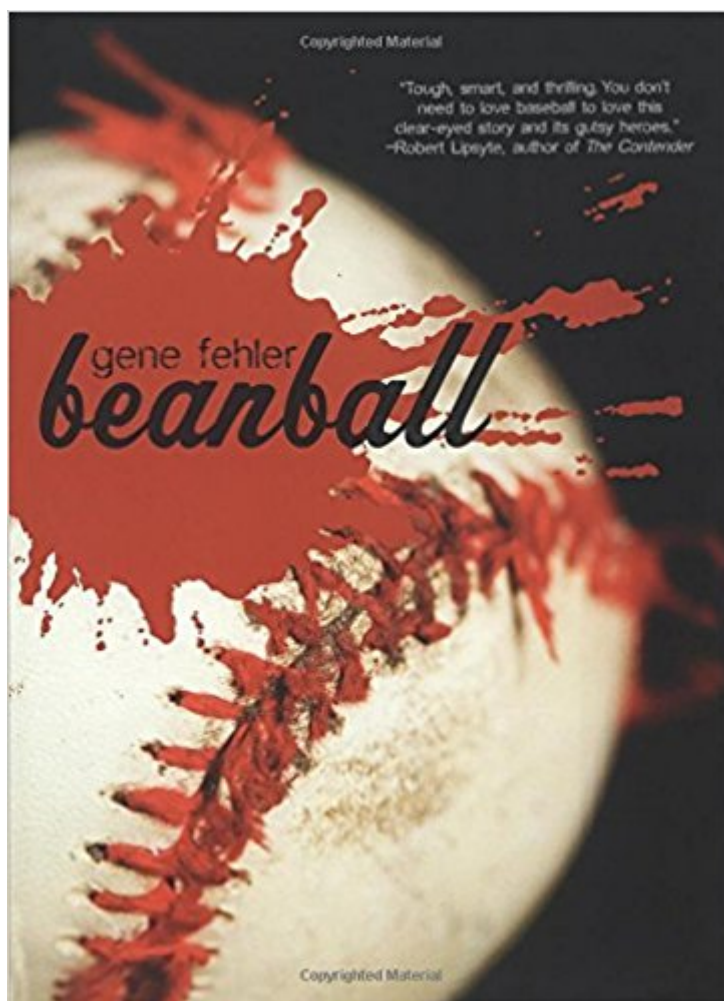


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Synopsis

It's the worst sound I've ever heard in all my years of umping. Oh, I've heard plenty of pitches hit a helmet. But this . . . this fastball, up and in. This one hit bone, right in the face. Not even a scream or grunt from the kid. He went down like he was shot. In the bottom of the last inning against their biggest rival, Oak Grove High has two men on base and the score is tied. Luke "Wizard" Wallace is at bat, and he knows what he needs to do: drive in the winning run, save the game, and be a hero. Luke has everything under control, except the pitch.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 7, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547550014

ISBN-13: 978-0547550015

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #217,322 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Teens >

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9 • A high school athlete is seriously injured by a wild pitch, and he, his family and friends, teachers, coaches, and eyewitnesses share their reactions and feelings about the incident in free-verse monologues. Luke "Wizard" Wallace is a determined, talented player, and a leader on the field and off. Then, in a game versus their archrivals, he leans into a fastball thrown by Kyle Dawkins and is hit by a pitch that leaves him blind in one eye. This plot-driven, brief novel is a page-turner, though its protagonist and supporting characters are one-dimensional. Most are defined chiefly by their relation to Luke: the sympathetic coach; the "win at all costs" coach; his loyal friends and family. Fehler's straightforward story may appeal to die-hard sports fans, but Scott Johnson's *Safe at Second* (Philomel, 1999) and Carl Deuker's *High Heat* (Houghton, 2003), two novels that also deal with sports accidents and their aftermath, offer both compelling story lines and

memorable characters.âââMarilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The story is well paced, quite satisfying, and will appeal to the reluctant reader.VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)In his debut novel, Fehler succeeds at every level.Kirkus ReviewsPoet and baseball enthusiast Fehler should attract a crowd with his first YA novel, narrated by 28 narrators in free-verse monologues. . . . Fehler does an excellent job in pacing his shifts of perspective, and the central story, of Luke's friendships and eventual recovery, comes through with drama and clarity.Publishers WeeklyThe short, terse narrative will attract reluctant readers, and Luke's nightmarish ordeal will keep them turning the pages.Booklist, ALA

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