



Notes From The Midnight Driver

By Jordan Sonnenblick

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"Alex Peter Gregory, you are a moron!" Laurie slammed her palms down on my desk and stomped her foot. I get a lot of that.

One car crash.

One measly little car crash. And suddenly, I'm some kind of convicted felon.

My parents are getting divorced, my dad is shacking up with my third-grade teacher, I might be in love with a girl who could kill me with one finger, and now I'm sentenced to babysit some insane old guy.

What else could possibly go wrong?

This is the story of Alex Gregory, his guitar, his best gal pal Laurie, and the friendship of a lifetime that he *never* would have expected.

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Notes From The Midnight Driver By Jordan Sonnenblick Bibliography

- Rank: #47402 in Books
- Brand: Scholastic Paperbacks
- Published on: 2007-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
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- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—After drinking some vodka and taking his mom's car for a spin to his father's girlfriend's house, who just happens to be his former third-grade teacher, 16-year-old Alex Gregory finds himself on his neighbors' lawn with police yelling at him and a broken gnome under his car. It is hard to believe that Alex would do anything like this; most of the time he hangs out with his friend Laurie, a sassy petite karate expert, and plays guitar in the school jazz band. He is also trying to get over his parents' recent split. For drinking and driving, Alex is sentenced to 100 hours of community service at a nursing home with Solomon Lewis. Sol is a difficult, crotchety, eccentric old man with emphysema who lashes out at Alex in strange Yiddish phrases. Soon Alex grows fond of Sol, who teaches him something about the guitar, respecting the elderly, and taking responsibility for his actions. Alex's voice is fresh and funny, but doesn't downplay the serious situations. The other characters in the book are well defined and add interesting touches to the story. Fans of Sonnenblick's *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* (Turning Tide, 2004) will be pleased with this follow-up book in which Steven and Annette make a few brief appearances.—Shannon Seglin, Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review While his mother is out on a first date, 16-year-old Alex decides to get drunk, steal her car, and drive to his father's home, hoping to catch him romancing one of Alex's former teachers. His goal? Revenge. Reality? A damaged car, a decapitated gnome, a drunk driving charge, and community service. He is ordered to serve his 100 hours visiting Solomon Lewis, the meanest, crankiest resident at Egbert P. Johnson Memorial Home for the Aged. Alex discovers that Solomon is also witty, intelligent, and a fighter—an old man who has lived all the joys, sorrows, and regrets of a long life. Sonnenblick has created a memorable cast of characters: acerbic Sol, a former famous jazz guitarist who is now dying of emphysema; narrator Alex, a budding guitarist with a tendency to make excuses rather than assume responsibility; and Alex's best friend Laurie, a tiny, pixielike karate master whom Sol refers to as Alex's "wife." Even minor characters, such as Alex's parents and the judge, take on a heft and weight uncommon in YA literature, and teens will easily connect with Alex's epiphanies: "You can't just throw someone out of your life when they displease you," and, "We're all free to choose some people to love, and then do it." It all adds up to a funny, bittersweet tour de force. *Frances Bradburn*

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Review

Praise for *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* :

"A brave book . . . Jordan Sonnenblick carries it off with such charm and elan, you forget for a moment your heart is breaking." --Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes*

* "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." --*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 Reviews*

Praise for *After Ever After* :

* “As hilarious as it is tragic, and as honest as it is hopeful, don’t confuse this book with inspirational reading. It’s irresistible reading.” --*Booklist*, starred review

* “Sonnenblick’s intimate first-person tale of survival . . . will leave an emotional, uplifting imprint.” --*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Jordan Sonnenblick continues Jeffrey’s story in his signature style using an authentic teenage voice and laugh-out-loud humor.” --*TeensReadToo.com*

Praise for *Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip*:

“Jordan Sonnenblick scores a home run with *Curveball* as he continues what he does best: getting to the core of issues that resonate with teens in a style that’s direct and witty.” --*Book Page*

* “Sonnenblick again shows an adept ability to tackle big-deal life issues, treat them seriously and believably, and filter them into a high-spirited, even fun story.” --*Booklist*, starred review

* “The novel is populated with kind, vulnerable characters who care about each other, and the thoroughly enjoyable mix of sports, art, family drama, and budding romance will have readers invested in Peter’s struggles to accept his new world...” --*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Praise for *Notes from the Midnight Driver*:

* “[A] funny, bittersweet tour de force.” --*Booklist*, starred review

* “Readers [will be] nodding with recognition, sighing in sympathy, and gasping with laughter--often on the same page.” --*The Horn Book*, starred review

* “Sonnenblick revisits several key themes from his debut novel, *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*, to even greater effect here.” --*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Praise for *Zen and the Art of Faking It*:

* “Wildly funny.” -- *Kliatt*, starred review

“This light-hearted situation comedy is peppered with genuine Zen insight.” --*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*

“Hilarious and heart-wrenching.” --*Kirkus Reviews*

“The writing is fresh, the characters appealing, and it looks like the author has another hit.” --*Oakland Tribune*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrina Eaton:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book titled Notes From The Midnight Driver? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Albert Parks:

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Pete Plaisance:

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Minnie Rivera:

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