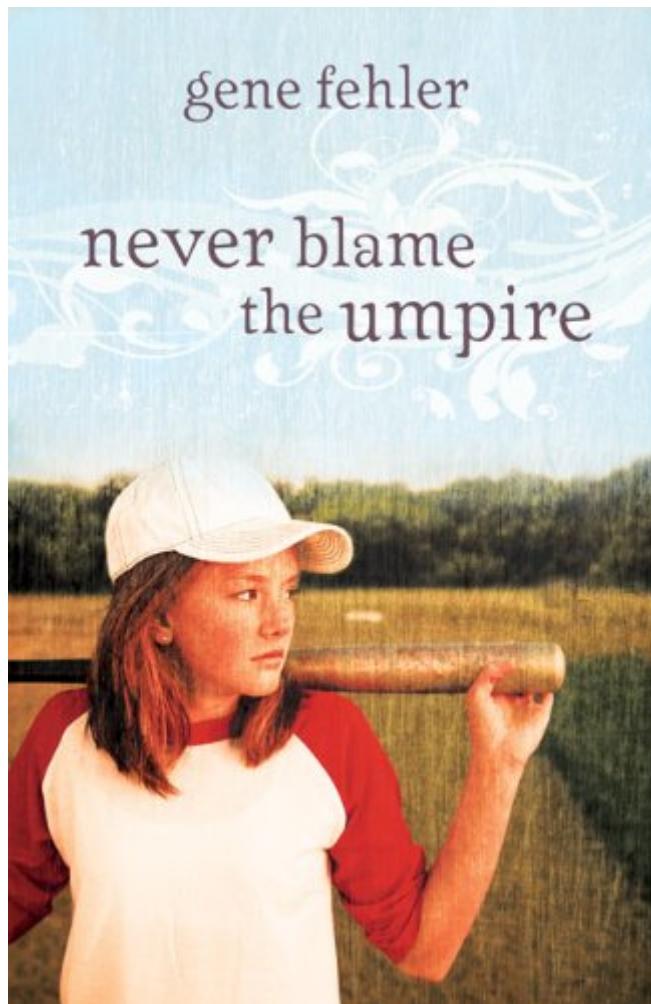


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# Never Blame The Umpire



## **Synopsis**

How do you trust God when tragedy strikes? Kate is having the best summer a sports-loving eleven-year-old could possibly have. Baseball. Tennis. And to top it off, Kate has just started a three-week class where she's discovering a new love: poetry. Then comes the news that tears Kate's world apart. In her close-knit family, Kate has always felt God's love and protection. But how can she trust God now? Do sports or poetry matter when tragedy strikes? In Kate's darkest hour, her mother's faith shines its brightest, helping Kate to see that life is still beautiful and God is still good. Always, no matter what.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

MY THOUGHTS: This story is intended for ages 9-12. It's about Kate, a 12 year old girl who is having the best summer of her life, playing baseball, studying creative writing, hanging out with best friends - until tragedy unexpectedly strikes. Life takes on a completely different meaning when she finds out

her mother has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. How will she ever come to terms with this revelation? Another kindle freebie I downloaded thinking even though its a kid's book, I might actually enjoy it ~ wrong. I don't consider myself religious, maybe I lean towards more of an agnostic. Remarkably, I do tolerate most Christian Fiction, as long as the author doesn't shove it down my throat. Unfortunately, in this particular book the religion takes front stage, when I'd much prefer it to be subtle, implied and in the background. **BOOK DISCUSSION:** Though the plot and storyline interested me, this book suffered from too much GOD Talk for me to truly kick back and enjoy it. Instead, it made me feel a bit uptight. Even if spirituality is your "thing" I still found flaws within the book. For example, Kate, the narrator is twelve years old, but her voice is that of someone much younger. The tone the author used was simple, flat and matter of fact. The story itself lacked tangible details and descriptive adjectives. The word choice was far too simple, told in such a manner as if an adult was speaking to a child. I wasn't able to relate to the main character Kate, on the emotional level I would have liked too, the book just scratched the surface of her character. I felt it could have delved much deeper into her soul. Sorry, I really wanted to like this one, but it was a total disappointment to me. On a positive note, the author did provide some nice poetry and some great tips on how to start writing, but the best part about the book for me was it was FREE.

This is a very well-written book telling a summer story about a young girl's life when her mother is diagnosed with cancer. The story follows the young girl and her family of four and all the family dynamics from the mother's diagnosis of cancer to the mother's funeral. The story is told from the viewpoint of the young girl and is a timely, gripping story of dealing with loss of a loved one. The story is good, the characters believable and the book deals well with a difficult subject... how to keep your faith when you don't like what is happening to people you love. Family values, friendship, creativity and God are all woven into the fabric of this story. This is a very uplifting book. Great for young adults, this book also encourages creative thinking, enforces Christian faith and is a good story for anyone of any age to read. Tear alert! If you cry at sad stories, keep a book of kleenex near while reading.

I read this book from the middle school library where I volunteer. I bought it for my granddaughters, one of whom likes to write poetry. The main character in the book writes poetry, deals with a family death from cancer, and her mother's advice to never blame the umpire. Oh, she also plays baseball, thus the comparison of God with the game umpire. Very thought provoking, wonderful book. Never Blame the Umpire

This book was a good read, especially since I haven't read in years. The thing I didn't like was how it jumped from different locations and settings a lot without details. Otherwise, real nice book. Sad ending, although easy expectations

Kate, 11 is a very athletic girl who enjoys baseball and tennis. She is also quite adept at writing poetry. Her close-knit family goes to bat for her and she, in turn would step up to the plate for them. Her brother Ken, 12 plays on the same team Kate does. The story opens with Kate and Ken playing in the final inning of a neighborhood baseball game. At this crucial moment in the game, Kate realizes that their parents are absent. This is out of character for them as they have never missed any of Kate or Ken's games. Once Kate and Ken arrive home, their father's grim face tells them that something terrible has happened. When they ask about their mother, all their father will tell them is that she has gone to bed, even though it was only 8:30. His simple explanation is that she is not feeling well and says nothing more until the next morning. Their mother has terminal cancer. Once again, the family pitches in. Kate, Ken and their father rally round to do everything they can to make life as pleasant as they can. The children know their mother is dying and their sole goal is to make life as pleasant and comfortable as they can for her. They resume their normal routine which includes watching a movie and eating popcorn on Fridays. One Friday, Ken becomes overcome when a character in a comedy dies and from that point on refuses to sit with the family for Friday movies. Luckily, Kate has more support in a kind teacher who helps her hone her writing skills. Once he becomes aware of Kate's troubles, he, too steps up to the plate for her in a way that is very heartwarming. This is an excellent book about loss, grieving/bereavement and family support. Readers of all ages will get a lot out of this book and it is an ideal teaching tool and subject for reading groups, discussion groups and even bereavement groups. This very intense book might make you cry, but no doubt you will be glad that you read it. It is strong without being maudlin and it is hard-hitting and very realistic. I would highly recommend this book to everybody.

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