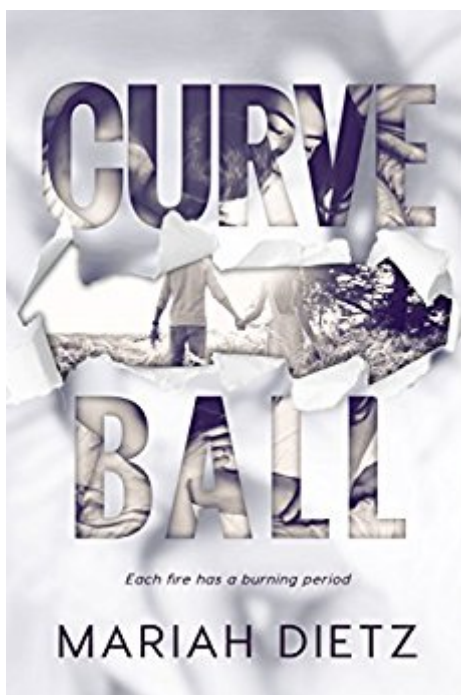


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# Curveball



## Synopsis

Shakespeare believed there was always humor in tragedy and tragedy in humor. My life proved his theory as fact. At eighteen I was a single parent moving to this small town to be with the man I loved. The one who was supposed to love and cherish me in return. Finding out he had a wife was tragic. Remaining in love with him in spite of her was more tragic. My mom and best friend setting me up on a long string of blind dates was an ongoing tragedy. Nine years later, I've learned to see the humor in most situations. My mom and best friend setting me up on disastrous blind dates. My son's jokes. The fire alarm going off each time I cook. My constant bright spot always adding to the humor was my son, Hayden. But when Hayden had a life-threatening allergic reaction, the man who came to help my little boy became my own savior. His laugh, his smile, and the way his eyes lit up when he spoke to my son made him a beacon of light in both our lives. But I wasn't the only one who noticed him. This is a new release of an edition originally published by Mariah Dietz.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Talk about pulling me, breaking me and then putting me back together. This is the first book by

Mariah Dietz I have read and I absolutely sense a binge read in my future for all her other books. She is amazingly talented and brings these characters to life in such a way I felt I could be best friends with Ella. Ella is such a strongly written character trying to work through her flaws and Coen....swoon! This story is just beautiful and will absolutely be on my read, read and read again list.

I absolutely loved this book!! I had to read it in one sitting-I HAD to know how it ended!! Poor Ella thought she found true love when she was young-found out she was, in fact, the other woman. She met Coen years later, and she definitely felt something for him, but she had definitely hardened her heart after being burned once, and badly. She now has Hayden, her son, as her priority. Plus, living in the same town as her ex, her reputation has already been tarnished. Coen, who has learned the hard way to NEVER date a neighbor, instead decides to befriend the young mother and her son. Throw in Ella's best friend, who wants to get to know Coen herself, Ms. Dietz has set us up for quite a ride!! Five angsty stars from me!

A story like this is one that everyone relate to. You know Ella and Coen, okay maybe not them exactly but someone like them. This story, their story hits straight to the heart at least mine it did. A beautiful well written masterpiece that made every tear, smile, laugh and "he so deserved that" something I no doubt will do again. Its worth multiple re-reads! 5 stars are simply not enough!! received an advanced reader copy and voluntarily chose to review....then had to buy it!

This was a beautifully written story with the perfect build up. I am a huge fan of Mariah Dietz. When I read the blurb I couldn't wait to get my hands on it and let me tell you it was perfection at its best. Ella is a single mom who would do anything for her son. Her mom and best friend decided she needs to date to find her perfect someone so they set her up on dates. With a complicated relationship between her and her ex she's hesitant to date. Coen has just moved into a new house when his friend insists he needs to meet his neighbor. The attraction between Ella and Coen is instant but there's one problem, he's a firefighter. Loved Coen! The way he is with Ella and her son is perfect. I loved everything about this story and couldn't put it down. This is a MUST read and once you start you won't be able to stop until the end.

God, you know what I really love? I love a story about real characters in real situations, just going through the motions of dealing with real life issues that real people face everyday. I'm a reader that

prefers realism, even in my romantic fiction, and that's exactly what Mariah Dietz has created here with Curveball, a brutally honest story of finding love in the most unexpected place. I loved a lot of things about this book but what I appreciated the most was that it never felt over the top or contrived or dramatic for the sake of being dramatic. Ella and Coen are relatable, likeable, real characters and I connected with them both immediately. The natural progression of this romance, even though it was bumpy and slow burning and not without serious difficulties, never once felt over the top or forced. It was a fluid transition from strangers to friends to... more, and I loved every sweet, salty, infuriating moment. I felt so many things while reading this book. Curveball is filled with humor and wit, with moments of heartbreak, frustration and anger, with satisfying contentment and delicious romance. Ella and Coen's story is the kind of love story all of us hope to find when we open a book. It's a beautifully unexpected love story of feeling accepted, of being seen for who we truly are beneath our faults and our flaws, our baggage and our pasts. This isn't a story where the reader is swept away by steamy scenes and cheesy one-liners. (Well, maybe a few... Coen will make definitely make you swoon!) This is a story where the reader will be swept away by completely relatable characters with relatable problems who are just trying to find happiness amongst all they've lost and all that tries to keep them down. It's a story that deals with real life issues (anxiety, split families, illness, friendship, loss, love, betrayal, family) with honesty and emotion that I wholly connected with. I'm ashamed to admit that this was my first Mariah Dietz book. She's a beautiful writer, a lovely storyteller and she perfectly crafts a story every romance reader will enjoy. I'm officially a fan and I plan on reading her previous work immediately. This story is romantic and sweet, but peppered with perfectly timed heartache and difficulty, and a whopper of a curveball plot twist that seriously left me with my jaw hanging on the floor. This is a story for the romantics and a story for mothers. It's a story for those who've been betrayed and for those that just want to sit back and fall in love. Curveball is a beautiful, relatable, unputdownable story and the more I reflect on this book, the more perfect I think it is. I truly loved every bit of it.

When you sit down with a Mariah Dietz book, you want to pour a glass of wine and tell the world to just leave you alone. You want to read it all...at once!!! These are some of my favorite of Mariah's well-written characters to date is a sweet, loving and hard-working mother who is older and wiser than her years. She has had to overcome and deal with a lot of heartache, yet does it with maturity and strength! She is also wickedly sarcastic and funny. She deserves so much more than she thinks she does! Enter Coen...I loved him immediately. I promise you, he will be your new favorite BBF! He is a hotttt firefighter who has his own secrets, and try as he will, he cannot stay away from Ella and

her adorable son Hayden. The build up of events in this book are some of the best I've read. Curveball is the perfect title for this book. This a non-spoiler review because who wants to read what will happen??? I don't. Treat yourself and become immersed in this book! You will not be sorry. When it comes to Mariah Dietz, she tells an original story with characters you immediately grow to care about. You will love them, laugh and cry with them and even hate some of them. In the end, you are rewarded with a sensitive and loving story that is not only heartfelt and original, but definitely sticks with you long after.

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