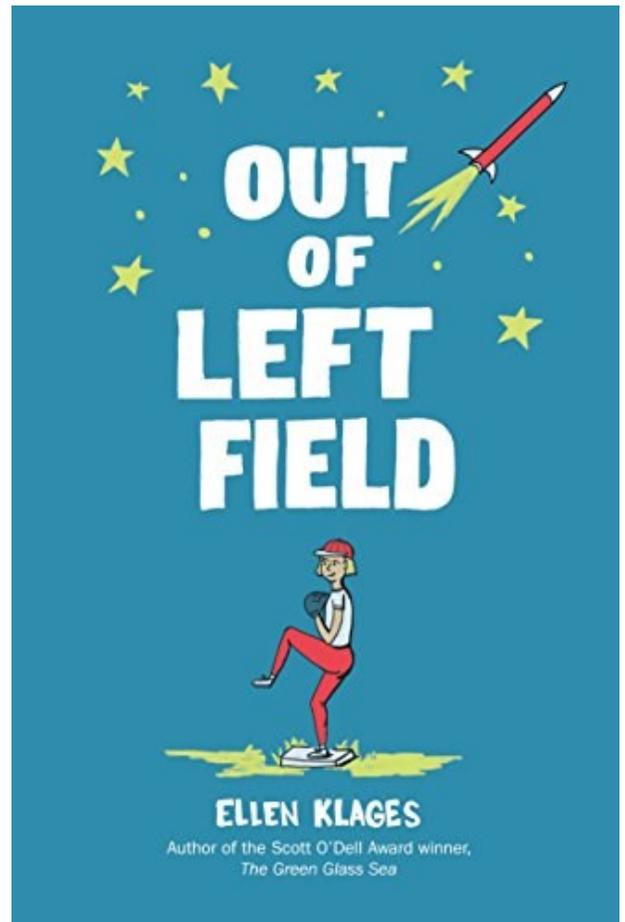


**Bibliomaniac Review****Title:** Out of Left Field**Author:** Ellen Klages**Recommended Grade:** 7th

The book, "Out of Left Field" is about a girl named Marnie with a special talent in baseball. Cody, her best friend, plays on the baseball team. He's a popular star, and everyone loves him. One day, at a game, Cody gets hit in the arm with a fast oncoming pitch from the other team. With Cody injured and out of the team temporarily, they need someone to replace him. At first, Marnie and her friends joke around about her trying out for the team, but the more she practices, the more she wants to try out. She eventually agrees to try out of the guy's baseball team with the encouragement of Cody and her friends. She makes the team but everyone is hesitant to let her in. She constantly feels left out being that she's the only girl on the team. Then, she starts noticing things change between Cody and her. A lot of the team members tease her about Cody, telling her that he likes her, but she doesn't really believe them. Then, she receives some important news. Her mom's brother is going to marry the mother of the guy that hurt Cody. At first, Marnie is afraid to get close to Santino, her future cousin, thinking about the fact that she would be betraying Cody, but she can't help it. Santino isn't the person she imagined him to be. She watched his relationship with his girlfriend, and she found it absolutely adorable. When Cody finds out, their relationship takes a turn. Marnie tries to desperately apologize, and after some time, Cody gives in. They take the opportunity to share their feelings about each other. With the sweetness and hardship that Marnie goes through, this book would be best for people with an interest in romance or friendship.

—Bibliomaniac Review