

## **After** by Hazel Hutchins

You know those tragedies you hear about on T.V.? Drive-by shootings where innocent bystanders are shot and killed. Robberies where shoppers are killed in the crossfire. Gang wars where some innocent person sitting in a restaurant is killed by a stray bullet. The reporter always says, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of this innocent victim." So for a minute, a tiny minute you do feel sorry for the moms, dads, brothers, sisters and other family members of the unfortunate victim, but then you just go back to your normal everyday life. You never think of them again. This book deals with two families after such a tragedy. Kate and Sam will never meet, but the affect the death of both of their brothers has on their families is agonizing. Kate deals with her grief by writing letters to her friend Amy. Kate's parents decide to move after her brother Josh is killed and things are not going well. Here is how Kate explains to Amy the circumstances of her brother's death.

Read from - P 120 "What's wrong around here Kate?"

To

P 121 "Is still dead."

Kate's mom and dad are not talking. Her family is falling apart. Their grief is unbearable.

Sam's brother Everett was the shooter. His mom and little sister Cleo don't have enough money to move out of the neighborhood. Everyone stares at them wondering what it was like to live with a killer. Sam does go to a different school where no one knows his brother was a killer. However, a bully named Chalmers arrives from his old school. He knows all about Sam's brother.

Read from – P32 "When he walks into woodworking"

To

P 33-"Very interesting family connections"

So the blackmailing begins.

Read to find out how each of these families deals with this horrible tragedy. The ending will really surprise you.