



Sidelined

Kendra C. Highley

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Sidelined

Kendra C. Highley

Sidelined Kendra C. Highley

Genna Pierce's life is finally falling into place. Perfect grades? Check. Her choice of scholarship now that basketball recruiters are sniffing around? Check. The hot guy she's crushed on since freshman year finally noticing her? Looks like it'll be a check any day now.

But when a freak accident sidelines Genna, her perfect life starts breaking apart into a million less-than-perfect pieces. No more scholarships. Spiraling grades. And she's sure Jake Butler, her forever crush, will have zero interest in someone as broken as she is.

Except Jake does want to stick around. He may have started falling for the girl Genna used to be, but he'll wait for the girl she could become—if she can find enough left in her to pick up the pieces and start again.

Sidelined Details

Date : Published October 1st 2013 by Entangled: Teen (first published September 13th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Kendra C. Highley

Format : Kindle Edition 250 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Sports and Games, Sports, Romance, Contemporary

 [Download Sidelined ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sidelined ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sidelined Kendra C. Highley

From Reader Review Sidelined for online ebook

Elaine says

What a rollercoaster ride this amazing story is! Just imagine you're eighteen, doing great with your academic work, you're a star basket ball player, likely to get a full scholarship through your talent, your team is heading for the finals with a good chance of winning, the boy you've crushed on for years asks you out and then everything in your life totally disintegrates... You get severely injured in a match, putting an end to your basketball dreams, your life is filled with pain, all scholarship offers are rescinded and that's just the start of things going wrong for you . . .

This is no sweet romance, it is filled with pain, heartbreak and turmoil. It explores in an emotive manner the problems associated with parental break ups, addiction to pain meds, first love, the loss of self worth and what happens when your dreams and aspirations get totally derailed. Nothing is sugar coated, it is raw and poignant. It helps explore so many issues in a meaningful manner with great characters that it could almost be compulsory reading for older teens, demonstrating so dramatically the impact of broken dreams, how easy addiction can happen to anyone and how hard it is to get out of the downward spiral.

Having said all that, it is also a story of growth, showing even after dreams have been shattered a different but still very positive future is possible, especially with the support of true friends and a loving parent. Whatever the future looks like at the moment you don't know what is round the next corner and need to keep on going, keep positive and striving to achieve your own HEA. This isn't just a story for teens, it is an emotive story I recommend to everyone - teen, adult, parents and grandparents, anyone - a superb exploration of dark times and inspirational for the future.

Thanks to the author, publisher and NetGalley, too, for letting me read an ARC of this book in exchange for this, an honest review.

Kim says

Find this review and more on my blog...

"The thing I've worked hardest for is gone. My life, my reason for existing at all.. over."

Things are going well in Genna Pierce's life. She's a star basketball player who is about to lead her team to the state championships. College scouts are making offers. She's started dating the guy she's had a crush on since 9th grade. Life is great. That is, until things go wrong in a split second on the basketball court and she suffers a career-ending injury. Now, instead of facing the exciting prospects of her future, like selecting a college and getting out of her small town, she's undergoing multiple surgeries, taking physical therapy to learn to walk again and numbing the pain - physical and mental - with Vicodin.

"I let my dream fall to the floor. I watch as it crashes and breaks, and grief rolls over me in tsunami-sized waves, threatening to pull me to the bottom of the sea."

I really liked Genna and my heart broke for her when she realized the extent of her injury and what it meant she was giving up. I can't imagine what it must be like to see your future go down in flames so spectacularly through no real fault of your own. It was gut-wrenching. Basketball was who she was. It's what her mother drilled into her from an early age. She's not only lost her future, she's lost her identity. As the physical and mental pain get to be more than she can bear, she depends more and more on Vicodin – going to some crazy lengths to acquire it. She pushes away the people closest to her – Jake and Rowan – as she loses herself in the addiction. Deep down she knows she has a problem, but she's in over her head.

"I don't want to see Jake. It's not because I'm pouting – I'm embarrassed. He saw me at the worst moment of my life, and now any mystique I had is gone. I'm no longer the badass basketball player who isn't scared of anything. What if the new, lesser me isn't enough for him? And why would I be?"

Genna and Jake had a great thing starting before her injury. They had been friends for years, but she had been crushing on him hardcore. He's a star football player and has a quite the reputation with girls. They've only gone out a couple of times, but their feelings for each other are strong. I think the uncertainty with the newness of the relationship played a lot into her feelings of inadequacy when it came to him. She really likes him. She can't bear the thought of losing something else right now, but she pushes him away.

"You just can't help yourself, can you? You're determined to be catnip to girls."

"So you're saying that because of your drug problem, you're not good enough for me? The same guy who did two girls at the prom last year because the opportunity presented itself? The same guy who could've hooked up with a third, except she changed her mind? You're not good enough for that guy?"

I'm not even going to lie – I loved Jake. He was swoon-worthy. I felt terrible for the way Genna was pushing him away. While I understood why she was doing it, it was obvious all he wanted was to be there for her, to help her. Comments at the beginning of the book alluded to Jake's past with regards to girls and it was hard to imagine that giving how attentive he was to Genna and how he genuinely seemed to care for her. He changed for her and can't understand why she won't let him be there for her. I thought Genna and Jake made a wonderful couple. They both had issues. Despite the newness of their relationship, it was obvious they both cared for each other deeply. They weren't perfect, but they were perfect together. I desperately wanted them to work through their issues.

"I hurt. The pills help."

Dad understands what I mean. "Then we need to find something else that helps more."

I had a love-hate relationship with Genna's parents in this novel. I don't like her mother. She's overbearing and pushy. She's forcing her dream on Genna – which I guess was mostly ok because it was Genna's dream as well. What wasn't ok was how she dealt with the injury and the resulting end of that dream. She was despicable. I understand it had to be difficult to watch your child go through something like that – especially since it was a dream they shared – but she was a poor parent. Genna's dad needed to grow a backbone a little sooner in the story. But, he was the only parent who was there for Genna. He was supportive and wonderful, what a parent should be.

"I spent months trying to be good enough for you. This... problem isn't taking us down."

Those novel handled a lot of difficult issues in a graceful way. It had a positive, hopeful message without being cliché. I had hopes for how things would turn out in the end, but I didn't know for sure what was going to happen until it did. Despite the depth of the issues it dealt with, this was an easy book to read. I breezed through it in a couple hours. I wanted to see Genna piece herself back together, fight her addiction and move on with her life, regardless of how impossible doing so seemed in the days and weeks immediately following her injury. There's no cliffhanger here and the storyline wrapped up nicely at the end. I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys contemporary young adult lit with depth.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Queenilyn says

****Copy was provided by the publisher for review****

Thank you to Rockstar Book Tours and Entangled Teen/Entangled Publishing for providing the review copy and this is such a great opportunity for me to have received and read an early copy of *Sidelined!* I am very grateful. Thank you once again!

Surpassed her mom's skill in basketball, Genna is all ready and prep up - entitled to win the state with her team. She is an all-confident, aspiring basketball player. She set her future devoted to the sport she's always love her whole life. Unfortunately, the accident made her unable to continue pursuing her dream. It completely shattered her. One is already enough, however, the obstacles keep coming her way, one after the other. Her parents' divorce, that is. Destroyed by the addiction that has become her, where she turned all her problems to. She lost the ability to see beyond the challenges and its main purpose. Frustration. Her heart filled with loss. No purpose to exist at all. Though life is unfair, she learned to accept it.

Every character has their flaws they carry with them. Giving each of them the unique and believable authentic characters they are, neatly been thought-out.

In my opinion, primarily, what she has to go through were blessing in disguise. In which of those two conflicts she faced, she was hidden from the light at first. Slowly, revealing it's meaningful and beautifully woven story. The opportunity of hope came abundantly afterwards. I love that it doesn't focuses too much on romance but the family and self-control issues. The courage and determination she continued on despite everything, did not went to waste in the end. She has let the opportunity in and fully appreciate who she is and how had her life had turned out to be. This time, it didn't slip through her fingers. She's embracing every bit of it.

Genna has her supportive dad who has been all along with her through the tough times she's had. I believe that's what keeps her going. She's not about to give up. She looks up to her dad. She sees he never gave on her, even after all of chaos in their family. She does the same to continue fighting for what is worth. Her dad is all she's got.

I found it hard at first to review this book as it is thought-provoking. I ponder on a lot of things. I learned that you should broaden and be open minded on the varieties in choosing what you do in life. It will always not be align to how everything we want them to be. Have a better grasp of your goals. Back up plans. Be well-prepared for the cautions along the path you take.

Sidelined speaks to the soul to those who have this book in their hands.

(Actual) Rating: 4.5 of 5 stars

Anastasia says

I found this book really enjoyable. The story, as read in a description, is about a girl who's dream has been crushed because of a freak accidents. Her life has ended...everything she ever wanted, especially to get a sport scholarship and have a basketball career, she can't have it. She is broken. She doesn't know how to deal with this, she doesn't know how to numb the pain, so she turns to Vicodin to do it for her. Before the accident everything was almost perfect, she had friend, a great team, and a popular hot boyfriend. Now she doesn't know if she can make it without basketball. The game was her life. It was her ticket out, and away from her parents. Now the game is over...or so she thinks.

"I let my dreams fall to the floor. I watch as it crashes and breaks, and grief rolls over me in tsunami-sized waves, threatening to pull me to the bottom of the sea."

I really liked Genna because of how real she was written, I think Kendra C. Highley did an amazing job of portraying Genna and her struggle and everything she went through. I didn't expected to like this book as much as I did. One of the reasons was that Sidelined didn't focus as much on a romantic relationship of the story like most books do. This was more as seeing how teens struggle nowadays and this is really is going on in real life and people just don't see it but it is happening a lot. Sidelined really shows how addiction can break you and make you dependable on a drug.

The romantic relationship part of the story was not as great as I would want it to be. There were a lot of cliches and really predictable. But it didn't make a story less more interesting. I just didn't care much for the "couple" in the book, as much as on just Genna.

The relationship between Genna and her parents really give more spice to the story. I feel like if it was any other book, I would be annoyed with the way her relationship with her parents was, but I felt like it worked.

I would definitely recommend to check this book out and give it a shot!

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Rockstars Blog Tours and Entangled publishing.)

For 18-year-old Imogen (Genna), basketball is everything. She's destined for a scholarship to college to play basketball, and things are even looking up with Jake, a boy who she has had a major crush on forever.

When Genna is injured during a basketball game, all her plans are dust when she is told that she will never be able to play professional basketball again.

With Vicodin the only thing keeping her going, and her mother more and more absent from her life, Genna feels like her life is on a downward spiral.

Can Genna learn to cope without the Vicodin? Should she still be with Jake? What is her mother up to? And what will happen to Genna now she can't play basketball?

This was a good YA contemporary story, and I liked how normal Genna was.

Genna was a great character. She was just so normal! Totally the sort of person that you would be friends with and go to school with, and what happened to her just sucked. I really felt for her when she realised that her career was over, and the way that she became hooked on Vicodin, without even realising it showed how dangerously addictive narcotics are, even to your average everyday person.

I liked the storyline in this book, and I liked how well the book flowed. I felt really sorry for what Genna was going through, and at the same time understood her addiction and how she ended up where she was. I did see some parts of the storyline coming, but this didn't really spoil the story at all.

I thought the drug addiction part of the story was done really well, especially as Genna felt like a normal person, and didn't come across the way you would expect an addict to come across. I also liked how the legal problems of Genna's addiction were also dealt with.

I liked the romance between Genna and Jake, although that wasn't really the main focus of the story. I thought that there could possibly have been a bit more romance, but the story was fine as it was really. If you're looking for a romance novel, this isn't really it though, this focuses more on Genna's problem with drugs.

I liked the ending of the book, and I liked how things worked out okay for Genna in the end, and we got as much of a happy ending as we could in the situation!

Overall; a good YA contemporary story dealing with addiction.

8 out of 10.

Angelique says

Where did I get the book: I received the book for free from Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest and fair review.

My Rating: 3.5 Bookworms

My Review:

Genna comes across as the sporty girl that has her life in order. This is not the case. Her mother pushes her to hard, she is too shy to even talk to the boy she has been crushing on for years. Add on to that the fact that said boy practically slept his way through all the girls in school then its pretty clear life really isn't all that great. Until Jake finally comes to his senses, asks her out. Things start looking up. The basketball team is going to state, she finally has her man and maybe her mom will let up a bit. Sounds too good to be true right? Right. Suddenly her entire worlds starts crashing down around her again. Is Jake really such a good guy? Will her mom ever look at her with some pride again? Will the pain ever go away – without the use of painkillers?

You will have to read the book to see :P

I loved this book for how refreshingly real it was. I don't think that we focus enough on how tough things are for teens in school these days. A lot of pressure is put on them to perform and a lot of disapproval is thrown their way if they don't. And we all know drugs play a huge part in high schools.

Genna turned to the Vicodin thinking she had no one else to help her out. If only she could open her eyes and see what she had – her dad and best friend. They had great relationships and gave me warm fuzzies by how supportive and understanding they were of everything that Genna was going through.

My only problem was that there were a few things that felt a little obvious. Genna and her mom's relationship, the fact that Jake was such a player to start off with. Genna's crush paying her attention after all this time because he felt he had to 'clean up his act to be good enough'. Other than that this was a good read.

This wasn't quite what I expected but better for it.

Soma Rostam "IOB" says

This was the first time I heard of the author but the concept looked really good. It was definitely the first time I read about such a flawed main character and liked it that much!

Basketball was Imogen's whole life. She was happy, even though her mum wasn't always around. She had a great father, a great best friend, and the cute guy she has liked forever, Jake was interested in her. Up until a fatal injury later, her life is changed forever. No more basketball, her family is falling apart, and she doesn't wanna see anymore. She turns to the only rescue from the pain, Vicodin.

Drug addiction is a sensitive and very important topic nowadays. So, I was really glad that the author approached this subject. Our main character, Genna is a girl who has centered her whole life around basketball. So when that's gone, her life feels empty. She was the most realistic character I have ever read. She had flaws, and she wasn't just the perfect girl like in every YA novel. No, she knew that her addiction was somehow wrong but she wanted a way away from the pain, and she got that from the Vicodin.

The romance in this book is absolutely amazing! I LOVED Jake. Every girl wants a guy who will change for her. He is a total player, but for Genna, he changes into this absolutely wonderful gem of a guy! Even when she pushes him away and turns to the Vicodin, he still loves her and won't let her go. That was beautiful.

The plot is a little slow-moving at times, which is why this book got a four star and not a five star from me. This book is realistic. It doesn't cover anything up for the sake of the reader, or hide truths in plain sight. No. It's straight-forward and it's amazingly crafted to represent the teenage years. It felt real in every aspect, and I LOVE that about contemporary books. This book is a book about redemption, and the power of love. It's one book that'll stay with you for a long, long time.

Alessandra says

E-galley received from the publisher for review.

Imogen (Genna) Pierce has trained her whole life to play basketball in college. It's her mother's dream as well as her own. Now she's a senior in high school, the team captain, and has a chance of winning the state tourney. University scouts are inviting her to visit colleges, and she's now dating the football quarterback on whom she's had a crush for years. However, during an important match, she has a bad accident and can no longer play.

Genna is broken and defeated; she doesn't know who she is anymore, if she can't play basketball. Her parents keep fighting, and her mother buries herself into work. Genna also can't understand why Jake would still want to be with her. Frantic to make the pain stop, she turns to Vicodin.

I read Sidelined in one sitting. It sucked me in and I had to know how it ended. It also broke my heart. It's the story of a girl who gets addicted to medicinals and does whatever she can to get her next dose. At first she's doing it unconsciously; the pills help her relax and forget about her daily troubles. Then she can't control it any longer. It's a vicious addiction, even more so because Genna denies, at first, that she has a problem. Her boyfriend tries to help, but she pushes him away.

Genna's relationship to her parents is not ideal. Her bond with her mother seems to depend on basketball; her mother was a player herself when she was younger and has always coached Genna. When the girl can no

longer play, she feels her mother grow distant, more focused on work than ever. then she learns that her mother has been having an affair. With Genna's dad, things go better; he's always been the more accomodating parent. But when he's the only one left to take care of Genna, things get strained.

The romance subplot is also present. I loved Jake; he was a sweet, supporting boyfriend. The love story was nice to read.

Suze Lavender says

Genna's dream is about to come true. She will have the chance to go to college on a basketball scholarship. Her grades are perfect, she's a fantastic player and she finally has the chance to go out with Jake. She fancied him from the first time she saw him and now it seems he's also interested in her. She feels like everything is the way it should be. Only then an accident changes Genna's life forever. She can no longer be the girl she used to be. Her grades are suffering, she can't play basketball and she loses her scholarship offers. She's a broken girl and she thinks Jake shouldn't be with her. Her heart has been shattered and she has no idea how to mend it. Slowly things are spiraling out of control and Genna doesn't know how to stop it.

Sidelined is a serious story. When I picked it up I didn't expect a book with such an important and difficult topic. It was a really good surprise. The story has a lot of depth and I couldn't put it away. I had tears in my eyes when I read Genna's story. It was heartbreaking to see what she was going through. Kendra C. Highley writes about her problems with a lot of empathy and that's exactly what it needs. Genna's story is sad, but fortunately there's also a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel. The ending is really good, it's both realistic and fitting.

Kendra C. Highley writes in an honest way. She doesn't sugarcoat things and the feelings she writes about are raw and beautiful. Sidelined is an easy read about a sensitive topic. I like that combination, because it enables you to totally lose yourself in the emotions. Love, friendship and family are important in Genna's life and as she has to deal with many problems at the same time she needs people who care, who can help her heal and who are making sure she knows she isn't on her own. Reading about those important connections is what I loved the most about this book. Sidelined is a strong story about a broken girl who needs to find the strength to get up again after a serious knockdown in life.

Nicole says

Sidelined!!! First things first: I received an ARC of this book through NetGalley. The book is already out, so you can go and check it out. (Warning for drug abuse)

This is my second book by Kendra C. Highley. Finding Perfect was one of my favorite books last year.

BUT WOW. This book, though. That wasn't what I expected, it was so much better and just overall all kinds of awesome.

Let me start with the characters, cause I love these characters to pieces.

Genna. Genna is the main girl. She's a basketball star in her highschool with a bright future ahead of her in the sport she loves. And she's starting to date the guy she has a crush on for a long time. And then during a game an accident happens that changes her life completely. We follow her journey through all this, her

struggles through the recovery after the accident and especially the journey to finding herself and figuring out who she is and what she wants in her life, now that playing basketball isn't in her cards anymore.

We also have Jake, Genna's long time crush and now current boyfriend. Who tries his best to stick around while Genna is changing. I'm glad that in the story he wasn't Genna's savior, who's pure existens just healed her and made her better and saved the day.

And then we have Rowan, who is my absolut favorite side character in the book. Her friendship with Genna is just one of the most important things for me. She had her own problems but still always stuck with Genna. It's beautiful and just so important.

That brings me to the relationships in this book. Apart from that friendship. I really loved Genna's relationship with her father and how he helped her and just everything about it. I also loved the blooming friendship towards the end between Genna and Ethan. And also that Genna's relationship with her mother seemed to be getting better.

Like I said before. That book wasn't what I expected. I didn't see the painkiller storyline coming and that was something that made the book so outstanding for me. The author did an amazing job writing it. I loved Genna's journey through all of this. Thinking it isn't a problem, to hitting rock bottom and to finally getting better at dealing with everything and getting clean. As I mentioned above I'm glad that Jake didn't take part in her healing. It could have been a story about the boyfriend as the 'magical problem solver' and I hate that so much. Cause that's now how these things work.

Overall I think it's an amazing story with wonderful characters and a lot of serious issues that are written in a beautiful and great way.

Dani (Dani Reviews Things & Love in a time of Feminism) says

See this review in its natural environment, Dani Reviews Things.

I received this book for free from Entangled in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

How do I even begin to review this? I cried so many times, but I'm going to be upfront and say that it might not hit other people as hard. I don't know...maybe it will. It's just that this book touched on some own personal issues that I've been going through the past year and a bit, and it was *so damn hard*. This book was a lot heavier than I thought it would be when I picked it up, dealing with drug abuse, attempted suicide and divorce. You've been warned.

Genna is a senior in high school, on her way to a college scholarship for playing basketball. Her *whole life* is basketball. She loves it; she lives it. And then, just after the guy she's been crushing on since freshman year admits that her strength and ability on the court are super attractive... she has an accident. One that permanently destroys her ability to play. And if that wasn't bad enough, her family starts falling apart.

From the beginning, I could tell how important basketball was to Genna. Highley included little details of how Genna prepares for games, how she plays, etc. which added an extra touch of believability to the story. I could completely get behind her spiral out of control after losing it.

What's more, I could also understand and relate to her feelings around her parents. Her reactions, like

believing straight away what was happening, might seem far-fetched to other people, and if I hadn't had the *exact* same reactions myself, I would have probably thought they were weird or extreme. But no, believe me, they weren't. The one thing I did struggle with was towards the end, but I won't say too much. All I'll tell you is that it's been just over a year since I went through her predicament, and it's still seriously f***ing hard, which is probably why I kept bawling at intervals while reading.

A note on the romance... Oh my sweet baby jock. Jake was amazing. He was so supportive and caring and also clearly a gorgeous specimen of a man. He was attracted to Genna for her strength and athleticism, a nice change from jocks going for cutesy little girls with no athletic ability. He stuck by her though, even after her accident, and that won him *sooooo* many points. I hated reading about him hurting, wanting to shake Genna over and over when she did particularly hurtful things.

Overall, it took me a few days to read, and it caused me a lot of heartache, but I enjoyed reading it. Thank you so much to Entangled for offering it up for review again. I honestly think it deserves more love and attention from all of you wonderful readers!

Rashika (is tired) says

I DNFed this because there were too many fucking cliches in this book and too many other messed up things. I won't be writing a rant but here is a brief overview.

The girl has a pushy mom that is pressurising her to follow HER dream. Of course the girl actually loves the sport so it isn't that big of a deal to her but still. Also she used to train with her mother but when she became better than her mother, her mother suddenly didn't have time for her. Also the mother is so strict. This is like a slap in my face because I absolutely HATE it when there are terrible parents in YA. Plus I am close to my mom so if you try to shove such a horrible mother down my throat that will almost definitely backfire (there are exceptions but that is not the point).

How about the pushover father? Who doesn't even do anything to stop the mental/emotional abuse the mother is putting the daughter through? He just stands in the background like a little lapdog.

So bad parents = point 1

Insta love=point 2.

They are hitting second base on their second date for crying out loud! Which was at her house when her parents were away at a party so it wasn't even really a date. Oh and did I mention that the dude is a quarter back and the captain of the football team and also a player? Who went cold feet on his dating around /sleeping around so that he would have a shot at this girl who doesn't think she is pretty and cannot understand why he would want to date her?

So if this sounds like something you would enjoy have fun, who am I to judge? and if this doesn't sound like something you'd like, pack your bags make a fucking run for it, save your lives, it's definitely not worth it.

Kendra says

The book releases October 1, 2013. Yay!

Emilie says

So here's the thing about Kendra C. Highley's *Sidelined*, I knew next to nothing about the book when I first started reading it. To be honest, all I really knew was that it was a contemporary story, the main character played basketball and I had guessed from the title that something happens to her and she can no longer play. I was going in blind. But I'm glad I did because it meant I was able to enjoy the story in a way I don't think I would have otherwise.

Genna always knew what her future would hold: she would graduate high school with an athletic scholarship to play basketball in college. And that reality was within her reach. Until one fateful moment on the court changed her life completely. A double leg fracture puts an end to her basketball career and now Genna has to rebuild her life from scratch. But it's not just her basketball career that falls apart, it's Genna's whole life. And before long, Genna is spiralling down a dark hole where the only thing capable of easing her pain is the one thing that is bringing her down.

I went in completely blind with *Sidelined*. I had briefly read over the summary and that had apparently been enough to convince me I wanted to read this book. And as much as I am sometimes weary of reading books when I know nothing about them going in blind can have some distinct advantages. I didn't have any preconceived ideas about the book. Sure after a couple chapters I had a vague idea of where the story might be going, but even then, *Sidelined* didn't end up going quite where I thought it would. I didn't really think it would go beyond exploring how Genna dealt with giving up basketball. And in a way, the story definitely did this but it also went deeper. All of a sudden I was reading a story about addiction and there wasn't much sugarcoating. I could see how much Genna struggled with being addicted to her pain meds. I could see how it was affecting not just her, but the people around her. And I appreciated the fact that I saw that inner struggle in Genna. It meant that I was able to see the progression, see her downward spiral to addiction and then her fight to get better. In a way, it made Genna feel a lot more real.

So that brings me to Genna. I wouldn't be honest if I didn't say that I didn't really think much of her when I first started reading the story. Even once she got injured and had to deal with the implications of that injury, I still just saw her as someone telling a story. But once she started getting addicted to her pain meds, I started finding her a lot more interesting as a character. Having the story told from Genna's perspective definitely helped with that. With the story told this way, I could see her inner turmoil, how the drug was starting to control her. And then I saw her inner fight against it. It all made her more interesting. And as much as there were other characters in the story that were both supporting her and were there for conflict purposes, the story was very much about Genna and her conflict with herself. And for me, that made for a really interesting and engaging story.

Kendra C. Highley's *Sidelined* wasn't what I thought it would be. Not knowing what to expect made for a more interesting reading experience. If you're looking for a story that's deeper and deals with a harder subject matter than I would definitely recommend *Sidelined*.

Jessie Harrell says

This book hooked me from the beginning. Genna's voice is realistic and engaging. I loved her drive and what a kick-butt girl she was in a very real way (no kicking monster butt, but she could tear it up on the basketball court). She's got an amazing best friend who isn't the so-bubbly-you-want-to-scream variety and her new boy friend is pretty much a typical guy. In short, the characters are so real you could touch them and entirely three dimensional.

As you can tell from the blurb, reading this book is like watching a train wreck happen in really slow motion. Genna starts with the Vicodin to drown out the emotional pain more than the physical pain from breaking her leg: the loss of basketball, her mother's betrayal, the embarrassment and feelings of inadequacy. At first, it doesn't seem like her prescription use is all that bad, which is exactly what Genna is thinking. But the more Genna starts to react like an addict, the more we can see what a hold it has on her life.

I'm not going to say that this was a feel-good read. It did end well, but there were painful moments along the way. I think an errant tear even escaped my eye toward the end. As an "issue" book, however, I'd say it's first rate. I think it's important for teens dealing with addiction to see that things are not hopeless and it will get better. But it will take hard work and you've got to accept the support of the people trying to help.

If you or a teen you know could benefit from this book, it's definitely worth a read. The writing is top-notch and the characters compelling. You'll even get to meet some LGBT characters in this one too. Bonus "issue" points!

Thanks to Entangled Teen for providing me with a review copy in exchange for my honest review. This did not have any effect on my opinions.
