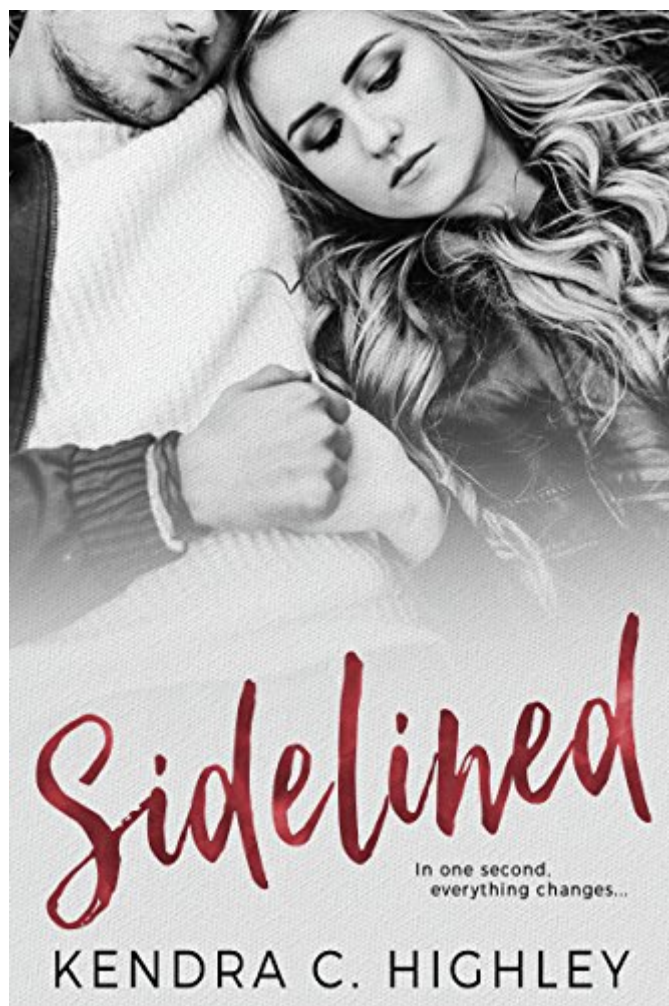


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# Sidelined (Entangled DigiTeen)



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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."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 have 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. \*\*\*

I love Kendra Highley's Matt Archer series, so when I heard about *Sidelined*, I couldn't wait to read it. I wasn't disappointed. I won't summarize the plot since other reviewers have already done that. Instead, I'll talk about the reasons I found this book such an enjoyable read. As with all of Kendra's books, the prose feels effortless. It disappears into the background, letting the story shine through. The plot rolls along at a nice pace. I was never bored or tempted to skim. All the characters are well developed with both strengths and weaknesses. They seem like real people and by novel's end, I felt like I knew them personally. It was clear that story was well researched from the details of playing women's basketball to the legal ramifications of acquiring multiple narcotics prescriptions from different doctors. I actually learned a few things reading this novel. Overall, this book was an intense read dealing with the tough topics of divorce and drug addiction. The story never wandered into melodrama, but it did make me feel. Yes, I teared up from time to time, but the ending is a happy one. I highly recommend *Sidelined*. You won't be disappointed.

I don't know how to convey how deeply this book touched me. I'm 14 years old and for 8 years I was a swimmer. Swimming was my everything, my future was swimming. One day that all changed. I

was getting ready for my number one event when my shoulder just gave out on me. I couldn't bring it above my head, I couldn't do anything with it. For two years I went to 7 different doctors, took a dozen different tests, each telling me something different about my shoulder. After finally getting a diagnosis and doing extensive PT I was eventually told that my shoulder would never heal on its own. For two years I held out hope that I could swim again, that I could be who I was again. Swimming had influenced every aspect of my life and without it I didn't know who I was. The author captured this loss perfectly. There were times when I had to put the book down and collect myself before continuing. It is hard to explain to people how I felt and here it is written down in a book. I connected with Genna and her pain was an echo of my own. She reminded me of myself and it was hard seeing what happened to her. Genna's situation was worse than my own in that her home life was in turmoil and she lost basketball when she was a senior. She had to cope with her injury, her parents, and college all at the same time. The weight of her loss and her fear of the future took her down into a very dark place, a place so dark and deep she couldn't get out on her own. Genna turned to pills to take her away from the pain and they slowly took over her life. It was painful watching her fall into the vortex esp. because there were people around her that could help. Genna's parents, Jake, and Ro were amazing supporting characters, I loved the relationship they had with Genna and each other. They were well developed, well rounded and their stories tied themselves to Genna's in a beautifully woven web. The stuck with her throughout her struggles, were part of her struggles, and made the book come to life in a way only they could. I loved this book. The author did a wonderful job of showing how a teen with her life mapped out suddenly has to learn how to walk again. It wasn't easy, it wasn't pretty, it was gritty and raw and emotionally draining. Every page brought something new and I don't think I ever put the book down. I would highly recommend this book to anyone willing to look at the darker side of life with nothing but a dim light at the end of the tunnel. 5 out of 5 stars

Sidelined is a contemporary YA novel about a basketball star, Genna, who suffers a serious injury. She loses basketball and struggles to piece her life back together as she also battles an addiction to painkillers. I thought the book was a solid contemporary YA book. Genna is a flawed character, but realistic character. At times, I thought Jake seemed a little too good to be true, but I suppose his backstory made up for it. I think this book could really help other teens or young adults who face a similar situation where they need to rethink their future.

Great book

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