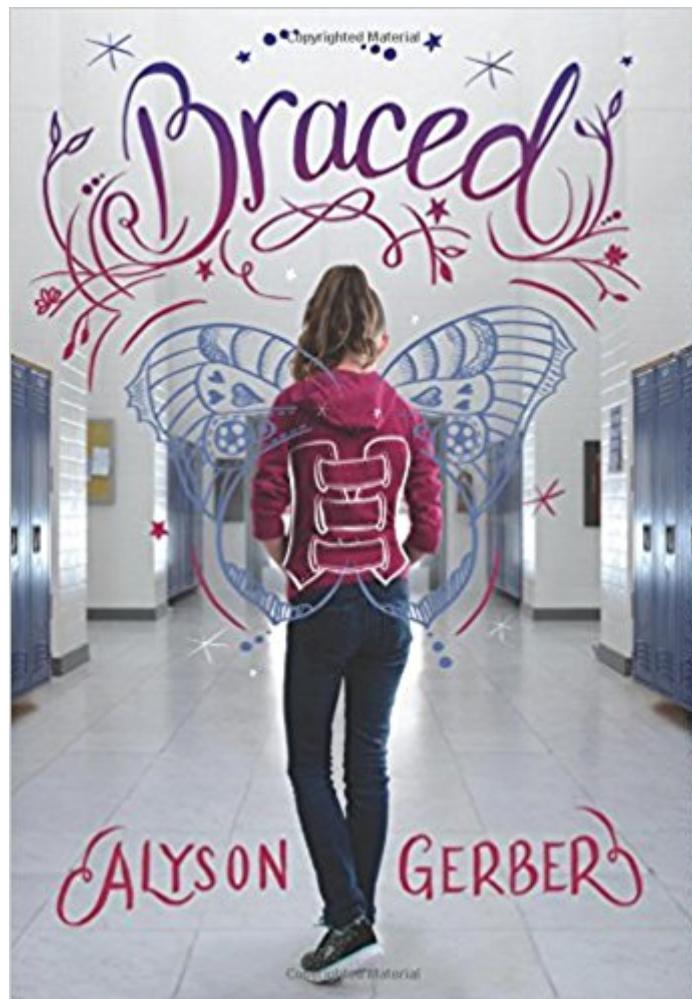


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# Braced



## Synopsis

Rachel Brooks is excited for the new school year. She's finally earned a place as a forward on her soccer team. Her best friends make everything fun. And she really likes Tate, and she's pretty sure he likes her back. After one last appointment with her scoliosis doctor, this will be her best year yet. Then the doctor delivers some terrible news: The sideways curve in Rachel's spine has gotten worse, and she needs to wear a back brace twenty-three hours a day. The brace wraps her in hard plastic from shoulder blades to hips. It changes how her clothes fit, how she kicks a ball, and how everyone sees her--even her friends and Tate. But as Rachel confronts all the challenges the brace presents, the biggest change of all may lie in how she sees herself. Written by a debut author who wore a brace of her own, *Braced* is the inspiring, heartfelt story of a girl learning to manage the many curves life throws her way.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books (March 28, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545902142

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #108,309 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #117 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #160 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Diseases #180 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

\* "The author doesn't diminish Rachel's difficulties, but at heart her story is uplifting . . . Comparisons to Judy Blume's *Deenie* might be inevitable, but Rachel stands admirably on her own." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review\* "A masterfully constructed and highly empathetic debut about a different kind of acceptance." --Booklist, starred reviewAdvance Praise for

Braced:"Alyson Gerber's Braced is a rare gem of a novel: intimate and engrossing at once. Rachel is the best kind of character -- vibrant and brave, struggling and strong, and most of all impossible not to root for and relate to. A lovely and deep book that will get readers right in the heart." -- Corey Ann Haydu, author of Rules for Stealing Stars"Braced is an honest, inspirational story about perseverance in the face of adversity. Readers will come away wishing they could be best friends with Rachel and believing that they, too, are stronger than they ever expected." -- Alison Cherry, author of The Classy Crooks Club

Bracing for a changeRachel Brooks is excited for the new school year. She's finally earned a place as a forward on her soccer team. Her best friends make everything fun. And she really likes Tate, and she's pretty sure he likes her back.

Braced is getting top billing at our house: my 11 year old daughter loved the main character, Rachel, and her story that perfectly captured the experience of being a 7th grade girl - friendships, love interests, and the roller coaster of middle school. My 8 year old son loved the soccer story line, the multi generational characters, and the relatable experience of friends - good and bad. I appreciated the beautifully written narrative that teaches empathy and sensitivity by letting the reader walk in the shoes of a character and experience different than their own. This book is definitely the next Wonder!

What a wonderful book! I am not a big reader but a friend suggested this book to me because I had a history with scoliosis as a child. Reading the story of Rachel, written in the first person, was so relatable and captivating. The author's descriptions make you feel like you're right there with her, experiencing it all-- the physical pain of wearing the brace 23 hours a day as a 13 year old soccer player, the emotional distress and anxiety, the feelings of isolation and dread but also of hope and resilience. The story is touching and eye-opening on so many levels. Reading it also took me back to my 7th grade self, so I'm sure that tweens and teens (especially those with scoliosis or another challenge/obstacle) won't be able to put it down once they start! Highly recommend!

As a parent of a child dealing with scoliosis I can't thank the author enough for writing this book. It provided me with a glimpse of what my daughter must be feeling and at the same time gave my daughter a sense that she isn't the only one to go through this. Even better, there is a great story line and some very likable characters that will stick with you long after you have read the book.

Every person dealing with scoliosis and their family members should read this and enjoy!

I LOVED reading this book with my 8 year old daughter. As a grown-up, reading it brought back so many memories and feelings from when I was a 7th grade girl and gave me time to process and reflect on that time in my life. As a mother, the story and dialogue reminded me of what my daughter will face in a few short years. My daughter really connected with Rachel and what she went through, which I know will help her when she faces her own challenges in life. Put this on your Must-Read list for your kids!!

Alyson Gerber's skillfully written and thoughtful novel *Braced* is described as appropriate for readers ages 8-12. Certainly, young readers will relate to the realistic and carefully developed characters, themes, and conflicts. However, the novel has much broader appeal, as well. We can attest that readers in their 70's learned much, not only about the challenges of growing up with scoliosis, but also about the world in which the young narrator lives — a world that is appealing, often challenging, but also filled with hope, possibility and encouragement. In addition, this novel should be required reading for doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who will be working with young patients like the main character in *Braced*.

This book is a must for every middle school student who is trying to find their place in their world . And for every mother of a middle school student who is trying to understand. Rachel's voice is clear about her thoughts and feelings and struggles as she navigates life in middle school. Her particular problem is a back brace but it really could be any issue that makes one feel different. Written with sensitivity and a strong voice this is a wonderfully written, strong and important book. Do not miss it!!!!

I was a little worried how my 13 y.o. daughter would feel when I gave her this book. She just found out she has scoliosis, and I thought it might be a good way for her to become more familiar with what it is. My daughter started reading it enthusiastically right away, and has already asked me a couple of questions regarding her own condition.

Great book!!! Great perspective. Thank you!! Want more to see what happens with Rachel! I read it before I have my 13 yo daughter who started wearing a brace 5 months ago, she has an intellectual

disability but I am confident with her reading it and discussing it with me she too will be like Rachel!!! Again thank you for sharing your story!

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Braced

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