



Here's to You, Rachel Robinson

By Judy Blume

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From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* and the adult bestseller *In the Unlikely Event* comes a tale of family, friendship, and pre-teen life like only JUDY BLUME can deliver. The companion to *Just As Long As We're Together*.

CAN YOU BE *too perfect*?

From the outside, Rachel looks like the perfect daughter in the perfect family. She's a straight-A student, a gifted musician, and a good friend. But Rachel feels as if it's all falling apart. Her brother, Charles, was just kicked out of boarding school and is now at home, wreaking havoc. Her sister, Jessica, has problems of her own, which Rachel thinks it's her job to help solve. And Rachel herself is considering adding drama club, community service, and class president to her already crowded roster of activities. Rachel's best friends, Stephanie and Alison, urge Rachel to lighten up and enjoy the end of seventh grade. Easy for them to say. Not so easy for Rachel. Not even when Jeremy Dragon, the coolest boy in ninth grade, notices her. Is it possible that perfection isn't the key to an exciting life?

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

“A master.” —SLJ

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Here's to You, Rachel Robinson By Judy Blume Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #259785 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-03-21
- Released on: 2012-03-21
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Continuing the story begun in *Just As Long As We're Together*, Blume here focuses on Rachel, one of three best friends. This gifted, highly motivated student who, according to her mother, was "born thirty-five," feels somewhat out of sync with Stephanie and Alison as seventh grade draws to a close. Then, when Rachel's acerbic older brother is expelled from boarding school, life at home becomes equally unsettling--and decidedly unpleasant. Rachel's incisive, first-person narration easily draws readers into her complicated world as she learns to cope with the pressures brought on by her relentless quest to be the best at everything and by her troubled family situation. Perceptive, strong storytelling ensures that other characters' points of view (particularly Rachel's brother's) can also be discerned. Blume once again demonstrates her ability to shape multidimensional characters and to explore--often through very convincing dialogue--the tangled interactions of believable, complex people. Ages 11-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-This is the second book in what will likely become a trilogy revolving around three 13-year-old friends, Stephanie, Rachel, and Alison. In *Just As Long As We Are Together* (Orchard, 1987), Stephanie described the turmoils of the first half of seventh grade. Here, Rachel picks up the narrative. Her intelligence and drive have always set her apart, and now her emotions are in a state of turbulence. The unwelcome return of her rebellious brother from boarding school unsettles her family, which is dominated by the intense and highly successful Mrs. Robinson. Charles wreaks havoc through his volatile behavior and cruel, but often insightful, attacks on his sisters and parents. Rachel also struggles to find a balance at school, where increasing pressures threaten to overwhelm her. While dealing with these concerns, she becomes attracted to an older man and longs for her peers to accept her. A master at conveying the values and mores of the upper-middle class, Blume excels in her descriptions of family life and adolescent friendships. Her characterization is powerful and compelling. Rachel's strong narrative voice, couched in simple, direct language, realistically conveys her intense self-preoccupation. Though Rachel is an unusual personality, the author never loses sight of the common threads running through the lives of all teenagers. She draws on the universal themes of awakening sexuality and emerging identities to capture and hold her audience. Preteens will snap this one up.

Maggie McEwen, Coffin Elementary School, Brunswick, ME

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From Kirkus Reviews

Blume returns to the trio of seventh graders introduced in *Just as Long as We're Together* (1987), where Stephanie's narration was colored by her parents' new separation. Here, superachiever Rachel takes center stage with her account of the stresses created when her brother Charles is kicked out of boarding school before he's finished ninth grade. Charles's description of his family is one-sided but cruelly on target: Dad (who gave up law for teaching) is a "wimp," Mom (just appointed a judge) an "ice-queen," acne-scarred older sister Jessica a "potato head"--while Rachel, who at year's end is just beginning to realize that she won't be able to play the flute, take leading roles in drama and a peer-counseling program, do advanced study at a local college, and be class president (all things suggested to her) is Mom's "clone," and more than Charles can bear. His acting out is genuinely, painfully obnoxious; it's a credit to Blume's skill that his vulnerability also emerges, and that the rebalanced family dynamics following his disruptive return is sufficiently muted to be credible. With a good tutor and a stronger bond with Dad, Charles mellows enough for Rachel to see him as more than a destroyer of family peace--and for him to admit she may be developing a sense of humor. A good, solid, working-the-family-problem story, with sure appeal for fans. (Fiction. 11-

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Douglas Quintanar:

Book is definitely written, printed, or created for everything. You can learn everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book Here's to You, Rachel Robinson will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that open or reading the book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you seeking best book or acceptable book with you?

Joann Nixon:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Here's to You, Rachel Robinson is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Carolyn Franklin:

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Carey Gilliam:

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