



Unfriended

By Rachel Vail

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In middle school, nothing is more important than friendship.

When Truly is invited to sit at the Popular Table with the group she has dreamed of joining, she can hardly believe her luck. Everyone seems so nice, so kind to one another. But all is not as it seems with her new friends, and soon she's caught in a maelstrom of lies, misunderstandings, accusations and counter-accusations, all happening very publicly in the relentless, hyperconnected social media world from which there is no escape.

Six eighth-graders, four girls and two boys, struggle to understand and process their fractured glimpses into one another's lives as they find new ways to disconnect, but also to connect, in Rachel Vail's richest and most searching book.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 6–9—When Truly is invited to the popular table by her former best friend, Natasha, she is excited to finally get a chance at the "in" crowd. Unsure if she is really accepted by them, she worries about doing and saying the wrong thing. Popular Natasha is torn between being a good friend to Truly and being jealous of the attention that she gets. Meanwhile, Hazel, Truly's current best friend, who is decidedly unpopular and anti-popularity, is hurt and angry at being abandoned by her friend. She seeks revenge by hacking into all of Truly's online accounts. The addition of social media amplifies each snub, misunderstanding, and deliberate meanness. Although the characters' interactions may, at first glance seem melodramatic, it is a realistic portrayal of middle school life. Truly is depicted as a complex young adult, not a single-minded social climber, while Natasha's mean streak is the obvious product of questionable parenting. The other characters are multidimensional; they have struggles and worries, and are not the flat, stereotypical popular kids that are sometimes portrayed YA novels. As these young people navigate the already awkward world of middle school, the fact that accusations, rumors, and lies are made public for the world to see make adolescent mistakes much more grave. A solid choice that will ignite meaningful discussion.—Patricia Feriano, Our Lady of Mercy School, Potomac, MD

Review

Praise for *Unfriended*:

"Harkens back to Vail's wonderful The Friendship Ring series in its opportunity to see how various characters delight, suffer, and rationalize, complicating the portrayals. . . Clear and compelling. . . This will be an irresistible starter to a discussion of ethics and values, and readers will appreciate both the cautionary tale and the message of survival's possibility." —*BCCB*, **starred review**

"With keen insight, Vail reveals the internal struggles with uncertainty and self-doubt that can plague young teens regardless of popularity status. . . With a resolution that is both realistic and hopeful, Vail captures the complexity of middle school social challenges, insightfully addressing the issues of friendships and integrity." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Vail has a great ear for dialogue, and her characters. . . are well differentiated and realistic." —*VOYA*

"A realistic portrayal of middle school life. Truly is depicted as a complex young adult, not a single-minded social climber. . . [and] the other characters are multidimensional; they have struggles and worries, and are not the flat, stereotypical popular kids that are sometimes portrayed in YA novels. . . A solid choice that will ignite meaningful discussion." —*School Library Journal*

"Vail brings her sharp observations and wry humor to the world of eighth-grade friendships." —*Horn Book*

"Mean girls, misunderstood girls, awkward boys, friendship, popularity, social misfits, all play into this book that epitomizes the roller coaster that is middle school." —*LMC*

Praise for Rachel Vail:

"*Wonder* is wonderful! It's got energy, humor and heart." —Judy Blume, for *Wonder*

“The writing is sharp, unpredictably clever” —Avi, Newbery Medalist, for *Justin Case: School, Drool, and other Daily Disasters*

“Vail again demonstrates a penetrating insight into the concerns of young teen girls ... Readers will absorb this in one fell swoop.” —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**, for *Lucky*

“Vail proves that first love is anything but simple and sweet. Her razor-sharp wit will keep readers turning pages.” —*Publishers Weekly*, for *If We Kiss*

About the Author

Rachel Vail is the author of more than twenty books for young readers, including her first book, *Wonder*, about which Judy Blume said: "*Wonder* is wonderful. It's got energy, humor, and heart." Her four-book series, *The Friendship Ring*, will be reissued in Puffin in Fall 2014. Rachel grew up in New Rochelle and attended Georgetown University. She has two sons; they and their friends provide her with a wealth of material for her writing. She lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tyrone Smith:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what you problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They need to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this particular Unfriended to read.

Arthur Poulsen:

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