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# Saving The Team (The Kicks)



## Synopsis

From star soccer player and Olympic gold medalist Alex Morgan comes the >bestselling first book in an empowering, fun-filled middle grade series about believing in yourself and working as a team. Twelve-year-old Devin loves to play soccer. If she hadnâ™t just left Connecticut to move across the country, she would have been named seventh-grade captain on her school soccer team. But now that Devin is starting seventh grade in Kentville, California, all bets are off. After all, some of the best players on the US national team come from California. Sheâ™s sure to have stiff competition. Or so she thinks. When Devin shows up for tryouts, she discovers that the Kentville Kangaroosâ”otherwise known as the Kicksâ”are an absolute mess. Their coach couldnâ™t care less whether the girls win or lose. And Devin is easily one of the most talented players. The good news is, Devin quickly makes friends with funny, outgoing Jessi; shy but sweet Zoe; and klutzy Emma. Can Devin and her newfound friends pull together and save the team from itself?>

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0670 (What's this?)

Series: The Kicks (Book 1)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 25, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 144248571X

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 74 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #212,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #113 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #1226 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women #3400 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6-This formulaic story follows 12-year-old Devin, who has just left her friends and soccer team

behind, moving cross country with her family. There is a lot of expected angst in the beginning of the story. Will she like her new school? Make new friends? And since California is known for producing superstar soccer players, will she even make the team? While quickly learning the ropes at her new school and instantly making friends-and perhaps even gaining a boyfriend-the plot twist is revealed: Devin's new soccer team isn't great at all-in fact, it is downright bad. Throw in a bossy/bully older teammate as cocaptain against Devin, and the rest of the blanks will be easily filled in by most readers. Despite its predictability, the novel conveys some solid messages about teamwork and assertiveness. Purchase where there is a demand for sports stories with strong female role models.-Lisa Kropp, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the Kicks series opener, gifted seventh-grade soccer player Devin Burke is trying to adjust to California life and a new school while missing her best friend Kara and her soccer team back in Connecticut. Things improve after she joins the Kentville Kangaroos girls' soccer team "nicknamed "The Kicks" and befriends teammates Jessi, Emma, and Zoe. But the Kicks are disorganized; cheerful Coach Flores emphasizes fun over winning (or even improving); and there's a talented but mean fellow player, Mirabelle. But when Mirabelle transfers to soccer powerhouse Pinewood, it's an opportunity for Devin to get Coach and her team on board with building skills, spirit, and confidence "hopefully before the fast-approaching rematch with Pinewood. U.S. women's soccer team player and Olympic medalist Morgan's enthusiasm for the game is evident throughout this light and lively contemporary read. Though there are some predictable story elements, Devin is an appealing protagonist whose peppy first-person narrative incorporates abundant soccer details, along with familiar themes of making friends and the value of teamwork. Appended glossary includes game-related terms. Grades 4-7. --Shelle Rosenfeld --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My soccer obsessed daughter LOVES these books (and the show). The fact that they're written by an actual real life amazing soccer player is inspiring to her- she knows that they are accurate and true to the sport she loves. My 8 year old loved them so much we bought them for all the girls on our team for their end of season gift. Alex Morgan is such a great role model, showing the girls that they can be whoever they want to be. Definitely recommend these for any soccer loving kid.

I am almost 11 and I loved this book. My name is Gigi and I love soccer too. Alex Morgan is also my idoll recommend this book for girls that love soccer like me

Alex Morgan is a wonderful author, all of her books inspire people to the extreme. Devin is a person we all would love to be like. If you are looking for a book to help pursue your dreams, this is the book for you.

Started reading this to my 6yr old after watching the kicks tv series. Wanted to get her interested in reading and soccer:. We are into the 4th book of the series now. She's now crazy about playing soccer but I m the one doing the reading:)

My daughter loves Alex Morgan and this book was fun for her to read. She enjoyed it and read it really quickly. I'll be looking for more books from Alex.

Great book for young girls. They love the content and can't wait to get the next one in the series. The book subtly reinforces self confidence, Grit and leadership skills.

My daughter LOVES these books by Alex Morgan and cannot wait for the 3rd one to ship in March! It takes a little while for her to get into each story line but once she does she can't put the books down!The fact that she's watched Alex play soccer and that my daughter also plays select soccer makes her feel the books are written just for her and she loves it!

I bought these for a friend's daughter and she ended up wanting the entire series. She is 8 and loves soccer so I highly recommend these books to any other little soccer players around that age.

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