

CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE

**Nominated for the 2006 Delaware Blue Hen Book Award
One of New York Public Library's 2005 Books for the Teen Age
A Taysha's Reading List Selection for 2005-2006
A Chicago Public Schools 9th and 10th Grade Recommended Read**

FROM THE CRITICS

"Judy Blume-style made modern." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"Middle school readers will plunge right in." – *The Horn Book*

"Fast-paced and funny, Zeises's engrossing book carries readers through a gamut of emotions while providing strong female role models. Every middle and junior high school girl and even some boys will want to read this novel. Librarians, parents, and classroom teachers in grades seven through ten should stock up on it. A Perfect Ten" – *VOYA (5Q/5P)*

"Zeises paints a convincing picture of a family facing tough decisions and a fully realistic heroine who's confused and scared. Even secondary characters have depth and add sparkle to an already absorbing plot. A winning family drama." – *School Library Journal*

"Zeises writes with a good mix of the substance and superficiality that characterize teenage life, and her audience will certainly recognize the characters, their voices, and the things that concern them." – *Booklist*

"Takes a mature approach to many issues surrounding young people and sex, managing at the same time to be both light-handed and earnest. ... Funny, klutzy Lucy is a likable narrator and easy to identify with, and Zeises convincingly captures the complexity of the age ..." – *Publisher's Weekly*

"Zeises' talented writing ... captures the angst of shifting social groupings as teens mature at different rates. Humorous dialogue, fine pacing, and refreshing imagery ... Recommended." – *Children's Literature*

"While not nearly as intense as the issues that haunt the author's *Bringing Up the Bones* (BCCB 1/03), the questions posed here about the challenge to heart-held ideals and the shifting alliances of adolescence are as compellingly handled for a slightly younger audience. Refreshingly forthright and not overly sophisticated, Lucy is a likable guide to the mess entanglements of the early teen years. Recommended." – *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

★ "Teenagers, especially those in the middle – of their families, of the teen years – will find this novel both amusing and moving." – *KLIATT (starred review)*

"It's never preachy. Instead, reading about Lucy's life reminded me that I wasn't the only person on the planet to stress about boys, family, and friends—and that's cool." – *YM*

"A must-read for middle school and high school students, a funny chick-lit novel that also teaches some valuable lessons about boy-girl relationships." (Recommended as a "Sizzlin' Summer Read" by award-winning author Alex Flinn.) – *The St. Petersburg Times*

"Lucy is a smart, sensible character who stands up for herself – yet is touchingly uncertain about how to handle her first romance. ... A good coming-of-age tale for young-teen girls." – *The Orange County Register*

"Lively writing style, likable characters ... [a] humorous and touching story." – *The Detroit Free Press*

"Zeises speaks the language of 14-year-old girls – from bad hair to boys – and has found a way, through Lucy, to talk about the difficult navigation of adolescence." – *The (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal*