

Ever the Brave

Erin Summerill

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The relationship between the Shaerdan and Malam kingdoms have never been more tense than ever. A case of Channeler girls disappearing from Shaerdan is suddenly brought to Malam's attention, and to make matters worse, the case seems to be connected to Lord Jamis and Phelia, who are on the loose and still hungry for the Malam throne. As a Channeler, Britta faces great danger for her abilities, but regardless, she will risk it all if it means protecting the king, who she has newly bonded with in an unexpected way. Together, Cohen, Britta, and Aodren, along with their other familiar friends, end up embarking on a perilous adventure to find the truth behind Lord Jamis' plans with the Channeler girls and to save both kingdoms from imminent war.

This novel is recommended for readers age 13-18. There are scenes involving nudity, but the romance isn't too suggestive or extreme. There is mildly graphic violence and swordplay. The genre of this novel is fantasy, fairytale and romance.

This was a great sequel to *Ever the Hunted*, which is the first novel in the *Clash of the Kingdoms* trilogy. This novel takes on the initial foundation of *Ever the Hunted* and takes it further by exploring the greater intentions of Jamis and Phelia, Britta's familial background and more information regarding the history and challenges of the Channelers. Something different from the last novel, is that *Ever the Brave* has a deeper focus on Britta's relationships aside from the main plot. We also have the chance to meet several minor characters in the past book, and to get to know them on a much more deeper and complicated level. While the last book was greatly focused on Britta and her perspective of the issue, with *Ever the Brave*, we now get to see the plot from two other perspectives in addition to Britta's, which really strengthen the overall storytelling so much more. It's really nice to see how different each of the characters are internally, and how they deal with their flaws and thoughts, as opposed to Britta.

In *Ever the Brave*, there's more action and a lot more context is revealed about the whole issue going on. Britta's role in reference to her place in the kingdom is also vastly transformed compared to the first book, and at first, we see her struggle with this new identity and role she must take on. However, through the story, she grows in confidence and courage, and learns to embrace her identity and role. Another note is that this novel has a lot more romance than in the first book. It bothered me at times, but it wasn't too distracting with the main plot going on.

In all, I still enjoyed *Ever the Brave*, and the ending felt much more conclusive and positive than the last book. Readers who like fantasy and romance should definitely check the series out and if they loved *Ever the Hunted*, they will likely take pleasure in *Ever the Brave* as well.

Recommended Titles:

Once a King by Erin Summerill

Defiance by C.J. Redwine

The Young Elites by Marie Lu

The Traitor's Game by Jennifer A. Nielson

The Traitor's Kiss by Erin Beaty