

## **Legendborn**

**Tracy Deonn**

**Reviewed by: Niharika Sharma, 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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At 16 years old, Bree Matthews is devastated by the loss of her mother in a fatal car crash and desperately needs an escape from her home life. Going to UNC-Chapel Hill's Early College for high schoolers seems like the best way to escape the grief she is dealing with, but little does she know that things are not as they seem. On the very day that she arrives at the university, Bree is a witness to an attack - a magical one. It turns out that the campus is home to secretive magic users known as the Legendborn who fight demons that pose a threat to society. What's more is that Bree learns that there was another magic user present in the hospital the day her mother died. As she takes control of her own magical abilities and learns what is really at stake, Bree must decide how she wants to use her new powers and whether the truth behind her mother's death is something worth knowing in the first place.

This book grabbed my attention from the beginning with how fast Bree gets tangled up in the magical world. Bree stood out to me from the beginning as a complex protagonist who is dealing with a lot of issues but is not afraid to stand up for herself and do what she believes is right. I loved her dynamic with two of the other main characters, Nick and Sel, because their interactions added so much to story and were so fun to read. I also appreciated the diversity in this book, as it did a great job portraying people of different races and sexualities. Additionally, the world-building in this novel was very well done because it never felt forced, and it provided necessary information that is needed to understand the scope of the story. My only criticism is that the influx of expository knowledge can be a lot to handle at first, but it is so interesting to read about that I didn't particularly mind it. That being said, I enjoyed practically everything about this book, and I couldn't recommend it any more highly.

*Legendborn* is a great fit for anyone interested in the urban fantasy genre and is looking for a book that takes elements of certain mythologies or magical concepts and uses them to craft an original story. I would also recommend it to anyone looking to read something that doesn't feature only white characters, and which does address serious issues like racism in a realistic way. I would suggest buying this book as a gift or for your personal enjoyment because it is sure to be a story that many people will enjoy. This novel is appropriate for readers 13 and older, since it doesn't have any mature content but does deal with some heavy concepts. To anyone looking for a new and unique fantasy book to read, this story is a masterpiece you will absolutely enjoy reading.

### **Recommended Books:**

Sweet and Bitter Magic, Adrienne Tooley

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From, Jennifer De Leon

A Song of Wraiths and Ruin, Roseanne A. Brown

Wicked Fox, Kat Cho