

Everbound

Brodi Ashton

Reviewed by: Pavitra Attanayake, 15

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

Nikki Beckett lives a borrowed life—her boyfriend sacrificed his own life for her when her time on the Surface drew to a close and the Everneath came to claim her. Overwhelmed with grief, she can only helplessly watch through her dreams as Jack slowly loses his life energy and succumbs to a near death state. Determined to find him before it is too late, Nikki desperately turns to the one person who has the least reason to help—Cole, the Everliving who first took her to the Everneath, and who wants to claim her as his own. Nikki, along with Cole and Max—a friend of Cole’s—journey back into the Everneath where they must complete what has never been done before. To reach Jack, the group must travel through the Ring of Fire, of Wind, of Water, and Earth. Within each ring they are tested emotionally, mentally, and physically. Hunted by the Queen and facing numerous challenges along the way, Nikki is ready to give up everything to reach Jack. Yet, everything is not as it seems—betrayal, lies, and the ultimate sacrifice lay in wait.

Again, Brodi Ashton manages to write a delightful read in the second book of the *Everneath* trilogy, *Everbound*. There is a creativity in her work that manages to explain every question that readers have about the Everneath. Ashton manages to bring even the miniscule details into her book without boring the reader. The plot of the story managed to stay strong over the course of the book and left enough unsaid that the third book would be able to continue without floundering. She manages to show how one person can have a multifaceted personality through a series of plot twists and by letting readers catch a glimpse of each character’s past.

To be honest, I do not like the characters of Jack and Nikki. With Jack, my only problem is that he does not give Cole a chance with Nikki and remains way to overprotective over her. While it’s not his fault entirely, he also hurt Jules by chasing after Nikki the second time. I dislike Nikki for using Cole. She uses his love for her against him by threatening to basically kill herself if he does not help her get Jack back by risking his own neck. I feel that the plot line could have been more interesting in Nikki had given Cole and the Everneath a try before making her decision about who she really loved. It would have shown the reader what living in the Everneath was really like and also how Cole would have treated Nikki if he had gotten what he wanted.

I believe this book is fit for any teen to read—the furthest the romance element goes is a kiss and there are no graphic scenes. I would suggest that this book not be brought as a gift since it is the second book in its series. If you are considering buying this, I would suggest buying the first book before this one. It is better to check it out from a library. The next, and final, book in this series is called *Evertrue*. The previous book in the series is titled *Everneath*. If you like this trilogy, I would also suggest the following books, which might appeal to your tastes:

1. *Slide* – Jill Hathway
2. *Kythan Guardians* (series) – Trisha Wolfe
3. *Carrier* (series) – Leigh Fallon
4. *Ultraviolet* (series) – R. J. Anderson
5. *Hereafter* (series) – Tara Hudson