

Evertrue**Brodi Ashton****Reviewed by: Pavitra Attanayake, 15****Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**www.bethestaryouare.org

Tricked by Cole into Feeding three times during their journey to save Jack, Nikki is in transition. While Jack is safe at home, she is slowly becoming an Everliving—an Everliving dependent on Cole to sustain her. Added to that is a mysterious creature with dark eyes that is trying to kill her, as well as the number amount of days before Cole is no longer able to Feed Nikki and she must Feed on a human. When Cole mysteriously disappears, yet reappears with no memory of who or what he is, Nikki decides that the time to act has come. In another race against time, Nikki, Jack, and a few friends try to do the only thing they can do—destroy the Everneath once and for all. Hunted by Shades and the Queen, the group sets out one last time to the Everneath. Aided by Cole’s slowly returning memories, they determine that the only way to accomplish their goal is to destroy both the Surface and the Everliving hearts of each and every Everliving. Destroying the underworld one heart at a time, Nikki is determined to regain her mortality. Yet, in a surprisingly emotional ending, she realizes that not everything is as simple as it seems and is forced to witness as the ultimate sacrifice of love is made.

In the concluding book of the *Everneath* trilogy, Brodi Ashton captivates with a story that turns unexpectedly emotional and heartbreaking. One of the most interesting points in this books is that she lets the reader see Cole without all the walls he has built around himself. This let me form more of a bond with him and also gave the ending more of a shock. My favorite aspect of this book is that Ashton manages to show both sides of love—it’s not all about the happy endings, rather love is about sacrificing everything for the person you love.

While I do like the message that Ashton was trying to send about love, without spoiling the ending too much, I would like to say that I wish Nikki had ended up choosing Cole over Jack. I feel like she only saw the depth of Cole’s love for her when it was too late. Yet, maybe it was better if the ending happened the way it did. Nikki chose Jack, but she tried to keep Cole too. If that had happened, then Cole would have just suffered seeing Nikki with Jack. While I wish there was an alternate ending, I believe that with the choices Nikki made, that the way the ending happened was for the best.

Evertrue is perfect for any teen to read: there are no scenes that are highly graphic, and there is no swearing in it either. I would strongly suggest that this book not be given as a gift. This is because it is the last book in the *Everneath* trilogy—the previous books are named *Everneath* and *Everbound*. Personally, I feel that I will never read this series again, not because the books were bad, but rather because I know the ending and the fate of each character who I really liked. Therefore, I suggest this book be checked out from a library. For further readings, I would also suggest the following:

1. *Starcrossed* (series) – Josephine Angelini
2. *Angelfire* (series) – Courtney Allison Moulton
3. *Halflings* (series) – Heather Burch
4. *Forbidden* – Syrie James
5. *Darkness Before Dawn* – J. A. London