



Everneath

Brodi Ashton

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Last spring, Nikki Beckett vanished, sucked into an underworld known as the Everneath. Now she's returned—to her old life, her family, her boyfriend—before she's banished back to the underworld . . . this time forever. She has six months before the Everneath comes to claim her, six months for good-byes she can't find the words for, six months to find redemption, if it exists.

Nikki longs to spend these precious months forgetting the Everneath and trying to reconnect with her boyfriend, Jack, the person most devastated by her disappearance—and the one person she loves more than anything. But there's just one problem: Cole, the smoldering immortal who enticed her to the Everneath in the first place, has followed Nikki home. Cole wants to take over the throne in the underworld and is convinced Nikki is the key to making it happen. And he'll do whatever it takes to bring her back, this time as his queen.

As Nikki's time on the Surface draws to a close and her relationships begin slipping from her grasp, she is forced to make the hardest decision of her life: find a way to cheat fate and remain on the Surface with Jack or return to the Everneath and become Cole's queen.

Everneath is a captivating story of love, loss, and immortality from debut author Brodi Ashton.

Everneath Details

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Author : Brodi Ashton

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From Reader Review Everneath for online ebook

Wendy Darling says

I wish the whole book contained what its last 10% did. Review to come.

Navessa says

This MC, Nikki, is the most emo fucking chick I've ever come across in literature. **SHE'S WORSE THAN BELLA SWAN.** The boy she was dating dumps her so instead of your normal level of teenage angst she decides to let a fucking stranger drag her into the underworld so he can drain her of her life essence because *she doesn't want to feel things anymore.*

A hundred years later (six months our time) and they wake up. But instead of not knowing who she is anymore, she remembers. She's a super speshul snowflake! And this is page fucking eight.

Guess why she remembers. Go ahead, guess. She remembers because the boy that dumped her, Jack, kept her tied to herself somehow. Can I get a **WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?** You're telling me that the very reason she gave up on life in the first place is the same thing that brings her back to it? **AND IT'S A BOY???**

So when the stranger that just attempted to rape her soul, turn her into a fucking mindless zombie, and relegate her to eternal darkness all so that he can continue to live his charmed immortal life, tells her that since she's speshul she doesn't have to go linger in what's basically hell but can instead become what he is, she opts out and says she's returning home. Why? Not for her father that just lost his wife to cancer and his daughter to God knows where, not to her lonely and outcast little brother, not to her friends **BUT TO THE BOY THAT FUCKING DUMPED HER.**

You have got to be fucking kidding me! What the fuck is it with these pathetic fucking heroines? Why is this an actual thing? Why is a boy who dumped her made to be the one that drags her back to her life, makes her want to fucking live?

Oh and it gets better! **That piece of shit that attempted to rape her soul, turn her into a fucking mindless zombie, and relegate her to eternal darkness all so that he can continue to live his charmed immortal life is one of the boys in this love triangle.**

And this is all in the first 70 pages. Fuck this entire sub-genre.

This review can also be found at [The Alliterates](#).

Emily May says

Whilst reading this I happened to glance over at my mirror and see the expression on my face - my mouth was open, my eyes were wide... needless to say, I looked like a complete moron. But that should give you some indication of how much this story surprised me. I confess that I didn't expect to like it that much and it's obviously time I stop making these predictions when I'm nearly always wrong. I should also stop trying to work out what certain things appeal to me in books, these theories also fall flat on their faces.

I'm not going to sell this book as something it isn't, from the beginning there is a very heavy romantic element and a lot of the story is built up around the idea that Nikki has returned (after a century in Everneath, six months to the human world) for the purpose of rekindling her romance with her past boyfriend, or at the very least seeing him for one last time before the Tunnels claim her forever. A lot of the book is definitely **paranormal romance**, or **PNR**, or even **Love in a Supernatural Climate** - take your pick. But I wasn't put off by this.

A lot of the story is interwoven with parts of Greek and Egyptian mythology, which I liked very much. It was well thought-out, made sense, seemed fairly original (well, I haven't read anything like it) and even though a lot of it was romance-centred I still didn't feel that it claimed the novel. I was intrigued by the whole concept of this Everneath, a place almost like hell but rather than being a place for sinners, it's a place for Everlivings - who drain souls for energy - and the souls that have been drained.

I think what I liked best, that saved the book from being nothing more than a love story, was the characters. So many young adult books make the entire novel about the female protagonist and her male love interest and, apart from the occasional over-stereotyped mean girl, they disregard all other characters. But Everneath explores Nikki's relationship with her friend, her father and her brother as well as her boyfriend.

I just wish she didn't have to blush so much. There's this one part of the story where Jack says: "I know you're worried about *that*..." and just the small word emphasis makes her "turn red all over". Come on, this is the 21st century, surely every girl doesn't blush at the mention of *that*, do they? And if they do, why don't the boys? Because boys are wild, experienced-from-birth, sexual animals that you have to fight off with a stick and girls are meek, mild and pure? I'm not saying that's what the author wanted to portray but the sexually smirking guy meets innocent girl seems to be a common theme in these types of books.

And also, is that a potential love triangle I spy there? I don't know, it seems pretty one-sided right now but there's clearly more books to come.

Jillian -always aspiring- says

History books call it the Underworld. Or even hell. But I know it's neither. It is really called the Everneath, and it's not a place for the dead. It's a place for the Everliving – beings who have discovered the secret to eternal life. It's a place for their Forfeits – the humans who give up everything to nourish the Everliving. It's the world caught between this one and the next, a layer between Earth and hell. I know because I was a Forfeit. I would give anything to change this.

The myth of Hades and Persephone has proven to be quite the inspirational point for many young adult authors as of late, whether it be for another run-of-the-mill paranormal romance (Meg Cabot's *Abandon*, Gwen Hayes's *Falling Under*) or even a lesbian retelling (Sarah Diemer's *The Dark Wife*). To my delight, however, there are writers out there who are actually taking a few more steps with creative license and innovation to *try and make the story their own*. Brodi Ashton's *Everneath* is one such attempt...and it mostly succeeds in being fresh and "trend-defying" in a convoluted landscape of paranormal YA.

After an overload of life's burdens, Nikki Beckett did the unthinkable: she escaped her life through darkness and became fodder for a boy named Cole, feeding off her emotions and hailing from a dark eternal land called Everneath. After one hundred years spent in this between plane, she miraculously did not lose herself or her memories – but, even after she chooses to return Above and to the home she left, she feels the attraction to the boy who offered her an addiction and an escape rolled into one. Which pull will prove greater: the allure of the dark boy who can take everything away, or the love she feels for Jack, the boy she left behind? And will it even matter, given that she will return to the Everneath in six months' time?

I'll admit that I'm not the greatest fan of paranormal YA these days, but *Everneath* was surprisingly refreshing in that it actually seemed to address some of the problems in other young adult narratives. Nikki isn't an idiotic narrator by any means and, though she's flawed and stubborn, she's not unlikeable or unsympathetic. It also helps that she resists Cole, who tries to manipulate and trap her into thinking that what he desires is what she herself should want as well. Cole thrives as an antagonistic force when Nikki is isolated and friendless – but, once Nikki starts getting a hold back on her life and what remains of her time left, he gets worried and tries to take matters into his own hands. But Nikki doesn't just let him win: *she fights back*.

Everneath also shines because of the relationship between Nikki and once-boyfriend Jack, shown through scenes of both past (in happier times) and present (in Nikki's darker post-Everneath days). Though there are many issues and hurt and misunderstandings between them, they eventually begin to come to terms with all of it together because, as much as Nikki tries to stay away, she can't deny that her memories of Jack were what kept her sane and whole in her time in Everneath. I was really moved by them as a couple and convinced by their feelings for one another, and I can't often say such a thing about a paranormal YA couple wholeheartedly as I can with Nikki and Jack.

Also of note is the foundation for the Everliving's world, layered with Greek and Egyptian mythology. It was quite an interesting spin on old ideas, blended in such a way that I was left intrigued by many of the concepts relating to the Everneath and hopeful that many of them will be explored more in-depth in the next two books.

The only real issue I had with the novel was that it fell into the trap of "disappearing parent syndrome." Yes, I know that absent parents often serve to further a plot more readily, but would Nikki's father, the mayor of the town, really have acted so nonchalant about his daughter's absence and then her explanation of rehab? Really? And then he's so worried about his re-election campaign that he can't be bothered much with his newly returned daughter? I don't know. Sure, it's realistic in a sense since there *are* parents out there like that, but...it rubbed me the wrong way since it's such an "easy maneuver" that so many YA authors take nowadays when the real challenge would be to write caring, yet non-overbearing, parents in YA narratives.

Some minor flaws aside, I would recommend *Everneath* for being a paranormal young adult book that does so many things right in a genre where it's so easy for authors to get so much wrong, wrong, wrong. For anyone who has been burned by paranormal YA far too often, this book is for you. I hope that it will restore some of your faith in this sinking ship of a genre since maybe, just maybe, authors like Brodi Ashton can actually manage to salvage the ship before it passes the waters of no return.

Note: I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

DNF 31%. I can't take anymore. Girl somehow goes to the underworld and somehow comes BACK only to resume high school to be around the guy that broke up with her (her true love) just to be around him, but she has to make sure they don't become actual friends or rekindle their romance because she has to "keep him from getting close again." Huh?!?!?

The only semi-interesting character is Cole and I'm pretty sure he is supposed to be the bad guy part of the love triangle.

Buddy read with the MacHalo group.

29% pre-review:

~Tina~ says

I really really wanted to like **Everneath** but in the end I just couldn't bring myself to love this one.

This book really makes you work at trying to figure out what the hell is going on. It's very evasively written. Leaving you hanging on a lot of questions from the very first page...on. It would hook me one minute then lose me the next.

The story-line was intriguing enough. I really loved the mythology that Ashton brought into this and her writing is very good, but I wish the flow of the story moved a little better. It just felt to confusing which annoyed me throughout the story.

I can't say that I liked these characters very much either. Cole is slime and I wanted him to just go away. Jack had his moments and was the reason I wanted to even finish the book. As for Nikki? I liked her and I didn't. She's kinda weak and selfish and doesn't really make the brightest choices. In fact she could have probably avoided everything if she just confronted Jack to begin with.

The ending was kinda predictable as well, but surprisingly, it left me curious about the second book. Even if just a little.

As much as I didn't care for this one, I still recommend it. It's unique, it had it's moments and the plot really was fascinating.

Thanks Alexa for touring this one out:)

Annalisa says

2.5 stars

I really wanted to love this one. I had high hopes for it, but it didn't quite live up to its hype. Most of the book felt like a stall to get to the climax, which is probably why I couldn't quite suspend my disbelief. I found myself out of the story most of the time, picking apart its inconsistencies, instead of pulled into Nikki's story. Little things like Nikki sitting at her desk and then several pages later getting up off or bed or Jack stacking chairs but then he's turning them over on tables. Minor flaws that should have been picked up somewhere in the editing process but were a distraction to me.

My biggest issue with the book is the timeline. In one flashback it's February and one month before Nikki disappears and the next it's April and two weeks before she does. I spent most of the book trying to figure out when exactly she came home. From the cold and lack of holidays, my best guess was January, until four months into her ordeal when Christmas rolled around. Which means she came back in August, when it should have been warm, and nowhere near six months from the sometime between March and May that she was supposed to have left. My best guess is that she was supposed to have disappeared in spring, come back in the fall, and stayed until the following spring, although the dates don't quite match up. A good editor and/or copyeditor should have picked up the mistake.

There were also larger flaws that bothered me. Like for someone grieving over her dead mother, I didn't catch much of Nikki's grief. I understand that everyone grieves differently and she didn't want to face her grief, but for months all there was there was happiness about Jack and she seemed to hold it together a little too well. I also didn't understand how when she came back Jack would know that she didn't remember anything. Why would he even suspect that she would forget him? She was ignoring him and acting weird around him, not acting like she had no idea who he was. It was beautiful that he asked her what she remembered and she said everything, but it didn't make sense that he would question that. And speaking of Jack, he had some elements of a great love interest, but he was a little too conflicting for me to buy into. (view spoiler)

Nikki said she came back mostly to make her goodbyes easier this time, but she didn't do anything toward that effect. For as much as she loved Tommy, she didn't seem to spend any time with him. For a best friend, we should have seen more of Jules. As it was, she seemed rather pointless to the story. And if her dad thought poorly of her and she wanted to change that, why didn't she talk to him (like explaining that she was pushed at the dance) or help do the dishes or do something other than ignore everyone? I could see how she didn't want to mess with Jack's heart again, but she could attempt to resolve the unresolved or want to leave him with a better memory or watch him from a distance and feel sad. Something other than hiding by the drinking fountain to knit, just waiting until her time ticked away. Why even come back if that was all she was going to do?

Sometimes I wanted to shake Nikki and tell her to get mad. I've read characters like that before, that always do the right thing and sympathize with people who are doing them wrong, so Mary Sue-ish. I gave Nikki some leeway because of her connection to Cole, but it wasn't just against Cole that she took a beating and didn't stand up for herself, or at the least get frustrated. It was just the most frustrating with Cole. I wanted her to break down in front of him (view spoiler) or play his own conniving games back at him, instead of seem so... resigned to him. I think the passiveness of her character could have worked better if she were struggling against Cole's control and fighting to figure out the right goodbye, instead of just being there, doing nothing.

I had some questions with the Everneath world that I wanted answers to (and maybe they're answered later in the series). Like, if someone is being used as a Feed, how did they owe a debt? They were being drained, not

given anything. Maybe it was the opportunity to be an Everliving? I would have also liked to know more about the interactions between the Everlivings and their royalty, more about life in the Everneath beyond the Feed. I also wondered about the chance to Return. At first it seemed like Nikki got a chance because she was different, but she wasn't the only one. Why were they offered the six-month stall? What was the point of it, other than being a great idea for a story?

I love the story of Persephone and think it's a great twist on an old tale, but I think this one could have used a few more rounds of editing first, more encouragement from her editor to go back and delve deeper into the story, the characters, the Everneath. I also think some of the plot twists, or revelations, should have come sooner. By the time Nikki figured things out, it was old news. (view spoiler) On a positive note, Cole kept it interesting. And I loved the cover.

Soumi says

Then: Once there was a Girl named Persephone who was abducted by Lord of underworld Hades

Now: There is a girl named Nikki, abducted by Cole to Everneath, sounds same???? Ohh wait there is twist of third guy. I love twists a lot.

Then: Once there was a pair of lovers, Orpheus and Eurydice. When Eurydice was poisoned and died, Orpheus didn't give up hope, he made an impossible journey to underworld to bring Eurydice back. He was almost succeeded but one small mistake of looking back took Eurydice back to underworld, this time forever.

Now: Jack and Nikki were lost in love, impossible to separate until Cole took her to Everneath. Jack never gave up on her. His love and memory helped Nikki to survive the feed in Everneath. Now she's back on surface but only for six months. The tunnels are coming for her soon and Cole will never leave her alone. Question is will Jack be her Orpheus and save her from dragging back to Everneath? Or Cole will succeed to make her his queen?

I'm a sucker of mythology and this book is a wonderful adaption of my favorite mythologies of **Hades and Persephone** and **Orpheus and Eurydice**. Everneath did what Abandon and The Goddess Test couldn't. Brilliantly written the book led us to journey of love, passion, sacrifice and bravery. We are given several flashbacks throughout the whole story. Organized beautifully, the series of pasts and presents made this book more interesting.

Ashton's imagination of Everneath is fascinating and wonderful. Everneath is a limbo between life and death, residents of Everneath are called Everlivings, and they are some sort of supernatural who feeds on human emotion and energy.

Nikki, Jack and Cole

As for the characters, I would love to give Ashton credit for creating Jack, Cole and Nikki. Each of them has their own different approaches and characteristics.

Nikki has six months left to say goodbye to her family and to her love before sucking back into Everneath. Normally no human can survive the feed, Nikki was an exception and that made her unique.

Despite of some stupid decisions she made, Nikki is marked by firm determination. I felt emotionally attached to her and I liked her. Numb, broken and gaunt, when she came back from Everneath, instead of being anguished she put the pieces together, struggled with past experience, repaired the damage between her and Jack. Nikki is also compassionate in my opinion; she chose to be a forfeit in tunnels rather than feeding on innocents.

Jack is a sweet heart, a loving and caring guy. Broken, yet courageous, Jack is an ultimate love interest. It was very hard to endure the pain of losing Nikki, but he never lost hope. In one word Jack is a crush worthy male protagonist.

On the contrary Cole is like an eclipse with different shades of personality. He is dark, seductive and charming; he is an ultimate completion of bad ass supernatural. He may be morally reprehensible but it's hard to consider him as evil, he's not good either. On one hand Cole is detestable, wretched; on the other he's sympathetic and caring, I just couldn't hate him. Cole is a destructive whirlpool, if you jump in there is no way of coming back, it will swallow you instantly.

The Triangle

Nikki's warm affection and devotion for Jack is praise worthy. She remained unbendable to Cole's temptation to take her back and make her an Everliving. Cole took away her all memories of surface but her feelings of Jack was beyond his reach, and her love was invincible.

Same words are applicable for Jack. He fought till last moment to keep Nikki safe but with a terrible price to pay. The invisible thread between them always kept them together even when they were apart. They are so connected and meant to be with each other. Their love for each other was admirable.

If I compare Jack with Orpheus, Cole's character is definitely inspired by Hades.

The relationship between Cole and Nikki was not love exactly; it was more a relation of decency from both sides. Cole can't survive without Nikki and whether she admits it or not, Nikki was also emotionally dependent on Cole. Whenever she was in pain, Cole took it away. If Jack was her guide towards light Cole was Nikki's shadow, following her around everywhere. It was not clear whether Cole was in love with her or not, but he feels something fierce and protective for her. His heart ached whenever he saw her with Jack.

Cover lust

The cover is amazing; the way Nikki in red dress walking down from the cyclone of tunnels is just what we need to attract the readers. I can kill someone to get the red dress and I'm two hundred percent serious.

Well, this book is a page turner, surprising and the end will take you to the height of excitement that you will feel itched to read the next installment. I really really liked this book.

Please Note : I got this amazing artwork from <http://browse.deviantart.com/?qh=&>...

Vinaya says

"That night, when I left the dorm, I could have gone home and shut myself in my room. I could've faced you and yelled at you. But I didn't. I took the easy way out. I begged for the easy way out. Cole took the pain away and I didn't care that it would ruin everything in my life, because I was stupid enough to think I had nothing else to lose."

I admit I'm a fairly preachy reviewer, in general. I like to lecture my authors on how to send the 'right' messages, and how to avoid being paranormal clichés, and how to build healthy relationships. But at the base of it all, I pan books when they're not entertaining enough. When my entertainment comes with a dose of perceptiveness and good writing and life-positive messages, I am super-extra happy, but I have been known to love books like Spellbound simply for the entertainment quotient. *blushes*

Everneath probably doesn't deserve the fourth star. But it was interesting and kept me entertained the whole

way through, and the good definitely hugely outweighed the bad, so I'm willing to forgive it its faults. First off, let me tell you, I LOVE the take Brody Ashton took on the Hades-Persephone myth. It might quite possibly be the most interesting retelling of the myth I've read in YA, and considering the number of retellings floating around out there, that's really saying something. So Nikki Beckett finds out, to her detriment, that Hades (Everneath) is not really the world of the dead, but instead a place for immortals, called the Everliving, who sustain themselves by feeding off willing human sacrifices. In a moment of madness, Nikki offers herself up to one of the Everliving, and emerges six months later wispy and drained out, but with her memories and self strangely intact. She knows her time on earth is numbered - in six months she will have to choose between becoming Everliving herself or becoming food for the shades that haunt Everneath, but in the meantime, she is determined to do her best this time around and settle her affairs, so to speak, before she vanishes for good.

I liked Nikki. As Kat says in her review, Nikki is like a drug addict fighting to rise above her addiction. The connection between her and Cole (the immortal who fed on her) is very different from the feelings she has for Jack, the boy she left behind. With Cole, there is no depth of feeling, or shared history or sharp pain. She looks at Cole the way an alcoholic would study a bottle of Jack - with a mixture of loathing and desire. And, as the quote above shows, she's not afraid to stand up and admit her faults. Since the book splits the narrative between the present time, and her life before the Feed, it's easy to see how much more mature the returned Nikki Beckett is.

Jack, on the other hand, is the quintessential sweetheart - with a dash of edge, as evinced by his eyebrow piercing. He's in love with Nikki, always has been, and while this *could* have been a cop-out in terms of romantic characterization, it doesn't feel that way. Jack's sweet and steadfast, and I really liked the way he wooed her back out of her shell. He's more of a Tucker boy than an Edward boy and we all know which one I prefer!

But, of course, this book is not perfect. I found the idea of the Daughters of Persephone weird and unconvincing. I can see a few crazy people selling off their daughters for a vague promise of immortality. But entire societies of them? All over the world? Really?

More importantly (and annoyingly) Ashton falls into that most common of YA tropes, the Disappearing Parent Syndrome. Nikki disappears for six months, *nobody* has the faintest idea where she's been, she emerges emaciated and withdrawn, and her father's only response is to bring a random woman home to test her for drugs, and then leave her by herself for long stretches of time? Please. There is no mention of her father frantically searching for her - Jack, sure, Jack never gave up, but apparently the man who gave life to her was willing to consign his daughter to the recesses of his mind and move on with his life. He never takes her to the shrink, he doesn't hover constantly and check on where she is, and when she gets caught in the middle of a fight, his only response is to worry about his campaign for mayor... and yet we are supposed to believe he is a loving father. That does not play for me at all.

Nikki too treats her family with cavalier disregard. Although she mentions over and over again that she came back to settle things with her dad and say goodbye to her little brother, except for one obligatory scene with both of them, we never see her actually spending time with her family, making her brother feel better, even *thinking* about him all that much. It's all me-me-me-Jack-Jack-Jack. Even her so-called best friend, Jules, get the short shrift. Now I was a teenager once, and I DID spend more time dramatizing my lovelife and ignoring my parents - when I wasn't hating on them, that is. BUT, I had not just returned from a life-changing experience, and I was not expecting to die in the next six months. You'd think that sort of thing would change a person's perspective.

But all in all, this was a pretty interesting book, there was enough interesting things happening that the annoying things didn't annoy me too much. If you don't like the general run of YA PNRs, I would suggest you stay away from Everneath, but if you like the genre in general and don't mind a certain amount of genre

conformity in your YA books, then give this one a shot.

This book was provided by the publisher via Net Galley.

Cait • A Page with a View says

This was a pretty original modern Hades/Persephone retelling! I'm not even going to try to summarize the plot, though, because it took the entire book to figure out what exactly was happening. It's a bit confusing at times with how it jumps between before & after, but the writing is solid so it's not frustrating or anything.

I don't know what will happen in the sequels (or if I'll read them), but I liked how the Persephone figure didn't fall for the Hades guy for a change. There really isn't a ton of action in this story, though... it's more about her processing how she was in the Everneath for 100 years and has to leave her boyfriend Jack in 6 months to return (because she has a Shade in her and her choice is to either feed on everyone or be fed on).

I took a star off because I'm really not that into YA paranormal books anymore and this felt too close to that. But if that's your thing, I'd totally recommend it!

My blog | Tumblr | Twitter | Instagram

Steph Sinclair says

Sometime after this review was written Kat Kennedy and I traveled down the River Styx to interview Brodi Ashton. Check out the interview here!

Right after I finished *Everneath* I gave it 4 stars right off the bat. It was an easy read with a great story and fantastical characters. Why didn't I give it five stars? I had to think on that. So, I spent an entire week trying to figure out what it was about *Everneath* that I disliked. Conclusion:

It's true, folks. I don't have any negative things to say about *Everneath*. I LOVED it.

Everneath tells the story of Nikki Beckett, who having since vanished 6 months ago to the Everneath, returns to her family and friends seeking a way to permanently say goodbye before she returns to the Underworld for good. However, “bad boy”, Cole, the immortal who first took her to the Everneath, wants to make her his immortal queen and forget about those she left behind. With a period of only six months, Nikki struggles to fight her addiction to Cole, right her wrongs, and somehow find a loop hole that will keep her with her loved ones.

There are a few aspects in *Everneath* that make it stand out above the usual follies in the paranormal romance genre. For all of those novels that have done it wrong over and over, *Everneath* does it right.

What I LOVED and can't get enough of (baby):

The Characters:

Are you tired of the usual teen angst? The main character and the love interest seeming to have some whack, ass-grabbed excuse for why they can't be together? Well, so am I. Each character in this book felt like they were extremely well-developed with real issues. Nikki is looking for redemption for something she knows is her fault. She's not looking for anyone to save her. She's not pouting in the corner having a FML moment. She's *doing* something about it. It was her decision to go with Cole to the Everneath and allow him to feed off of her. She could have blamed it on Jack's actions, but she took full responsibility.

Cole is a very complex character. He tries very hard to convince Nikki to leave her home and become an immortal, Everliving, like him and rule as queen. But, Nikki doesn't want that. While reading, the reader is left to wonder if he is genuine when he says he cares about her or is he just playing her. Somehow Ashton manages to make us somewhat sympathetic to Cole, but she still reminds the reader that he is the **bad boy**. How many times do we see the heroine being instantly swept away by the bad boy's good looks? Or how about getting lost in his glorious deep eyes, that also happen to be the exact shade of the darkest pits in hell? Or my personal favorite: stalk me! I love it when you creep! *barf* Kill me now. Nikki doesn't back down from her guns. Cole follows her and she tells his ass to take a hike. Cole stakes out at her window and she tells that fool to get lost. However, there always still remains intrigue surrounding Cole. I expect to see a lot more from him in the next book.

Jack is the sweetest love interest I've read about in a while. He never gives up on Nikki when she disappears for 6 months. He was supportive and kind throughout the entire novel. Ladies, and I'm not saying this mildly, if you love Tucker Avery (view spoiler), then I'm sure you will love Jack too. Jack suspects something is amiss with Nikki and despite her not being as forthcoming about it, he steadily is always there patiently waiting until she is ready to talk.

I mean, how can you say no to a book with characters that awesome?!

The Triangle of Love:

Ashton plays this pretty slick. As I've already mentioned, Nikki avoids Cole's advances, but I know where this is headed. I'm just way too smart to be fooled!

But, you know what? I think this will be one of those cases where I'll like it. In fact, I'm going to make a rather bold statement here and say this love triangle resembles Cynthia Hand's *Unearthly*. Yes, I said it. You see Hand and Ashton are doing something very interesting with their romances. They both have strong female leads that clearly have a preference in the department of who they want to end up with. They struggle to ward off advances from the other male love interest, but because of factors out of their control (this is called a plot people!) they must *tolerate* him. He isn't around just to make the "good guy" look extra nice with his boy next door, award winning smile. He has a purpose besides trying to steal away the girl. Not only that, but the heroine knows this and tries everything in her power to not get involved with the "bad boy" because, duh!, he is **BAD**. And *that* is why it works for me. It makes me so happy someone has stopped trying to sell me the arrogant "bad boy" as a viable love interest when he has zero redeeming features! Thank you, Ashton. Gold star!

One of the best messages this novel has is the consequences of co-dependent relationships. They reason why Nikki left to go to the Everneath was a direct result of an event involving her boy friend, Jack (coupled with a few other things). Similarly, Jack loses it completely when Nikki disappears. The reason why it works in this story is because both characters acknowledged those actions were not healthy and both regretted it. Their knee-jerk reaction and violent depression is not romanticized in any way. I really wish more authors portrayed this message more often in their novels because it's important to show that losing your boy friend/girl friend can suck, but it is not the end of the world.

The Plot:

That's right, this book has one! Nikki is on a mission: redemption. That is what she attempts to gain in this novel. When she disappeared into the Everneath 6 months ago, she left a lot of relationships strained and now she is looking to fix them. She doesn't stray from that path and suddenly start fantasizing about the "bad boy" randomly. This is what makes this book such a winner because too often I see the plot being left in the bloody dust because an author thought it would be "totally romantic" to have the heroine frolic through the gardens with one of her boy toys. I'm happy to say that did not happen here. You ever heard of the saying "no romance without finance"? Well, I'm introducing a new saying: No romance without plot progress. While this is a paranormal romance through and through, the plot is always in the front.

The Ending:

So sad, but so perfect. I love how things are tied up nicely, yet you know there is more to come. I'm really excited to read the next book, but I don't feel like Ashton left me to walk the plank with *Everneath's* ending. Thank you for that. There are only so many cliffhangers I can take before my poor little heart gives out. It will be very interesting to see where she takes this story.

So, if you are tired of the usual run of the mill paranormal romances, you should head right on over to your book store and pick up *Everneath*. You're in for a treat!

ARC received through NetGalley. As always, these are my honest opinions and I was not paid for my review!

More reviews like this at [Cuddlebuggery Book Blog](#).

Sarah says

"I'm already dead. It's your world that killed me."

This was a YA paranormal romance, featuring some mythology.

I felt really sorry for Nikki in this, she'd obviously been through a lot and just wanted to get her life back, even if it was only for a brief time.

The storyline in this was about how Nikki had been in the Everneath, acting as a battery for a boy called Cole, and had finally gotten out only to find out that she only had 6 months before she would have to go back to a far worse place. I really liked this story though, and I liked both of the love interests too, even if we weren't quite meant to like Cole.

The ending to this was a bit of a cliff-hanger, and I'm interested to see what happens next.

8 out of 10

Brodi Ashton says

Yep. I totally just gave my own book five stars. :)

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

Needs More Mythology

I figured that was going to be my review opener until I hit the last portion of the book. The connection between the realm of the gods and our world wasn't made clear upfront, but wouldn't you know...the author had to sneak some of it in on us at the last minute.

Buried alive...

Nikki (Becks) is back in town after a long period of time away. 100 years underground, to be exact. Yet, in everyone else's perspective, they think she's only been gone a matter of months. When heartache caused Nikki to bargain for time in the Everneath as a way to cope with the pain, she was forced to pay the price - one which might not come with an 'out clause'. Is it possible for her to regain her life at all, now that she's living on borrowed time?

This is another case of a story which had good bones, but suffered from a little bit of a deficiency when it came to character depth. No one in this story truly grabbed me, other than Cole (of course it would figure that I'd be curious about the presumed villain). I feel somewhat guilty that the characters of Jack and Cole kept making me think of Dank and Leif from the *Existence* trilogy, because this was a huge hurdle for me to get over, considering how I wasn't a big fan of *Existence*. Jack was a combination of the old boyfriend and Dank, while Cole was Leif (although the rock star thing was switched, with the villain being the musician this time). However, in the case of *Everneath*, the story had a touch more finesse. Even if you weren't a fan of *Existence*, you might still be able to find something to enjoy about *Everneath*.

Although it took me almost an entire book to warm up to Jack, the last scene with him at the end of the book melted my heart and appealed to the romantic in me. But wouldn't it figure that of course I'm hopelessly and recklessly vibing on Cole instead. I know it's wrong, but I can't help it!

"You don't give my job enough credit. It's really hard to convince a girl to follow me. The average pickup lines don't work so well. 'Hey, wanna get coffee? And then spend an eternity getting the life force sucked out of you?' They don't go for it."

Aww hell, Nikki. I may not get why you did what you did, but at least you made me think of Charlie Sheen with this gem : *One day is all I deserve, and I've had so many already. I've won. I've won!* I had the urge to put up one of his "DUH WINNING" pics but then I saw this and felt it appropriate for the story :

[image error]

I'm guessing that's about how Nikki looked after being drained of energy, too.

Surprisingly enough, I was okay with the back-and-forth timeline. In this particular case, the "waiting" to find certain things out sort of lent an air of mystery to the book. The author had a way of bringing us between the past and the present with little loss of cohesion. There is a fair amount of skill involved in doing this without confusing the readers. I'll give a thumbs up for that.

"Where do we go from here?"

"Nowhere, really," I whispered. "it doesn't change anything."

I wasn't in love with the story but I was in like with the ideas presented. Because there was a great buildup to finding out some answers while still leaving many things a mystery for now, this ended up being the factor which had me wanting to keep reading. Even when I wasn't completely attaching to the characters, I was fascinated with the idea of what was to come. The end of the book is where the story finally hit an AHAH! moment for me. Then I had an *oh hell yeah, I can't wait to see what happens next* feeling. I'm happy that book 2 is just around the corner now because I have to believe that we're on our way up to the top of the roller-coaster now, just about to plunge over that cliff.

The pain of loss was fresh every night, but I no longer begged to have it taken away. I owned it.

Ari says

There might be times in your life when you feel that you've hit the very bottom and that you can't take it anymore.

Try to imagine for a moment that you have lost everything you care about. That someone would tell you that it's in his power to take all your pain away.. What would you do? Would you take the chance?

You might say "no", you might say "maybe" or even you might agree..

But what if it is not only the pain that it's taken away from you, what if you're fading away with every memory, with every beat of your heart, with every second until there is nothing but void... you turn to nothing (even with the promise of immortality)

What memory do you think you could keep hidden in your heart to wake you to life, to call for you when you're lost?

Would it be about your family, or friends, or a lover?

Will it be a face, a smile, a happy moment?..

Nikki has lost what she thought that it was 'everything' for her and she has decided that she doesn't want to feel the pain any longer. She has given herself away (when a boy called Cole told her that he can erase all her suffering), now she has no feelings, her memory is back in pieces, and she has a few months to say goodbye to the people she cares about and then she will disappear from this world for ever.

The only thing she recalls is the face of a boy, her first love, and one of her big disappointments – Jack.

Every breath I took meant another grain of sand in my hourglass disappeared, and I only had a few left. I tried not breathing.

With the time ticking her life away she doesn't have many choices.

It all sounds simple: say goodbye to Jack, to her father and her brother. She thinks that she has enough time to prepare herself, to say how sorry she is, to leave it all behind. But simple is just a word, and life is never simple.

...Now old friends come back from the past, misunderstandings are revealed, Nikki's heart starts to feel again, but all the love in the world is not enough to protect her, to keep her from disappearing again. Her only chance is to use all the time she has to find a way to cheat "fate"; her only chance is to get Cole to tell her what could she do to break the unbreakable, but would he do that for her, or even could he?

I liked how she doubted Cole from time to time, but then her doubts would vanish and the numbness would return again. I liked how she and Jake got to become close again, day by day, how she remembered more of their moments together (oh, how I liked the sparks of life from the memories) and I liked how Jake wouldn't give up on her no matter what.

They were cute together and my heart was breaking with every chapter seeing how little time they had together and how much of it did they waste.

Also Cole was quite a mystery, and one that I would want to uncover. He was fun to be around and if it wasn't for the fact that he was sucking feelings out of people I might have liked him a lot better.

So, if you like paranormal stories with a touch of mythology and some interesting characters, this is your chance. I hope that you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Book Source: ARC from the publisher via Netgalley – Thank you very much!

This review can also be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com

[Blog \(EN\)](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Bloglovin'](#) | [Blog \(RO\)](#)

Giselle says

Hades and Persephone, we've all heard the story. Of all the myths, this is easily my favorite. When I saw that Everneath was a retelling of this heartbreaking tale, I was instantly attracted to it. However, I was mistaken. This is not a Persephone and Hades retelling per se, but a modernized, completely original story that is loosely based on the myths of Persephone and Eurydice. It was beautiful!

First and foremost, the character that breathes powerfully throughout this book, is the emotion. It is full of raw, pure, palpable emotions. I could constantly sense Nikki's despair. Even when stripped of all feeling, she had this hollowness that I could easily discern; a void once full of energy. She lost everything to the Everneath, and six months is an incredibly short time when you know what you're going back to. My heart

was breaking for her, while holding on to a tiny flicker of hope that things would turn around.

You can't start describing Nikki without first understanding Cole. Cole is manipulative and cunning, which is capitalized by the fact that he can control emotions. He wants Nikki; Nikki loves Jack. So while her actions can seem a bit rash, even impulsive, Cole plays a big role behind these decisions. Her doubts, her pain, her fears, they're all fabricated, or at the very least, magnified by Cole. With this in play, I couldn't help but open my heart up to her. She becomes his puppet, and it's tragic. Cole and Jack are complete opposites which makes a fantastic love triangle. One you will love, and one you will love to hate.

To add to the trepidation, the story shifts from past to present in a way that leaves you feeling restless. You KNOW what's going to happen while seeing these events unfold. It keeps the story intriguing, while building anticipation for a shattering ending. Was it predictable? Yes. But was it original? Completely. This fresh take on the Persephone myth mixes the old with the new for an altogether beautiful and dark tale.

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For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

Samantha says

I'm always on the search for good Hades and Persephone retellings. This summary gave me hope. It talks about a girl who survived the underworld and comes back to the surface. Even without the obvious Persephone themes, those are some of my buzzwords. The marketing and design of the cover also scream Hades and Persephone. Unfortunately... that was all a ruse.

This is not a Hades and Persephone retelling. This is more of an Orpheus and Eurydice retelling, with a random "love triangle" thrown in. Except I wouldn't even consider it a love triangle, because, to me, that implies that both love interests have an equal chance. They don't. It's very obvious from the beginning who Nikki has chosen. Which is fine, except it makes the whole love triangle thing even more pointless than it usually is.

If this was marketed like the Orpheus and Eurydice retelling that it is, I think it would be more successful and would have gotten a higher rating from me as I would have had realistic expectations. I know Hades and Persephone is pretty marketable right now, but it's not as if Orpheus and Eurydice is unpopular. In fact, there are plenty of people seeking retellings of the myth as well.

Aside from all of that, the writing style isn't anything to write home about. Although it's a quick read, there are a few things used that I don't tend to enjoy. Most prominently, the always annoying Capitalization Of Random Words To Denote Importance In This World. For example, Everlings. Eveneath. Feed. The author then chooses to not really explain these things at all, just uses the capitalization to show they are ~important~. The reader is very much thrown into the story with no explanation.

Overall, I considered this story a letdown. The characters weren't anything to write home about, the writing is fairly mediocre, and I don't find the romance very compelling. I have continued with the series, because it's easy and I do plan on reading anything even vaguely "Hades and Persephone", but it's not something I'd recommend to most people. This review was originally posted on Thoughts on Tomes

Blythe says

Actual Rating: 2.5 stars

Everneath is one of those books that seems to be followed by hype everywhere it goes, and, for the most part, understandably so. *Everneath* is an overall compelling, captivating, and at times heartbreaking read, truly worthy of the hype it has undoubtedly gotten.

But just because I see where the hype is coming from concerning *Everneath* doesn't necessarily mean I'm taking part in it.

Conceptually, *Everneath* is practically flawless; a loose retelling of the myths of Persephone and Eurydice, where teenager Nikki Beckett is sucked into an underworld known the inhabitants as the Everneath and lives there for hundreds of years, only to return to the real world and discover six months has passed. But this time, Nikki has only six more months to redeem her mysterious disappearance, apologize to the loved ones she left - including her old boyfriend, Jack, and ultimately, say good-bye to them one last time, as her clock is ticking and the Everneath is ready to claim her again.

But, however, it's with the execution of the above concept where I feel *Everneath* went wrong. Brodi Ashton could have gone so much farther with the thoroughly interesting mythology presented to us in the synopsis, but unfortunately, the most mythology in the entirety of *Everneath* is in the opening chapters, and the final few chapters.

The chapters in between the opening few and the final few are filled with an excruciatingly boring romance and tons of relationship angst, and just angst in general. While others may tell you that *Everneath* is focused on a teenager searching for redemption after disappearing mysteriously from her loved one's lives, I would tell you that *Everneath* is mostly about Nikki's attempts at rebuilding her past relationships - most prominently her relationship with her former boyfriend, Jack.

Jack is another reason I went into *Everneath* with extremely high expectations, after seeing so many reviews praising him and comparing him to the likes of Tucker Avery - a character I'm pretty sure *everybody* loves, but throughout the entirety of *Everneath*, I never found myself feeling more than dismissive towards him. While I found him to be a kind and sweet character, I also found him to be just as bland as Nikki. In fact, I think it's safe to say that I liked Nikki's captor of sorts, Cole, much more than Jack. While Cole wasn't a love interest in *Everneath*, I can definitely tell that he is going to end up being one in *Everbound*, and I'm actually really glad. Unlike the characters of Nikki and Jack, I found Cole to be multi-layered, interesting, and bearing the correlation of a real human being, whereas I found Nikki and Jack to be overall one-dimensional and boring.

Another thing to be noted about *Everneath* is that a suspension of disbelief is pretty much a necessity if you plan on reading it. After her disappearance, Nikki's father obviously asks her where she's been for the past six months, and once Nikki answers him with, "Oh, just rehab." (paraphrasing, of course, but this is pretty much what happened), her father completely lets go of the issue as if that was a good enough answer. I also find it incredibly implausible that Jack would be so accepting of Nikki's story about where she really was over the past six months, when any other person would have (and *should* have) stared at her and sent her to a psychiatric ward.

And while I have mostly negative feelings towards *Everneath*, none of those feelings are particularly strong or passionate - I didn't hate it, I didn't like it, and I wouldn't even say I'm somewhere in the middle of like and hate. In the end, I was left with just an overall feeling of meh, whether it be concerning the execution of the plot, the romance, the characters, or the writing. Just meh, and honestly, I think that might just be the

worst feeling I could have for a book. When I hate a book, at least I'm able to say that the book drew some emotion from me, but when I'm left with an overall feeling meh and dismissiveness, I'm unable to say I felt anything.

Kat Kennedy says

**This ARC was provided to me by HarperCollins. No money or favours were exchanged for this review - much to my chagrin!*

November Madness is what I nicknamed this month. With a variety of very interesting looking titles becoming available for galley grab, to many readers, it appeared to be a smorgasbord of literary delights.

Everneath is one such of these delights and, in my opinion, completely deserves the hype.

Becks, a seventeen year old girl, wakes up from a hundred year-long hibernation with bad-boy supernatural, Cole. He's been feeding from her to replenish himself, above the surface only six months have passed. Becks returns to her life a husk of her former self.

Emaciated, numb to emotion and damaged. She has six months to live before being dragged back into hell but she wants to see her exboyfriend, Jack, one more time before she goes.

If I were to find a movie to compare this book to, I suppose it would be a mix between *The Labyrinth* and *Drugstore Cowboy* (or *The Man With A Golden Arm* if you're going to be persnickety). In fact, the whole book is a rather excellent drug metaphor. This hit home for me in a big way and was perhaps why I was especially moved and addicted (sorry!) by this novel.

The book is agonizingly beautiful in that Becks honestly struggles as a drug addict would and one could argue that all the fantastical elements in this book are Beck's psychosis trying to deal with her recovery and past experiences. Jack was her love before *The Feeding* and Ashton breaks up the novel with several flashbacks to give us insight into Beck's fall from grace. Cole, on the otherhand, is the perfect counterbalance. He is dark, seductive, effortlessly tempting. He is like a devil on Beck's shoulder. He follows her everywhere trying to tempt her back. He has a weird relationship with Beck's that is part dependency, part companionship that sufficiently muddies the usual moralities shuffled through in other such novels. It's very clear, often, that Beck's struggle to resist Cole is painful, sometimes a little nonsensical and takes an extraordinary strength of will and character.

Ashton weaves Cole's character as being both despicable and yet sympathetic. It's hard to entirely dismiss Cole as evil and yet you can hardly claim he's good. He's almost the culmination of almost every paranormal badboy douche who gets romanticized in these kinds of novels. Ashton takes that kind of character to his final conclusion and releases him upon her novel like a tornado. Yes, readership, there are boys out there who are gorgeous, dangerous, sexy-beyond-all-reason and effortlessly charming. But they will also suck you down into hell, suck you dry and in the end they just plain suck.

Jack is the excellent counter-balance in this novel. Damaged, yet loving and courageous he battles to keep Becks from being dragged back into the Everneath. Their relationship isn't always strong. There's so much honest emotion and history with these two characters that their relationship arc is solid and real.

I found the pacing of *Everneath* was smooth but fans of action and adventure books will probably find themselves itching for more. This is a book about people. People healing, people trusting, people trying to tear that all down again. There's a plot and there's a rushing timeline looming in the background but there's

not a lot of fists and falcon punches. Ashton's writing is strong and serves well for this novel. Her use of imagery is great and she manages to create a rather unique and coherent mythology in this book.

But be warned, this is a trilogy and Ashton leaves her novel on a heartbreaking cliff-hanger of sorts. I am eagerly awaiting the sequel and this book goes on my to-buy list when released!

Limonessa says

So something good DOES come along sometimes in paranormal YA.

I am very pleasantly surprised by Brodi Ashton's debut novel, *Everneath*, loosely based on a sort of mix between the myths of Hades/Persephone and Orpheus/Eurydice.

Nikki Beckett has been sleeping a hundred years in the *Everneath*, a limbo between Earth and Hell, where the Everlivings have found a way to be immortal. She is a Forfeit, emotional "food" for Cole, the Everliving she decided to follow in the underworld.

Strangely, she wakes up with the image of a brown-haired boy lingering in her memory and decides to Return, albeit for a brief period of time, to Earth. Only six months have actually passed in the real world and Nikki has exactly another six months to say good-bye to her family and friends, before disappearing forever in the Tunnels, a sort of hell for Forfeits.

With very few exceptions in mind, I'm usually not very attracted to stories based on pre-packed mythology and its application to modern society... it's old hat.

Not in this case. I was fairly fascinated by the concept of Everlivings and their Forfeits, of the Shades that bind them together (reminiscent of the *Fever* series) and their feeding on emotions. It's well incorporated into the story and it gives the book a certain dark edge and a more adult cut. (still no sex, though!)

While this story could have easily been characterized by the well-known, trite series of clichés typical of standard paranormal YA nowadays (love triangle, love at first sight, bitchy competition and so on and so forth), it fortunately manages to avoid falling blatantly right into some of them. The love triangle is not *properly* a triangle (could also be a rectangle, to be honest), love is not of the instant kind and the competition is not bitchy (ok, it is and it isn't. Half a cliché?)

It does, however, suffer from what other reviewers have already christened the "Disappearing Parent Syndrome", a definition I'd take a step further and rename the "Missing Adults Syndrome".

Why is nobody questioning Nikki's disappearance for six months and they're just buying into the rehab theory? Wouldn't a police investigation have been opened in case of a missing minor? Wouldn't there be pictures on milk cartons? These same exact questions baffle me even more in respect to the ending: does one not get interrogated in case he/she is the last person to be seen with someone who has inexplicably and suddenly disappeared? The mind boggles.

The strength of this book lies, without a doubt, in its characters.

Nikki is a fighting heroine, she's no helpless damsel in distress. Despite some really stupid and unreasonable choices she makes - like running away from the dorm with no evidence - I liked her. Her love for Jack is believable and strong - on the other hand, Jack's love for her is a little less so since he went through the whole cheerleading team before asking her out but, you know, I guess this typical man behavior is not that odd after all). I felt compassion for her, felt the clock ticking away, felt the inexorability of her situation.

This genre is in dire need of more Nikkis.

Of the two "main" guys of the story, the one I found more interesting is Cole. He is supposedly the bad guy. But is he? No cardboard cut out role for him. He isn't all good but he's not all bad either. I appreciate these "grey" characters, when I'm not sure whether I have to like them or hate them and the author doesn't make the choice for me by making them unbelievable caricatures. I'm eager to see possible developments of his character.

The person that baffled me the most is Jack's brother, Will. He's got a marginal role in this book but I am sure there's more to him than meets the eye, he spends half the book being drunk but there's something that doesn't convince me about his quasi-homeless situation. I'm positive we'll see more of him in the next books. Which reminds me that there is, in fact, at least one cliché: this is a trilogy.

Nevertheless, far, far better than most of his "brothers" of the genre, this is a series I'll be following with interest.

For this review and more, follow us at [The Nocturnal Library](#).
