

Michael Stierstorfer, "Entry on: Everneath (Series, Book 3): Evertrue by Brodi Ashton", peer-reviewed by Markus Janka and Elżbieta Olechowska. *Our Mythical Childhood Survey* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2019). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/852>. Entry version as of July 24, 2021.

Brodi Ashton

Everneath (Series, Book 3): Evertrue

United States of America (2014)

TAGS: [Eurydice](#) [Hades](#) [Katabasis](#) [Kronos / Cronus / Cronos](#) [Orpheus](#) [Persephone](#) [Tantalus](#) [Underworld](#)



We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Everneath (Series, Book 3): Evertrue
<i>Country of the First Edition</i>	United States of America
<i>Country/countries of popularity</i>	worldwide
<i>Original Language</i>	English
<i>First Edition Date</i>	2014
<i>First Edition Details</i>	Brodi Ashton, <i>Evertrue</i> , New York: Balzer & Bray, 2013, 350 pp.
<i>ISBN</i>	9783789130427
<i>Genre</i>	Fantasy fiction, Romance fiction
<i>Target Audience</i>	Young adults (Teens)
<i>Author of the Entry</i>	Michael Stierstorfer, University of Regensburg, Michael.stierstorfer@ur.de
<i>Peer-reviewer of the Entry</i>	Markus Janka, University of Munich, janka@lmu.de Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com



Creators



Brodi Ashton (Author)

Brodi Ashton studied journalism at the University of Utah and international relations at the London School of Economics. She published her debut, *Everneath*, in 2012, as a first volume of a trilogy (vol. 2 and 3 are entitled respectively *Everbound* 2013, *Evertrue* 2014). Ashton blogs and comments on her writing at brodiashton.blogspot.com. She lives in Utah with her husband and two sons. She says in her blog, that both her parents were “Greek myth geeks,” she learned about mythology in her childhood and brought the mythological inspiration to her *Everneath* trilogy. In her writing, she focuses on romantic fantasy for teenagers and young adults. She published another novel, *Diplomatic Immunity* in 2016. The same year, she began collaborating with two other YA authors, Cynthia Hand and Jodi Meadows. The three friends working under the nickname The Ladyjanies produced *My Lady Jane* in 2016, *My Plane Jane* in 2018; the third novel in the same cycle, *My Calamity Jane* is scheduled to appear in 2020. All her books are very popular and were translated in a number of languages.

Sources:

[Profile](#) at amazon.com (accessed: September 25, 2019)

[Blog](#) (accessed: September 25, 2019)

Bio prepared by Michael Stierstorfer, University of Regensburg,
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Additional information

Translation German: Brodi Ashton, *Ewiglich. Die Hoffnung*, trans. Rasha Khayat und Sebastian Blum, Oetinger, 2013.

Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs Spin-off: *Neverfall (Everneath Book 2)*, a 107-page spin-off to Everneath told by the point of view of a male protagonist was published also in 2012 by Balzer & Bray in Kindle format.

Prequels:

Brodi Ashton: [Everneath](#), 2012

Brodi Ashton: [Everbound](#), 2013

Summary A seventeen year old high school student and cheerleader, Nikki, joins together with Jack, her boyfriend, in order to destroy the perilous and horrible Everneath completely. To fulfil that mission, she moves to Nebraska with Jack, from where they descend into the underworld. There, the couple meets the Hades-figure Cole, who lost his memory. Consequently, it is revealed, that he was tortured by Adonia, the cruel queen of the Everneath, because she feared him as a rival to her throne. By destroying the "damned stone," which is the vessel of Adonia's superpower, with the sickle of Cronus taken from the lake Tantalus, they substantially weaken the queen. Afterwards the trio steps into the throne room of Adonia. The hearts of Nikki and Cole are also stored there - they were stolen by Adonia (see [Everbound](#)). During a conversation with Adonia, the two young people manage to cause an explosion in the throne room. Nikki is then able to shatter Adonia's heart by using her mental power. Suddenly, Adonia disappears into thin air and is no more. Nikki and Cole break their stolen hearts, in order to lift the curse condemning them to live in the Everneath. Cole dies, because he was cursed too long ago, and would not be able to live on the surface. Nikki leaves the underworld and reunites with Jack. They swear to each other eternal love.



Analysis

Additionally to the myth of Hades and Persephone, in this third volume of the trilogy, the myth of the Titans and of Tantalus bring additional inspirations. The myth of the Titans provides the idea of a particularly hard and indestructible weapon, the sickle of Cronus, which will be used at a decisive moment of the story. The myth of Tantalus is briefly retold to explain the name of the lake. Follows the emancipation of the Persephone-figure, Nikki, from the control of the evil Hades-figure, Cole. A new and independent figure of Persephone fits better the contemporary way of life of women. In book five of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* Proserpina (Persephone) is the victim of Pluto's (Hades') force and cannot leave this cruel god, who abducted her into the underworld and separated her from her mother Demeter. Cole, while guilty of kidnapping Nikki, sucking her emotions and energy for a hundred underworld years (equaling six months on the surface), and then transforming her into a vampire, remains a seductive and glamorous rock musician who is not all bad, as he helps Nikki save Jack, vanquish Adonia, and break the curse binding both of them to the underworld, even though it leads to his death. This complex character may be seen by some as an embodiment of what young girls should avoid, if they want to be "traditionally" happy. The novel shows the danger of falling for "a bad boy" his glamour and fatal attraction; it champions a safer "eternal" love, like the relationship between Nikki and Jack will finally be, a couple secure in their emotions and devotion, well proven by their willingness to save each other, and even to die trying.

Classical, Mythological,
Traditional Motifs,
Characters, and
Concepts

[Eurydice](#) [Hades](#) [Katabasis](#) [Kronos / Cronus / Cronos](#) [Orpheus](#)
[Persephone](#) [Tantalus](#) [Underworld](#)

Other Motifs, Figures,
and Concepts Relevant
for Children and Youth
Culture

[Adolescence](#) [Coming of age](#) [Fairy tale references](#) [Individuality](#)
[Survival](#)



Further Reading

Markus Janka, Michael Stierstorfer (ed.), *Verjüngte Antike. Griechisch-römische Mythologie und Historie in zeitgenössischen Kinder- und Jugendmedien*. Heidelberg: Winter 2017, pp. 13-27.

Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer: "Orpheus and Eurydice. Reception of the Classical Myth in Children's Literature." In: Katarzyna Marciniak, (ed.): *Our Mythical Childhood... The Classics and Literature for Children and Young Adults*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2016, pp. 291-306.

Michael Stierstorfer, *Antike Mythologie in der Kinder- und Jugendliteratur der Gegenwart. Unsterbliche Götter- und Heldengeschichten? [Ancient Mythology in Contemporary Children's Literature. Immortal Stories of Gods and Heroes?]*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2017, 128 pp.

