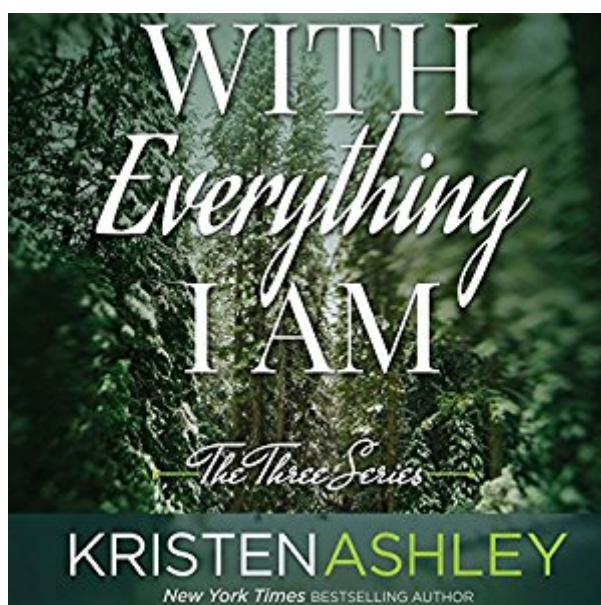


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With Everything I Am



Synopsis

One night, Callum is driven into the woods by instinct - an instinct to protect. In the form of wolf, he meets a young human child who he is instantly drawn to in a fierce way he doesn't quite understand. Sonia Arlington has lived a lonely life. She has certain abilities that make her strange and she has a rare disease that, if untreated, could kill her. Her father makes her vow that she will never let others discover her abilities. This forces Sonia to stay distant, always guarding against exposure. Intelligence leaks that Sonia is Callum's human mate. He is now King of the Werewolves and has war on his hands. He's forced to claim his mate and integrate Sonia into a world that is strange and frightening. As Sonia attempts to adjust, Callum attempts to cope with the knowledge that his mate is mortal. He will have her beauty and gentleness only the length of a mortal life, making their union unbearably bitter, even as Sonia makes it unbelievably sweet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I bought, read and consumed this book (in one long night) as I have with every other book that KA has written. I am a fan. And I will buy her next book... and her next... (although I might ask a friend for a loaner on the last "Three" book) It's about a woman name Sonia who has 'gifts', never connects with others because she has to hide them (she lost her parents long ago) and who is destined to be the king of werewolf's mate. That all happens in the first few chapters---the rest (and it's a LOT) is her trying to cope with her mate being an @\$\$ and him "so patiently" waiting for her to clue in about his world without actually telling her the fundamental trait of his people..... but I did not like it. Why? 1) Sonia. Her characterization was confusing: from the whole dual house thing,

her Christmas obsession, I felt like other than a few quirks, I never knew her. And I didn't like her--the entire book she felt weak for never demanding better treatment from Callum and for always giving into the hot sex. Well, I thought she was weak too, and that didn't change ****EVER**** --she also seemed pretty self-pitying and clueless for what I thought was supposed to be a business-savvy thirty-five year old. Being in her head--she felt like a teenager--ick!2) Callum. He's a jerk! I like KA's heroes and most of them can be 'jerks' at times. But Callum IS a jerk. And every time--EVERY TIME--when she was trying to leave him, I was disappointed that she didn't. He explains his point of view and suddenly, she's capitulating and saying "aww[...]" and forgetting the horrible stuff he said/did. Why didn't she ever ACTUALLY stand up for herself? And why doesn't he actually ever repent? He feels bad that he doesn't 'know' her?

I do not believe that this book would have as many 4 and 5 star reviews if it did not have Kristen Ashley's name attached to it. While I am a diehard fan of Ms. Ashley's many genres, "With Everything I Am" is not an example of her best writing. Sonia is too simplistic as a lead character. Other than her mysterious illness, there is nothing intriguing about her as a character. Like Leah in "Until the Sun Falls From the Sky", it is odd to have a female lead at 37 years of age behave in a way that is twenty years younger. I'm not sure why there is a need to infantilize Sonia. She is 5 ft 9 inches, and while I understand that this is three or four inches shorter than the average female werewolf, the overuse of "little" is bewildering. At 5'7", it has never crossed my mind to refer to friends at 5'3" as little. What we are left with is little Queen Sonia who is loving to everyone. It's just too shallow a portrait. A major flaw in the book is Sonia's lack of curiosity about Callum. Sonia is whisked away to her new life by Callum who refers to her repeatedly as "human" and there are many comments about his different culture. How odd, then, for her never ONCE to ask what HE is or what his culture is. It's just not believable. As king of the werewolves, Callum is a typical alpha-male. No problem with that. The strongest part of the book is when wolf culture is explained and how it contrasts with vampire society. We get a little taste of Callum as an action hero, but this is drowned out by his "baby doll" behaviour. When Ms. Ashley is able to create such different plot lines, it is disappointing that her lead female characters all speak and act in a very similar fashion.

"I dreamed of you. Since I was a teenager, I dreamed of you." "You know me." "In my dreams, you've been coming to me for twenty years." "You know me." As a young girl, Sonia, came across a wolf being hunted in the woods near her family's cabin. The wolf had been shot and Sonia immediately jumped to its defense by warding off the hunters and bringing the wolf back to the cabin so he could

heal. She awoke the next morning to find the wolf gone, assuming he had wandered off in the night to die alone. Over the years her "puppy" would visit her in her dreams and as she got older her "puppy" would bring along her dream man, her "handsome wolf" who would seduce her in her dreams. Having lost her parents the same night she lost her "puppy" she's been pretty much alone for the past 31 years (she was raised by the vampire Gregor, if you remember from the first book, and his son Yuri), she also has mysterious special abilities that she has had to keep hidden all her life, which also adds to her keeping from forming many close relationships. One night upon returning home she senses a menacing presence and is accosted by a few unknown assailants and sees a handsome man come to her rescue before she passes out. When she wakes she is in her family's cabin, which she thinks had long since burned down, and much to her surprise learns she was rescued by none other than the "handsome wolf" from her dreams. She learns that she is his fated mate (who just so happens to be the powerful king of his people, thereby making her queen) and has been since before either of them were born and the time has come for him to claim her!

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