



Afterlife

Claudia Gray

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Destiny awaits Bianca and Lucas. . . .

Bianca and Lucas believe they could endure anything to be together. When fate transforms Bianca into a ghostly wraith and turns Lucas into a vampire—the very creature he spent his life hunting—they are left reeling.

There is only one place Lucas can turn for help . . . Evernight Academy. But the vampire hunters of Black Cross are still pursuing them, and a final battle between wraiths and vampires looms at Evernight. Bianca and Lucas are facing dangers on every side—sometimes even from their oldest friends and allies. They've overcome every obstacle life has thrown at them, but is their love strong enough to survive the challenges *after* life?

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Afterlife Details

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From Reader Review Afterlife for online ebook

Petra (Safari Poet) says

The story continues right where the cliffhanger in Hourglass ended. Things aren't getting any easier for Lucas and Bianca. She's a wraith and Lucas is a vampire—the very thing he would prefer to die than become. Now they both have to come to terms with their own Afterlives. Lucas need to learn how to control his bloodlust and the only place that can help him is Evernight Academy, which is the worst place for a powerful wraith like Bianca.

"Classes start in two weeks," I said. "At Evernight. You're going to go back there."

Lucas stared at me for a second, then thumped his head against one of the wine racks so that the bottles rattled. "Great. I'm already hearing things. Halfway to crazy."

One thing I really enjoyed, but never really thought I'd want to know before I knew were the reasons behind Mrs. Bethany's actions. I'll never agree with her methods, but I understand her more.

Mrs. Bethany's proud face never changed, but I saw something I'd never expected to see: her eyes filling with tears.

They is never a dull moment in this book and when it seems like they don't have enough to worry about, something happens to prove there can always be more. It might not have the perfect ending I wanted, but it was perfect for this story and not improbably wrapped in a neat bow.

The Evernight series was the second YA series I ever read and one of the reasons I got hooked on series instead of just reading stand-alone books. Claudia Gray has a talent for cliffhangers that leave you on edge and compel you to find out what happens next. The supporting characters are as lovable and developed as the main. I can easily imagine each of them with their own spin-off novels.

N.L. Riviezzo says

Very disappointing end to the series. Left a lot of unanswered questions behind. There is also a lot of contradictions that come from the aftermath of the main events.

The book started off painfully slow and the pacing do not improve much as it progressed. It was rather agonizing to read and, at the end, one is left wondering - *I just struggle through all of that for what? A big fat raspberry.*

My other major complaint with Afterlife is writing structure. Ms. Gray's writing structure and style seemed to improve through the course of the first three books. This one was a major step backwards. So many run on sentences, horrid comma placement and abuse of the semi-colon. If you feel the need to use 2-3 semi-colons

and 2-4 commas in ***one sentence***, it is a clear sign that the one sentence should really be two or three sentences.

Saniya says

[image error]

Steph Sinclair says

What a complete disappointment. I had high hopes for Afterlife. Particularly because I really enjoyed the third book in the series, Hourglass. I am an original fan of the first book and I eagerly awaited each book's release. However, for me, Afterlife fell flat.

Afterlife picks up exactly where Hourglass left off: we are waiting for Lucas to arise as a Vampire. And right off the bat, I had a sinking feeling I wasn't going to like this book very much. Why? After Lucas rises, he immediately takes on the role as (what I consider) the "tortured soul" character. And Bianca turns into, more or less, his psychiatrist. Lucas spent almost the entire book loathing his existence, while Bianca constantly kept telling him, "You are stronger than this," "It will get better," "It's going to be ok." It's weird, because even though this book is told through Bianca, it seemed to be all about Lucas' personal struggle with himself. I didn't need to be constantly reminded about it. It got old very fast mostly because it was the same dialog over and over.

Another thing would have to be the grudge Bianca held against Balthazar. Literally, in almost every chapter (until Balthazar confronts Bianca) Gray mentions something along the lines, "And wasn't it Balthazar who lead Lucas to his death?" It almost seemed forced. Either way it annoyed me.

This book also seemed to be very anti-climatic too. There were a few revelations, but nothing that blew my mind. It pretty much gained the reaction of, "Oh, really? Ok."

****SPOILERS****

However, my biggest problem with the book would have to be the ending. First off, it seemed rather rushed. Secondly, I would have liked to have seen the reunion of Christopher and Mrs. Bethany. I was actually looking forward to that part and it pretty much happened off scene. There was a small glimpse of them, then the cabin burns down and they die. Wow.

There were so many open ends for the characters. What happens to Vic, Randolph, and Maxie? I guess they just went home. *shrug* What was the whole thing with Skye? Her being able to sense the wraiths. I really thought Gray was going somewhere with that. But she just goes home too. Dana and Raquel just go back to their motel? Balthazar goes to tend the Evernight stables? Lucas decides to pretty much forget about his mom?

The biggest upset? Lucas is mortal and Bianca remains a wraith. They briefly have a conversation about the future knowing he will one day die and she will continue to live on. Bianca says she will cross that bridge when she gets to it and that she would rather have him for 50-60 more years than mourn him for all eternity.

So he says something wack like, "You will live forever and being remember for eternity by you is all the immortality I need." Ummm...what?! Is that supposed to be comforting? What an awful way to end a book.

I wish I could have loved it, but I didn't. I found myself wanting to stop reading it several times and take it right back to the public library.

Kyleigh says

Finally. The last installment of the Evernight books. Evernight was my favorite vampire novel for a very long time. The originality and the amazing plot twist had me hooked. As the books progressed however, I felt like my love for them kept shrinking. Stargazer was a huge disappointment for me, but Hourglass really made up for the second one. Hopefully by the end of this review I'll have a concrete answer as to whether or not I liked Afterlife.

Afterlife picks up directly where Hourglass left off. Bianca has died and become a wraith, and Charity murdered Lucas and he became a vampire. The irony that they both became what they most feared wasn't even the slightest bit amusing. More than anything I was annoyed by it. I've felt ever since Stargazer that Gray has been "feeding the drama llama." There was so much drama going on that it detracted away from the story. Instead of getting tense when yet again something happened, I found myself rolling my eyes. Ope Black Cross just popped up out of nowhere. Ha, Kate just tried to kill her own son. Surprise ambush! Wraith attack! Just uh. I didn't once feel legit concern over anything that happened because I knew that it would quickly subside and they would move on. And guess what? I was right. Even the major "surprise" parts of Afterlife I called a couple chapters ahead of time. It was just frustrating that not one aspect of the novel had me at the edge of my seat.

It truly sucks that for the past 3 books I have been so unimpressed with the plotline, because I adore Lucas and Bianca. They are probably one of my all time favorite YA couples. Their love for each other goes beyond infatuation and physical attraction. Lucas would do anything for Bianca and vice versa. Yet at the same time other aspects of their life still remain important to them. They're not blinded by their love for each other and still remain practical about their situation. I love both of their characters and their interaction with each other is just very well done. Their situation in Afterlife is even more frustrating than previously. With Bianca being a wraith and Lucas being a vampire, them ever having a chance of being together is slim to none. They never give up on each other, but the situation just blows. Those two deserve to be together and the fact that fate just keeps getting in their way is a huge bummer.

When the plot moves back to Evernight, yes that's right they go back to the school, the storyline stabilized a bit more. It didn't feel as forced as the beginning so I didn't actually mind it all that much. As per usual I adored Ranulf and Vic. I would LOVE to have those two as my BFF's. Ranulf, just god, freaking most adorably awkward 1300 year old vampire ever. He is always just so literal that it makes me laugh soooo much. I want to ruffle that bowler haircut of his so much. Vic is equally awesome. His commentary on everything that happens always lightens the mood and makes it more enjoyable. One of my all time favorite lines of the book dealt with Vic. Vic asks for a weapon to break down a door. Bianca turns around and says "I never thought they'd give him the flame thrower." LMFAO! Just gah! Hysterical! Vic+ flame thrower=EPIC! I love those two to death.

It has been a while since I've read the rest of the books, so I can't really remember my impression of Mrs. Bethany very much. However, in Afterlife I felt like I really understood her character a lot more. I got her motivation for her actions and what events in her life lead her to be the person she is now. While I understood why she was doing things, I still kind of think she's a psycho. I don't really like how things ended for Mrs. Bethany either. While she was an uncaring, ruthless psycho of a woman, I think she deserved

some happiness in the end.

The whole wraith/vampire mortal enemies deal was FINALLY explained at length. It was nice to know more about the wraiths and their side of the story. When the wraiths were first introduced to the story I had the biggest WTF moment. I'm pleased to say that I kind of like the wraiths now. I more fully understand the concept of them and why they were so important to the story. If anything, the wraith spin on the vampire story is probably the most original idea in the YA world.

So in the end I enjoyed it. While the plot wasn't all that gripping, it was nice to get some closure to Lucas and Bianca's story. I loved the fact that Gray didn't give us the perfect fairytale ending. She left us on an optimistic note, but nothing was perfect by any means. All in all, a good ending to a good series. :)

Kaysi says

Okay... power reading done!!!

I have not had a lot of time to process the book, so this may be a bit all over the place!

****AND YES, THIS CONTAINS SPOILERS****

Firstly, I have to say that Bianca did annoy me more in parts of this book than the others. Mainly when it came to her attitude towards Balthazar, and blaming him for what happened to Lucas, especially after everything he has done for them in the past. Although, this was sorted in the end, Lucas is a big boy, he can make his own decisions (like he stated), I felt that the anger towards Balthazar was uncalled for... realistically love, if you hadn't bitten him so many times before, it wouldn't have happened!!!! Pot, kettle, black - anyone?. She was also a little whiney in parts, a little stupid in parts and sometimes just downright ungrateful, but, on the Bellaesque scale, she wasn't too bad.

I did like the return of Dana and Raquel, although, I felt Raquel was forgiven a little easily - but that's just me. I am not the forgive and forget type of person! In saying that, I do agree that she did indeed redeem herself. I also liked the return of Patrice... she is a good character. I liked the way it touched on her past... I am yet to read the story about that, and this book made me want to read that more.

Kate - Oh My God!!!! Now I am not the maternal type, as most of you know, but really? Even I have more maternal instincts than that! How horrible! I will say, I did feel sorry for Lucas. Someone really needs to sort that woman out, once and for all! I cannot say how disturbing I found this part of the storyline - a mother trying to kill her son? *shakes head*

Vic and Ranulf... I still love these boys. They came out with some classic lines as always.. and their loyalty was never questioned! Even after Lucas tried to attack Vic, he was still his friend - albeit a little standoffish (understandable). One of my favourites with Ranulf was "we are among the awesome"... god I love that guy!!!! The main problem I have with this book is that there was no real ending for Vic and Ranulf.. well for any of the minor characters, but I would like to know what happens with them.

Balthy - what can I say about him? Ever the gentleman, ever the true friend, but yet, no happy ending for him :(

Skye.. I liked her as well. She reminded me a lot of Penn in Fallen. I was hoping she would end up with one of the boys - preferably Vic (since he is human and all), although that would have made for a very unhappy

Maxie.

Maxie - she had her moments, and I actually thought she was a really good character. A ghost who stays connected to the living world cause of guy that she actually met after she died.. it would have been nice to get more backstory on her. She just seemed so cute when she "met" Vic and the whole thing at the end between Vic and Maxie was adorable. Once again, proving herself by putting herself at risk.

Charity... what a psycho! Yes, we already knew this of course, but come on girl, get a barbie doll to play with or something. I felt really sorry for Balthy having to do what he did... yes, the girl was crazy and all, but of course he still loved her. I was glad that he manned up and done it though.

Christopher... I clicked, as soon as he said about his wife, regarding his connection with Mrs Bethany. Obviously he had an anchor, being his wife, who was the only one who didnt betray him. And it was already established that he was eons old... so that wasn't hard to put together, so not a real shock there. But I still liked it. He obviously knew what was going on, to tell Bianca about it, saying they their paths were crossed etc - so why not actually tell her everything? I did feel sorry for him... having to watch the woman that he loved become what she did. I thought it was very nice of him to sacrifice himself for Maxie... he obviously knew that wasn't going end well. And, I suppose, in the end, the happy couple were together (even though it was twisted).

Mrs Bethany... no wonder she didn't get along with Charity, too much alike. They really should share a cell together in an institution. Wanting to become human just to die? Riiigghhhhtttttt. And speaking of that, why on earth when Bianca realised that Mrs B wanted to die to be with Christopher, did she not tell her that he was a wraith? Surely, telling her that, and that they wouldnt be together in the afterlife (no pun intended) would have brought some time? Stupid!

Now I have to say, my "stop reading, put hands over face and say oh my god moment" came from Samuel. In the classroom while he was taunting Lucas... What type of comment was that????????????????? That was plain wrong!

My *headdesk* moment had to be when she told Lucas to bite her - it had already been said that wraiths blood is poisonous to vampires- stupid girl!!!! There were a few other moments, but that was a good one for me.

So, all in all, I liked the way it ended for Bianca and Lucas... not quite the happily ever after that would have come out of some authors *coughstepheniemeyercough* but happy enough. The whole mixing blood thing was rather confusing, but, it worked. Originally I thought it didn't make sense, as if it worked for him, it should for her aswell, but of course, she doesn't have a body. I am just glad that they didn't "become one". All was good with her parents, although, a bit sad for Lucas that his parental figure was a lost cause. I would like to know more about the others - especially Balthazar. I wonder if the Balthy book will have events that take place after this? I hope so.

My major concern in this book - why on earth would she not want to see Balthy in the shower??? Crazy girl!!!! (yes, yes, I know Team Lucas peeps, there was a Lucas shower scene - but come one, even she admitted with Balthy what she saw she liked!) Bring on Bathtub Boy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Carol says

AFTERLIFE (Evernight #4)

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?: Destiny awaits Bianca and Lucas...Bianca and Lucas believe they could endure anything to be together. When fate transforms Bianca into a ghostly wraith and turns Lucas into a vampire—the very creature he spent his life hunting—they are left reeling. There is only one place Lucas can turn for help . . . Evernight Academy. But the vampire hunters of Black Cross are still pursuing them, and a final battle between wraiths and vampires looms at Evernight. Bianca and Lucas are facing dangers on every side—sometimes even from their oldest friends and allies. They've overcome every obstacle life has thrown at them, but is their love strong enough to survive the challenges after life?

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?: Okay, I finally finished this series. This week had been an amazing experience while reading this books and the conclusion of Lucas and Bianca's story feels like only the beginning (what a cliche I know) of their lives, and I feel so happy for them (ok, not so because it's kind of tragic). The reason for Ms. Bethany to act the way she does was finally explained and omg, I was not THAT shocked but at the same time I gasped while reading about her past.

What really impressed me was Bianca's behavior, she finally accepted her destiny and maybe true call. She finally understood who she could be happy and what was the right thing to do. Her ability to piece things together is what made me love her even more! And her love for her friends and family was something that was so real! Usually, the parents are something that is left out from the main plots of YA books and I'm so happy that they are important to her and the story...The whole thing about wraith being the soul and vampire being the body was so interesting...very refreshing coming from a book that I thought would be another cliche vampire love story. I don't know was to say more, but I liked this book a lot and it was an addicting read.

Needless to say I need to read more about Balthazar and Vic, I'm so glad that at least we have one more book that is a solo book for our favorite vampire, Balthazar!

Arlene says

I'm an original Evernight fan and have been since the first book came out in '08. As with every installment, I eagerly anticipated each book to ease the cliffy pain Claudia Gray is so great at planting. Well, I'd be less than honest if I said that this book was a slight disappointment for me and I'm bummed with how it ended. After close to three years of being vested in this series, it ends in disappointment for me. *sighs*

I guess I wanted more for Lucas and Bianca. I knew these two characters were made for each other. As much as Balthazar made me swoon, I know Bianca belongs with Lucas and I didn't feel they got what they deserved. (view spoiler)

I should have known that Gray is crafty at her WTF twists. She pulled an epic one in the first book, but I never thought she'd end with a banger of all head bangers WTF.

In this final installment, Lucas seeks sanctuary at Evernight as he struggles with his transition in becoming a vampire. He must learn to trust his previous arch enemy Mrs. Bethany, but as he continues to let his guard down and build his faith in Mrs. Bethany, a rift begins to occur between him and Bianca. A plot is discovered and an Evernight worthy battle ensues. After the dust settles the casualties are accounted for and Lucas' fate is in Bianca's hands... her misty, ghostly hands.

As with the other books, the pacing of the novel is perfect and the characters all deserve a standing ovation, but when it's all said and done, there was no real magic between Lucas and Bianca, and all I can say is that I was entertained, but not satisfied.

Not sure if I'll continue with the new series Gray has coming. She seems to be fearless with her choices yet haphazardly so. I hope Balty fares better in the next series.

Chelsea ♥Peril Please♥ says

4.5 Stars

Ugh. It's been a week since I finished this and I STILL am upset by the end, a little...not that I wasn't happy....I was. But, then again, it also made me upset. But that's not to say it isn't my pregnancy hormones at work. Who knows? I LOVE Lucas-ADORE HIM-so I'll never forget this series.

I might come back and add to this review, but ATM I'm super sucked into the Morganville Vamps, so I'll likely stick closer and truer to those reviews...we'll see!

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Kristina says

Afterlife...

I must admit I was surprised how good Lucas seems to take to being turned a vampire at the start. But then, it just showed the real power of the love that Lucas and Bianca shared.

...."He Whispered, Bianca?"

"It's me, oh Lucas it's me"

Lucas clutched me to him in an impossibly tight embrace and I wrapped my arms around his shoulders. I felt hot tears against my shoulder, I wish I would cry too. Our Legs gave out at the same time and we sank to the floor together.....

....."I glanced at Lucas--the pale, cool, stillness of his flesh the bones--and thought bleakly, Well they always wanted me to end up with a nice vampire boy."

Kate wins mother of the year in this book (not)

....."You're a shell of what my son used to be. I love him more than a monster like you can ever know".....

That whole scene was heartbreak...Though were we really surprised? I wasn't. I never thought Kate would accept Lucas as a vampire.

One frustrating aspect for me was Bianca's hesitation to 'reveal' herself to her parents, I understand her reluctance after witnessing Kate discovery of her ex-Black cross member son becoming a vampire, but surely Bianca should have known her parents did so much to have her (comprising with needing help from the Wraiths to have her)

(Fast forwarding to Bianca's appearance to her father)

....."You're my daughter, that never changes".....

Once again Balthazar and his calm nature show to be the rock. I really loved how he and Lucas bonded in this one. There was never any question in Bianca's mind. It was always Lucas. If there was a triangle here, there was never a good choice and a bad choice. Balthazar would have always been a good choice but he wasn't the right choice...he wasn't as we went on to learn Bianca's true other half. But he was a solid rock and the voice of reason in a lot of situations. Balthazar really helped Lucas work through his new vampire desires.

All the character seemed to show a more growth. Something that has always been my favorite aspect of this series is that we didn't spend 2-3 books for the main characters to get together. Except for a time in Stargazer (where it might have wavered a bit) the true theme of this series has always been "I love you whatever you are" Lucas and Bianca have always shown this, and this book truly tested this. These two (mostly) showed how mature their relationship had developed staying true to each other and having trust in each other in situations (like with Balthazar and Skye.)

Claudia Gray once again gave her Characters some quick witted one-liners in this book. With too many to sit here quoting but a couple of my favourites would have to be from Ranulf (and I will never look at this drink the same again)

....."Vic bears you no ill will. He is outside drinking the Dew of the Mountain and will be glad to see you yourself again" Ranulf said to Lucas."

And Maxie...

....."Beside, Vampires are gross".....

Another nice moment was Vic 'seeing' Maxie for the first time.

.....Vic just kept staring at Maxie, she'd interacted with him throughout his life, but always invisibly, this had to be the first time he'd actually seen her

"Wow" he said, "Uh, wow hey there".....

I could see what it was leading up to when Christopher mentioned his anchor (Oh yes of course it's going to be Miss Bethany)

It was also an interesting twist with Miss Bethany being Black Cross before heartbreak leading her to turning into a vampire out of revenge.

Some of our loved characters from the previous books probably took a back step, to allow Ms Gray to introduce Christopher and finally reveal the back-story to why Miss Bethany became the person/Vampire we knew and why as we discovered she was trapping the wraiths.

I never really knew how the ending was exactly going to happen. Lucas's 'near' death – Where was Ms Gray going to turn this... I was just privately begging this wasn't going to turn into 'The Host' with Bianca inhabiting Skye.

It was winding up at the end with quite a few possibilities on how Claudia Gray could end this awesome series. In a lot of ways this series is still open to a lot of 'what happens now' possibilities. But isn't that the true magic of a book. The great author gives us a basis for our imaginations to interpret how we see free. I could continue wanting to know...what happened to Vic and Maxie? Do they develop a relationship? What about Ranulf, Balthazar, Dana, Raquel. I am sure with the closure of Evernight these Characters will not just go into retirement. Being a last book there are always many expectations. I think Afterlife slightly fell short for me compared to Evernight, Stargazer and Hourglass with this being more a 4 and 1/2 stars for me. Even though we are not left hanging or with a cliffhanger. In the end I am content with the ending of this one of my favorite series. Of course I love to know or be 'told' what happens.... But Claudia Gray leaves us with our open ended thoughts and our reader imagination on what will happen.....

.....“I'll never die, he said. Before I could protest, Lucas put two fingers on my lips, his smile seemed to fill the room with lights and I realized he was telling a deeper kind of truth than I'd ever known before “You'll live forever and being remembered by you is the only immortality I'll ever need if I only live on as a part of you – Bianca, that's my idea of heaven.....

In which is what I truly hope is one of the most powerful truths of humanity.

Wendy Darling says

I really liked the first three Evernight books, so was very much looking forward to this one. Unfortunately, this series ender didn't quite work for me.

The events of the book seem pretty scattered and when action sequences finally happened, they seemed rather rushed and were described in a distant, brief way you might tell a story to someone who wasn't there. The biggest issues, however, were that Bianca just didn't seem as likable or interesting as a wraith, and the relationship between her and Lucas just felt off with its constant and repetitive push and pull. (More push than pull, actually, and the "push" factors didn't really seem to be all that insurmountable.) There's a lot of talking about loving each other and recalling it in this book, but there's not much *showing* of it, and the ending, while realistic, might have been more emotionally satisfying if it had been a little less blunt.

Hopefully the Balthazar spinoff does him justice...

Deniz Atakan says

Bu neydi ?imdi son muydu yanii? Hayat?mda gördü?üm en manas?z kitap sonlar?ndan biriydi heralde... Hiçbir ?ey hiç bir yere ba?lanmad?, kime noldu?u belli de?il. Her?ey en ba?a döndü. Bianca yine ölümsüz Lucas ölümlü falan filan... Ne i?e yarad? bu kadar sava? bunca u?ra? anlamad?m. Seri son olarak tam bir felaket. Bu 2 y?ld?z? da Balthazar, Vic ve Ranulf için veriyorum. Herkese iyi okumalar ;)

Kristine says

OMG (good) b(^_^)d

OMG (bad) w(O_o)w

I never expected the turn of events here in *Afterlife*, sure there are a lot of surprises and heartbreaking scenes. I learned a lot about wraiths, Bianca's powers, Lucas's struggle coping up with the vampire world, the story of Mrs. Bethany and her hidden agenda, of Christopher and a lot more but one thing is for sure I DIDN'T LIKE THE ENDING! (except they eliminated the threat). After reading the book, I was like WTH happened? I nearly cried over the ending. For some characters they've got their wishes or whatever they wanted and it's good but for some? well yeah, whatever.

(view spoiler)

Even though I hate the way it ended, I still gave it 4 stars. I'll be a liar if I said I didn't enjoyed the whole series, most of the parts were well executed and I'm really going to miss the whole gang namely; Vic, Ranulf, Patrice, Balthazar, Maxie, Bianca and Lucas. Thank God Ms. Gray made a book specially for Balthazar, I'll be pissed if he will not have his own story in *Evernight* series.

~Tina~ says

If someone told me that the *Evernight* series was going to be one of my all-time favorites back when I read the first book, I would have given them a funny look and ask; Did you read the WTF moment in the first book?!?

I'm so glad that I didn't give up on this series back then. I would have missed out on so much more. Gray pulls her readers through such an amazing forbidden love story and a fun filled world and despite those WTF moments, I loved every single minute of this much beloved series.

I don't want to say to much about this book, so I'll keep this short.

Afterlife was an awesome ending to such an amazing world. I loved it and thrilled that Gray remained true to her characters till the very end.

Lucas and Bianca love story has always been somewhat tragic, forbidden, doomed from the start. So, (view spoiler)

Congrats to Claudia Gray for the final installment, in this series.

I had such a blast in this world and can't wait to read what she has in-store for us next!

Well done!

Wendy says

Update 2011:

Moving to the 'read' shelf, because I can't stand this on my 'to-read' shelf any longer. I will never read this. Reading other reviews confirms my initial thought that I have better things to do with my time, including but not limited to poking my eyes out, watching paint dry/grass grow, or cleaning my toilet with a toothbrush.

But, I can't delete a review with 33 likes, can I?

Update:

Giving up...I'll just pick it up when it's published.

I hate when people rate a book before they read it...even if they THINK it's just going to be epic.

Kristy says

After I finished the previous book I was let down. I really didn't know what to think of Bianca being a wraith, I wasn't excited about it... So I put off reading this one for a while. It fell into my lap, so I started it.

Well, I liked it more than I had expected. The ghost thing wasn't what I imagined. It was somewhat fun. I still feel like what was so wonderful about the first 2 is missing. Bianca and Lucas just aren't as much fun to read about. I'm not sucked into the story as much. For me, books 3 and 4 are flops. :(

Sidenote:

I am very curious/excited to see how Gray's new book 'Fateful' will turn out. It sounds pretty interesting.

There is also another book from Balthazar's pov coming out. ?? ? ?

3 stars

Bottom Line: Not terrible, not great, Just meh.

Erin says

My thoughts on this book are not very organized, so bear with me if you can.

Based on the assortment of reviews I read in preparation, I was honestly expecting this one to blow. I've never had a particularly forgiving attitude toward these Evernight books, so I wasn't excited to get started reading. But it really wasn't that bad. I thought it was much better than the third one (which I hated).

First, because it's fun to whine, here are the things I **didn't like**:

1. Bianca and Lucas are both rather boring characters. They're so wrapped up in each other, to the exclusion of everything else, that I can't force myself to care about them. I don't believe them as teenagers (or, in Lucas's case, a young adult). But to be fair, I must say that I liked Lucas much better in this installment than I had previously. I don't know if he actually improved or I just got used to him, but either way, I wasn't annoyed with Bianca for not picking Balthazar.

2. It was too long for its scant plot. The build to the climax took *forever*, in a mostly contrived manner. Meaning: whenever something came up, a clue as to where the plot was headed, Bianca would stubbornly ignore it instead of giving it any thought, *simply to make the story last longer*. I hate that. The author didn't even try to hide it after awhile, Bianca was pulling a full-on Scarlett O'Hara ("I'll think about it.. TOMORROW!").

3. Bianca supposedly had all this epic wraith power, which she NEVER USED. Until the very, very end. And when she finally tapped into it, there was no convincing explanation for how she knew what she was doing. It was just.. "oh man, I feel powerful! this is great! I feel it surging through me and I know this is my DESTINY!!!!". No build-up whatsoever.

But enough of that. Despite the fact that I can completely acknowledge that this was a mediocre book on an intellectual level, so what? That's pretty much the Evernight series in a nutshell, I wasn't expecting any different! What made this particular installment so enjoyable (sometimes... even moreso than the others? I'm not sure.) was the cast of characters. Lovelovelove.

Vic and Ranulf are HILARIOUS. Patrice is likeable. Balthazar is my fantasy boyfriend. There's nothing else to say, really. I think the winner of the Congratulations, You Single-handedly Carried This Book award goes to Vic. Every single (okay, almost) time I marked a funny part in the book, he was the culprit. If Claudia Gray writes any other book featuring him (or Ranulf, aka MR. AWESOME), I will for sure be reading it. I'm already excited on a Cocoa Puffs level for the Balthazar book she'll be writing. Any chance for some Vic in there, Ms. Gray? Pleeeeaaasssee?????

All in all: *Afterlife* was readable and generally enjoyable. I didn't think the quality was significantly higher or lower than the rest of the series as a whole, but your mileage may vary. If you're a Balthazar, Vic, or Ranulf fan, odds are this book will put a ginormous smile on your face at least once.

Karyn says

This has to be one of the most disappointing books that I have ever read. The other books amazed me and I enjoyed them so much that I actually feel angry that this is how Gray decided to end the series. First off, it was so slow going and almost painful to read. It starts right where the last story ended. Lucas is a vampire and the majority of the book is centered around his struggling being a monster that he has spent his life

killing. They are all forced back to Evernight and Mrs. Bethany to receive help for Lucas. Once there, we discover that Mrs. Bethany is gathering wraiths so that she can become mortal again. For Bianca, she is a super wraith that has the ability to bring spirits over to the land of the lost where Maxie and Christopher are. Christopher happens to be Mrs. Bethany's dead husband. Both were Black Cross hunters when supposed friends killed Christopher for his money. He became a wraith which Mrs. Bethany did not know. As revenge, Mrs. Bethany becomes a vampire and kills his murderers. She has spent much time trying to become mortal again so that she can die. Christopher ends up sacrificing himself to die with his wife in the end.

How the story ends for other characters:

Vic - Not sure, he was left standing with Maxie. My prediction is that she stays with him while he lives with Ranulf.

Raquel and Dana - go on as lesbian lovers and have a normal life.

Balthazar - decides not to try to become mortal. He's going to look after the Evernight horses and then what?

Bianca's parents - off to London

Where was my HEA? Lucas and Bianca went through all that so that he can die and she can spend eternity alone? She asks him how he feels about giving up immortality and he responds as long as you remember me, then I'll be a small part of you forever. This is not the undying love that the story was centered around. I actually kind of hope he dies so that she can spend eternity with Balthazar. At least he's willing to spend it with her.

I can honestly, say that I think I hated this book.

Heather (hungrycookiemonster) says

Original review posted on: heathersworldofbooks

(SPOILERY and negative)

When I read the last line in the book, I first flipped to the next page to see if it continued on. I then got on the computer to see when book 5 would be released. Surprisingly there is no extra page or book 5. This is really the ending and I'm terribly disappointed.

Out of the 4 books in this series, this book is probably my least favorite. Bianca is completely unreliable in this book. Since she is a wraith now, Bianca isn't able to have a real active role in the book. Most of the time, Bianca seemed more like a creepy narrator who talks about what her friends were doing. As for Lucas, he loses a lot of the qualities about him that made the reader love him. Since becoming a vampire, he is depressed and on the verge of suicide (He only remains alive out of obligation to Bianca. Nope not alive because he wants to be with her, only because he is her anchor to this world).

I really enjoyed the series all the way through but I'm a bit disappointed with the way this series ended. I didn't feel that the ending left any closure for Bianca or the reader. Since Bianca is still a wraith, her parents are hesitant in accepting her, she has limited similarities with humans or vampires anymore, and she will outlive Lucas. Also, now that there is no Evernight Academy, how are the vampire who want to learn about the modern world suppose to go (if this was brought up, I may have skipped it. I disliked the ending so I rushed through it)?

I'm also not buying the whole Lucas always be with Bianca forever because he will be in her memory. Um? What? So its okay if your lover dies...you will just live forever remembering him...0.0 In addition, is Lucas really content on being with someone who fade in and out of this world.

I guess I was really hoping for a happily ever after and instead all I got was a lot of unresolved things.

cLo says

O M G!!!!!! THIS IS THE BEST BOOK FROM THE EVRNIGHT SERIES SO FAR!!!!

I AM SOOOOO, UGG! I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT!!!!!!

it is soooo amazing! I was always left dangling for more info! It took me 2 and a half days to finish! I finished it today. I am soooo blown away! SADLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WAIT THE WHOLE YEAR TO GET AFTERLIFE!!!!!!!!!!

Can anyone give me some spoilers that will happen in Afterlife? Anyone?!?!
