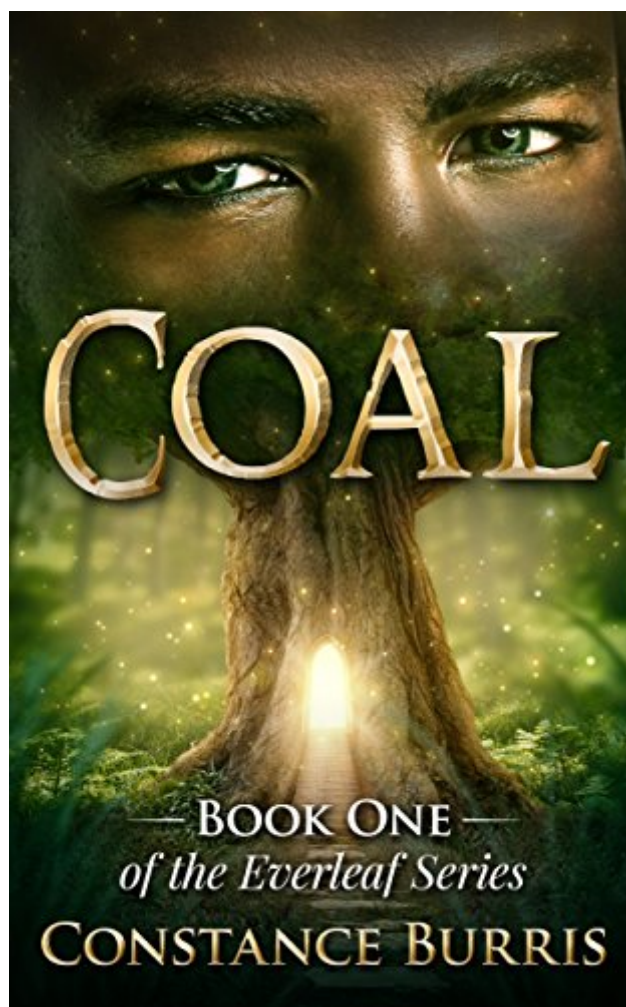


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Coal: Book One Of The Everleaf Series



Synopsis

Coal has lived most of his life in the fey realm with his elven best friend, but when a human child he promised to protect unintentionally breaks a law in front of the fey elite, he will have to choose between betraying his best friend or saving the child's life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First of all, I want to say that I did not like how Coal was everyone's punching bag in this story. He lost almost every fight he got into and was hopelessly, hilariously outclassed (to rip off a quote from the Avengers movie). What's worse is he was led into thinking he had a chance. I felt for this guy, honestly. But in the end he won his last fight via trickery and guile, so maybe there's hope for him as a warrior. I'm just used to books where the protagonist at least shows some relative competence compared to the opponents around him/her. I hope that Coal kicks some fairy's butt for real in the next book because that was kind of embarrassing to read. Coal didn't even have magic abilities; although the human girl in the story did. he really was on the bottom of every possible totem pole except when it came to character and determination, where he reigned supreme. But if you're going

to make a character a punching bag then justify it, do it well and make the reader feel for them and sympathize for them, and Constance Burns does all of that flawlessly. I don't regularly sit down and read a book from start to finish in one fell swoop but Coal's journey from Chalcedony's childhood friend to a refugee and Chalcedony's change from his childhood friend to a crazy despot-to-be had me riveted. In a way it reminded me of Octavia Butler's Kindred novel, the way the child Rufus changed from Alice's friend to a rabid crazy dog of a man. Chalcedony was kind of a Rufus-lite, to give you an idea of how badly she turned out: like Alice, Coal had no agency and, as he discovers while trying to rescue another human that Chalcedony kidnapped, he was a captive of hers.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars ••••• I received a signed softcover edition of this book through the Goodreads First Reads program. Coal is human and yet he has lived amongst the fey for most of his sixteen years. His best friend also happens to be the "Queenling" of the Everleaf Fey. Coal has always been treated with polite disrespect by the fey; well, by everyone except Chalcedony and the swordsmith Grigory. Most of the fey view humans as either inferior beings or vermin. His friendship with the Queen-To-Be is the only thing that has kept him from being murdered. But, his friendship with Chalcedony is changing. As they both mature into young adults, their once innocent friendship is now seen as suspicious and worthy of scorn. Chalcedony is to become Queen soon. Once she does so, she will be expected to take a mate. That mate cannot be a human or she would be seen as weak in the eyes of the other Fey kingdoms and they would attack. When Chalcedony brings a young human girl into her home Coal vows to keep the girl safe. But, when the girl accidentally breaks the law, she is in danger of being put to death for her crime. Coal then has to decide if he should stay silent and abide by the laws or if he should save the girl and protect her as he had promised to do. When I first saw this book and read the cover I thought I knew exactly how the plot would play out. I figured that it was just another story of human/fairy love and that they would have to fight to have that love recognized. Happily, I was wrong. This story has much more substance than I expected. COAL has quite a few attributes that make it an interesting read. These include: 1.

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