



Taking Back Forever

Karen Amanda Hooper

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Recommended for ages 15 and older due to mature content.

Forever is worth the fight.

Maryah erased all memory of her past lives, but she couldn't erase her soul mate Nathan, or his undying love. Now, Maryah and Nathan have a second chance at a future together, but first Maryah must remember the person she used to be and embrace her supernatural gifts—more than one kindrily member's life depends on it.

Maryah's power is Harmony's best hope of finding her kidnapped soul mate, Gregory. But Harmony isn't big on asking anyone for help, and she's tired of waiting, so she's taking matters into her own hands. Heaven help anyone who stands in her way.

Taking Back Forever Details

Date : Published by Starry Sky Publishing (first published May 29th 2013)

ISBN : 9780985589998

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Format : ebook

Genre : Young Adult, Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal

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From Reader Review Taking Back Forever for online ebook

Holly says

**I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and Starry Sky Publishing in exchange for an honest review.*

After really enjoying, *Grasping at Eternity*, I was so excited to be approved for this one. *Taking Back Forever* exceeded my expectations, and it was so much better than the first book. And after that cliffhanger ending, I know I'm gonna go crazy not knowing what happens next.

**Possible spoilers. But lots of them if you haven't read Grasping at Eternity. You've been warned.*

This book starts off right where the first one ended. Maryah remembers Nathan, but as to her kindrily family, her memories are still blank. Everyone is trying their hardest to help her, *especially* Nathan.

Taking Back Forever is told in the perspectives of both Maryah, and Harmony, which I loved. After her less than stellar attitude toward Maryah in the first book, she's probably not on everybody's favorite character list. But she's got her reasons. And as you read her thoughts, you start to understand this woman, who sees and talks to ghosts, and who dresses up like a Goth. I found myself liking reading the book through her eyes more than I did through Maryah's. And I understand why the book was told in their views instead of the other Kindrily members. For this book is about Maryah's determination to astral travel again and Harmony's devotion to finding her soul mate, Gregory.

In the ending of *Grasping at Eternity*, Nathan has a secret, one that could hurt a lot of people. In the beginning of *Taking Back Forever*, when Harmony asks for Maryah's help in locating Gregory using her astral traveling, that secret comes to light. Gregory isn't just lost to them; he's one of the Nefarious. He's also the one who killed Maryah's parents and Mikey. It makes Harmony more determined than ever to find her soul mate. Her love for him will never waver, and she will fight to bring him back home. Her determination pushes her, making her desperate. In her desperation, she goes to an unlikely source for help. Some of the choices she makes hurt members of her Kindrily. But they never turn their backs on one of their own.

I love this Kindrily family! It would have been so easy for all of these characters to get lost in the shuffle. It would have been too easy for readers to get confused, because even though there's two main characters, all of the other Kindrily members play key roles in the development of the whole story. That's fifteen characters in total! Well, you can exclude Mikey since he's a baby, but that's still fourteen other characters who are part of this wonderful Kindrily.

So I'm giving the author a big thank you for creating a family tree and putting it in the book. It helped to keep them all separate, and remember who the soul mates are and what powers they each have.

I can't even decide who are my favorites, though Nathan kind of takes the cake. <3 Seriously, he's like the perfect guy. I know, I know. There's no such thing as perfect, even for book boyfriends. But he had me swooning in almost every single scene of his. Maryah is very lucky, indeed.

The only grievance I had with this book was Maryah's character. Sometimes she frustrated me so much I just wanted to scream! I already said that I enjoyed Harmony's POV much more than I enjoyed Maryah's. Some of her reactions to certain situations left me wanting to strangle her. Quite a few of them were just ridiculous.

Maybe this isn't fair of me, but seriously, this girl can be extremely stupid and very naive sometimes. Maybe it's also because her character is much weaker than the woman they've all known throughout the lifetimes. As she grows in her character development, the old Mary is starting to come back. And Maryah is slowly gaining more confidence in herself, and she's more determined than ever to get her memories back.

Oh, and when Harmony and Gregory were reunited, it was just **so beautiful!** And hilarious! I just know I'm going to love these two as a couple. :)

Now they are one big happy family, except for the part where Gregory has a lot of making up to do with several of the Kindrily members. Dedrick corrupted his mind, but he hurt so many people he loved, especially Harmony and Maryah.

The plot itself was fantastic! I just love this idea of the Kindrily, old souls, and supernatural powers. It's so creative and original. But it did almost seem too easy that Gregory was reunited with them. The fight was very short and two people ended up seriously hurt.

The book is really all about Maryah trying to astral travel again so they can find Gregory. And once they find him, she ended up still looking for Dedrick without her conscious knowing. Why is that? While the Kindrily try to figure it out, they are still glad for a reprieve from the Nefariouns and to have Gregory back. But he knows things. And when secrets come to light about what really happened on the beach at Amber and Dylan's wedding last life, it's too much for them to think Dedrick will stop coming after them. For not only do they have Edgar, someone with a supernatural power that the evil Element wants, but they have Maryah. Because with her erased memories, they won't know what he wants with her. And until then, none of them are safe.

And that cliffhanger ending! OH MY GOD. The author even warned me! She gave an alternate ending, a cliffhanger ending, for the readers who wanted it. I must love torturing myself, because that was one **evil cliffhanger!** So many feels!

I really want the next book. Like, right now. *Taking Back Forever* raised the bar high, and after that ending, it's gonna be a loooooong wait.

I don't even know when *Fighting for Infinity* will be out. **UGH.**

Full review at: <http://skizzles22hu.blogspot.com/2013...>

Ariana says

Edit: May 17,2013

"Perfect. Then imagine that you started reading the most interesting and fascinating comic book ever created. You fell in love with some characters, you hated others. Endless plots unfolded and every one was an emotional page-turner you couldn't read fast enough because you had to know what was going to happen next. You felt like the world would end if you didn't find out how the story ended. But then you get to the end and there was no end. The author didn't finish it. You don't know if good or evil won. You don't know if the guy got the girl. You don't know any of the answers to all your important questions." --Harmony, *Taking Back Forever*

This was the very part that described my situation after I finished the book. I will TRY to patiently wait for the next one... Ohhhhhh... It was just too intense! Too intense to stop although Karen Hooper warned us...

Can't find the next book on goodreads... Hope it comes out before 2013 ends!

Book 1 was the most original book I have ever read! I can't wait for this one!

Julia says

I don't really know how to write a review but since I promised I would, here goes^^

First of all I have to say...WOW!!! I already loved GAE. But TBF took the story of Maryah and Nathan to a whole new level.

The first thing I liked: There was no big recap of GAE. For some that may be a thing not to like, but I don't buy the second book of a series in order to be told again and again what happened in the first one. I could hug Karen just for this :D

TBF is told from multiple POV. This was really well done, because you get to know so much more about the kindrily (especially about Harmony). But there's no "unnatural" (don't know a better word right now) change between the POV. No sudden changes that leave you thinking "Noooooooo, why now?"

That brings me to the next point...Harmony. I have to admit I still don't like her. I understand her a lot better now. I understand that under all her insults and hurtful words lies the love for her soul mate and her kindrily. But even so, I don't like how she goes about showing that. She's hundreds of years old (at least her soul and her memories) and still acts like a spoiled little girl when things don't happen how/when she wants it.

But even though I don't like Harmony's personality, I could see more depth in her and all the other characters in TBF. Maybe because you get to know more about their past, but also because of how the story developed. Not just Harmony's, Maryah's and Nathan's story, but everyone's lives changed in some way. Be it something little like turtles, bunnies and candles or something bigger like...well...something bigger^^ (no I won't spoiler. But some biiig changes are taking place in TBF).

At the end of the book there are a few extra chapters from book three. Also a great plus for me (though I didn't read them yet. I wanted to write my review before that). There's a warning between the "real ending" of TBF and those extra chapters from book three, so if you don't want any spoilers you don't have to read those. But still a great plus for those of us who love spoilers!

And about my reactions to TBF...Let's just say Karen did it again! She is one of the very few authors who can make me laugh, cry, angry and..."hot and bothered" (and a few other things) all in the span of a few sentences. It's a great story and I'm so very grateful to have gotten an ARC and read it just that little bit earlier. TBF deserves nothing less than 5 stars and is already one of my favorites of 2013. Though now I have to search for a song for this book (I have this strange hobby of searching for songs that match my favorite stories. Though I'm afraid it won't be easy with this one, but I'll post it once I find one)

Alexandra Shostak says

I made the cover! :-P

Greta says

4.5

Brief Summary: Maryah is working to recover her memories and strengthen her powers of astral projection. She's determined to help her Kindrily find Gregory. As Maryah learns more about her past she realizes more and more how her past actions have put things in motion which effect the present. And yet, she still doesn't know why she erased at the end of her last life or what Dedrick wants from her.

Review: Thank you to Netgalley and the publishers/author for a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I enjoyed this book so much more than the first book. Maryah's cluelessness in the last book kind of annoyed me, so I was happy that she knew what was going on with her Kindrily in this one. (I loved the first chapter when her Kindrily are actually poking fun at how ridiculously oblivious Maryah has been.) This book is told from Maryah and Harmony's point of view. I missed having the male perspective, but really liked Harmony's voice. She may have appeared tough and ballsy on the outside, but she clearly felt deeply and I admired her intensity in everything she was willing to do to recover her soul mate, Gregory.

There was so much more smexy in this book. Let's just say that Maryah and Nathan's "meditation" session which were supposed to help her remember and use her power were pretty hot and heavy. Nathan is a very sensual guy. I loved the beautiful things he says to Maryah, even if part of me kept thinking that no real guy would say such flowery-romantic stuff. Then I remembered, Nathan is not just a guy, he's an immortal and supernatural Element. After so many lifetimes with Mary, of course he is going to be more intimate and expressive than a typical 18 year old.

There was also a lot more action; I can't complain about the pacing at all. Relationships are developing, secrets coming to light, several of the Kindrily's powers are evolving (I have some theories about why this might be,) and different characters are becoming significant. The show down with the Nefarious had me shouting, "holy crap!" (Who would have thought that Dakota would have an expanding role in this story?) Gregory's recounting of events in Mary's last life left me even *more* speculative about her choice to erase. The author gives you a choice as to where to stop reading at the end. I chose to read the cliff hanger. It's a big one! More and more questions about the next book just keep coming to mind!

Recommendation: This series is getting better and better. In the first book, I only really cared about Nathan and Maryah's romance. After the second, several of the Kindrily have become important to me. I want more of their personal stories. If you love paranormal romance with a twist of cosmic destiny, try this!

Mai is a Happy Bibliophile says

"The heart remembers."

First of all, I would like to thank Karen, Starry Sky and Netgalley for my ARC copy. It was like one of my happiest days that week.

For the review: I missed the gang. I miss the whole Luna family and the idea of soul mates having supernatural powers.

I was more enthralled when I found out the story will be told in dual POVs. In Maryah's and Harmony's.

I am not fond with Harmony's character. I think she's too dark and lonely. I guess losing your soul mate is the worst thing that could ever happen. But, in this second book, I understood her feelings better even if she have mishaps during the course of the adventure.

I am a bit annoyed with Maryah.. She's still confused with everything. I feel that she's transgressing a bit and I love her better on Grasping.

Now, Nathaniel Luna. I love him even more. He is still the epitome of all mankind and I am dying to know if he's hiding a terrible secret from the Kindrily.

Thank God for some action. I am relieved that Dakota and Harmony survived it. And Gregory.. Hallelujah.

I love the ending! I think it's cool that Karen put a sort of disclaimer on the ending. She will make you choose to stop or to read on.

Well.. I read on. And I am dying of curiosity in here.

Will wait for the third book. <3

Karen says

I'm very biased. Don't go by my 5 star rating.

I'm running a little behind and had to push back the release date to the end of May, but I promise to try to get it in your hands ASAP. I swear I'm not slacking, I just want it to be as great as it can be, and don't want to rush it. You readers deserve better than that.

Calzedonka says

Už jste se setkali s knihou, kde máte na výb?r, jestli do?tete díl s cliffhangerem ?i bez n?j? Ne? Tak tady jedna je :-D

Jess at Such a Novel Idea says

Second Read Update:

So, not having to wait to know what happens next was MUCH easier this go around!

Visit suchanovelidea.wordpress.com for more!

Why You Should Buy It

Book Two in the Kindrily series packs in just as much mystery, action, and romance as the first. Things heat up for the Kindrily family and new characters come to the forefront to tell more of the story. This book is just as magical, if not more, than *Grasping at Eternity* and will leave the reader breathless and wanting more!

My Thoughts

I received this from the publisher in exchange for an honest review, courtesy of NetGalley

I gotta say that I was looking forward to this book, but it still managed to blow my expectations out of the water. The book starts off just about where book 1 ended and the family is trying to help Maryah remember her memories. The process she goes through to remember her past is so interesting. And the fact that it was so related to her connection with Nathan — I kept getting swept up in the beautiful romance of it.

The premise of this story is still the biggest draw for me — a group of people who can choose not to reset their souls before returning to earth, thus remembering all their past lives. I was so fascinated by the back story of this book, and the Kindrily processes & powers. Everything wasn't glossy and pretty — we really start to see what it means to have all that knowledge in your head. At first you think, how amazing would it be to have all that past, but Hooper shows the grief and embarrassment that can come with the joy and bliss of knowing the past. Just think — you have complete recall of every mistake and embarrassing action you took in not one life, but ALL your lives. Not exactly pretty, if you know what I mean.

I loved that the book shifted focus from just Maryah to the other characters. The first book had SO many characters in the background, and this one brought more of those characters to the forefront. I also liked how we got to learn so much more back story of these people and who they were — flaws and all. Harmony was such a dynamic character — book one left her so one-dimensional for the right reasons. But in book two we begin to peel back the gruff exterior and see what an amazing person she is.

There is genuine pain, happiness, sorrow, and grief in the pages of this book — Hooper really knows how to bring a character to life. Readers will love getting to know Harmony, Maryah, and all the other Kindrily. And my favorite part of the entire book had to be the ending. Hooper let the story end in the most creative way — it alone made the book. This series has quickly become one of my favorites.

If you haven't read book one, *Grasping at Eternity*, check out my review [here](#).

Overall

Four point five out of Five Stars

Joana says

4.5 stars

"When your eyes look like that, it's so..." I couldn't find a word powerful enough to describe it, so I went with, 'magical'.

"It's not me," he insisted. "It's us. Our history. Every emotion, memory, and piece of our past together is stored in my soul."

We meet our favorite Kindrily again...and this time Maryah finally knows the true about her and all of them. She remembers the love for them, her love for Nathan. She proves to them all, how their love is truly eternal and that the soul remember!

But still she can't remember her past lives and why she erased.

It's imperative that she works on remembering her past and get in contact with her powers, like astral travel, in order to find Gregory and his abductor, Dredrick.

If in *Grasping at Eternity* we had Maryah/Nathan POV's, in this one we have Maryah/Harmony POV.

Maryah

Why? Why would I give up such an extraordinary way of life? That question plagued me all day every day.

We can feel her struggle with this question. Now that she remember and feels her love for Nathan, what caused her to give it all up.

And we can feel her frustration, trying to remember, trying to be helpful. There are some trues revealed that will make us think, of how much Mary did predict and saw before the terrible events that destroyed the Kindrily in their past life.

I got to say that for me, Maryah improved a lot in this book.

It did helped to clear the air, that AWESOME beginning to this book, that made me laugh like crazy.

And of course it have to be Carson involved in it!

"Maryah, for months so much magic has been happening all round you, but you were oblivious. I speak for many when I say we really wanted to shake some sense into you."

"For questions, you get chocolate. For obliviousness, you get the horn." Carson smirked. "It's a win-win."

haha, seriously, I'm feeling you Carson, I felt the same way.

Now to be fair to Maryah, she asked a lot more questions now, and more pro-active. It was great to read some of her moments where her "old soul" would come out...

What to say about Nathan?

He is perfect ❤

And OMG, the sexual tension between this 2 just killed me! HOT, HOT and HOT!!

"This is one of those moments when I desperately wish you hadn't erased."

"Why this moment?" He took his time scanning every curve of my body before answering. "Because if you hadn't erased, I'd have no moral qualms about making love to you right here and now."

Harmony

" Each day that passes I know I'm one day closer to losing him forever. I can't wait any longer. I have to find him. And when I do, even if he is corrupted, even if he is no longer pure and good, I will love him and bring him back. Because as science has proven, the heart remembers."

Her story just breaks my heart! 18 years looking for her soul mate, feeling incomplete without him.
(view spoiler)

And it was great to really feel her love for her brother Dakota and the way she cares about him. And oh boy, I do have some theories about him. I'm in the group that doesn't think he is nuts and that the key is in the book he gave her.

Another unique aspect in this book, is that the author gave us 2 endings, one really satisfying and another if we wanted to keep reading, that is a cliffhanger.

Of course, like the masochist I am I had to read the cliffhanger and now I can't wait to know more.

For this one and more reviews go to:

A Bookworm Confessions

egalley kindly provided via netgalley in exchange of an honest review

Samantha says

I want NEED answers!

2012.10.17 - omg! A cover! :D But the publication date has been pushed back to March :(

2013.02.09 - And now pushed to May! :(le sob.

Inna says

Reviewed by Inna @Inna's Little Bookshelves

I was counting down the days until this book came and when I got an ARC (Thanks for that by the way) I actually did a little happy dance around my house before jumping into this book. The book did not leave my hands until I read the very last page.

While Grasping at Eternity was an amazing, fantastic, scream your head off good novel, in my opinion it doesn't hold a candle to Taking Back Forever. There was so much more action in this book, so much romance that makes your toes curl and things get revealed that will make your jaw drop. We have Harmony narrating one perspective while looking for her soul mate and Maryah narrates her own perspective as she tries to gain her memories back. This was just perfect.

Maryah, so you know how in the last book literally every single person who read this book just wanted to give the girl a good shake? Yeah, that is so not the Maryah in this book. She really steps it up, embraced her kindrily and works towards getting her memories back. She becomes an amazing heroine, not a confused girl. I was so proud of her I wanted to give her a hug.

Nathaniel...ASDFGHJKL... yep I had to use that because I can't think of a word that can describe how he makes me feel. He was perfectly perfect as always. He was such a gentleman (although he does get a little mischievous with his words towards Maryah here, not that I'm complaining ;) Also his love for Maryah was so pure and deep. Honestly, I could probably rant on and on and on about Nathaniel but here is what you really need to know. He is the best boyfriend ever and if I didn't like Maryah so much the girl would have some competition.

The ending. You get a choice people!!!! Heaven bless Karen Hooper. If I didn't have a choice to read the ending or wait until Fighting for Infinity I might have just lost it. So I chose to not read it, but you guys can do whatever floats your boats, just keep any information away from me.

Overall, this book was amazing. The soul-mate aspect was carried out perfectly and why are you still reading my review? Go shoo buy this novel right now.

Hershey says

The stars are waiting for you

This book was lovely.

Maryah, our lovely lead is trying her best to remember her past lives with her one true love; her soul mate Nathaniel.

In the first book, Maryah was clueless as to who she truly was. Nathan and his family try everything they

could to help her remember; remember Nathan and finally she remembered her love for Nathan; their love. The first book was narrated by Nathan and Maryah. The second book is narrated by Maryah and Harmony. I missed Nathan's point of view but Harmony's point of view was as enjoyable as Nathan's.

It was beautiful. I loved how the author, Karen Hooper weaved the story. Her words were like a soft melody. The author has described the characters of this book in the best possible way. Every character seemed lively, it was almost like as if they were real.

The one thing that I wished was that the book could have been a little faster. It was slow - paced but it was lovely to read, nevertheless. I loved the concept of soul mates and retaining your memories of your previous life. It was very intriguing and something completely different.

On the whole: It was a very lovely read.

Go see the stars, they are always there

These stars represent each member of the Kindrily :)

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to Karen Amanda Hooper, All Night Reads, and Netgalley.)

This is book 2 in the 'Kindrily' series, and picks up where book 1 'Grasping at Eternity' left off.

Warning – some unavoidable spoilers for book 1 'Grasping at Eternity.'

Maryah may have accepted the fact that Nathan is her soul-mate, and she's accepted that something bad must have happened to cause her to erase, but that doesn't mean that she's back to how she was before.

Desperately trying to learn to 'senseperience', and to relearn astral projecting, Maryah feels like a clock is ticking down, especially given Harmony's persistence in trying to locate her own soul-mate Gregory.

Things aren't going to be easy for Maryah though, and she's about to find that things are even more complex than she ever imagined.

Can Maryah learn to astral project at will? Can she rediscover her past lives with Nathan? And can she find Gregory before it's too late?

This was a great, action packed second instalment in this interesting YA series about reincarnation.

This time our main protagonists were Maryah and Harmony, and the story is told from their alternating points of view.

Maryah continues to try her best to regain her memories and abilities, which is actually pretty tough considering that she's not supposed to remember! I admired her strength and persistence, but it always seemed that what she was reaching for was out of reach.

I didn't like Harmony much. She seemed like quite a prickly character in the previous book, and in this one she really is quite malicious and conniving. I totally get the troubles she was having, but she could have maybe been a bit nicer to people who were trying to help her!

The romance between Nathan and Maryah flared again in this story, and I really wished at times that they

would just have sex instead of talking about it. I mean, they've obviously done it before in previous lives, they constantly want to rip each other's clothes off, yet they're going to wait 'til they're married? Do the previous 20 weddings not count?

I liked the storyline in this book, and this one certainly seemed more action packed than book 1. I did find that some parts dragged a little though, and sometimes the events seemed to work out a little too well for those involved. I was also disappointed that we still did not find out why Maryah erased!

I did like this story overall though, and I really want to know what will happen in the next book! The story is seemingly becoming more complex, and there are more factors coming into play, which should make for an even more surprising third book.

Overall; a great second instalment in this YA series about reincarnation.

7.5 out of 10.

Once Upon a Twilight says

To say I was blown away again by Karen Hooper would be putting how I feel mildly. I was just wrapping up a re-read on Grasping at Eternity when my email alerted me to new mail. I had received the much anticipated sequel to Grasping which I had waited for now over a year. I quickly installed the story to my iPad and started the story up as soon as the last line of GAE was fresh in my memory.

Where GAE leaves off and Taking Back Forever picks up, Maryah is struggling to remember anything about her past lives with her kindrily and soul mate, Nathaniel. The key to remembering is awakening her ability to astral travel. She's only been able to astral travel since erasing after her last life when Nathaniel has been involved. So far, he's the only part of her past she's been able to remember. But now Harmony, another member of their kindrily, is needing Maryah's memory to ignite more than ever. Her soul mate Gregory's whereabouts have been unclear since their last life cycle ended. His star still burns in the sky next to Harmony's, suggesting that even if he had in fact been killed that he has not erased. So why has he not been reconnected with Harmony in this life cycle? She believes the key to discovering the truth is Maryah's ability to astral travel. If they could just get her to tap into her power as an Element again, Harmony's hope is that Maryah will be able to reveal where Gregory has been for the last eighteen years.

I adore this story and all of the characters in the kindrily. I love following along with Maryah and Nathaniel as they explore new and often times very sensual ways to ignite Maryah's memory of the past. The heat and love that they share is palpable. Nathaniel's decision to woo Maryah and win her affection the proper way, like suitors used to do is so beautifully romantic, it will have you absolutely melting.

I don't want to give away too much from the book but I will say a few things I loved. I loved Karen's note to her readers at the beginning of the book explaining how she doesn't believe in giving a lot of back story as she continues her writing. So I highly recommend not reading this one until you have picked up a copy of Grasping at Eternity. I am not a huge fan of overstressed back story in sequels. So, for Karen to admit this and write this way, she keeps me firmly on her list of admirers. Another thing I loved was the humor and free spirited way that the characters interact with one another. I just feel like I'm surrounded by old friends and get a huge warm and fuzzy feeling from them. Finally, the love story of course is epic and you all know I'm a sucker for toe curling romances. I still hold to my first review that this is the new standard for star-crossed love stories. Karen's writing continues to be impeccable and I remain a devoted follower. Pick up Grasping at Eternity and Taking Back Forever and you will become a fan as well!

Oh and last but not least ... if you choose to read the four chapters that follow Karen's note at the end of the Chapter named "Body and Soul", do so at your heart's expense ... because I continued and was left with that air knocked out of your lungs feeling. That being said ... I can't wait for Fighting for Infinity ... release date TBD!

Where Grasping was mostly geared toward the YA crowd, Taking Back Forever I would rate as strictly 17+.
