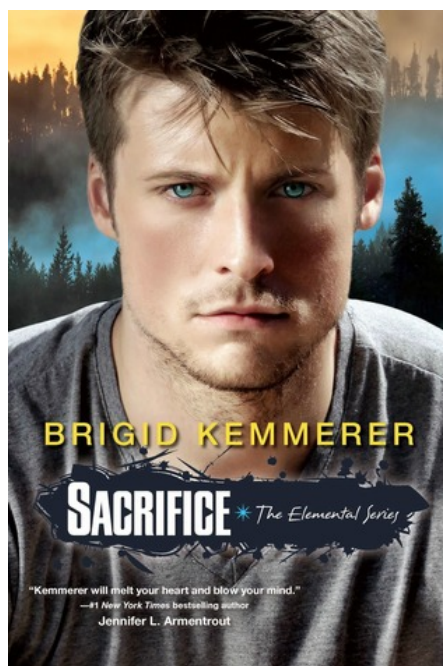




Sacrifice

Brigid Kemmerer

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Sacrifice Brigid Kemmerer

Earth. Fire. Air. Water.

One misstep and they lose it all. For the last time.

Michael Merrick understands pressure. He's the only parent his three brothers have had for years. His power to control Earth could kill someone if he miscalculates. Now an Elemental Guide has it in for his family, and he's all that stands in the way.

His girlfriend, Hannah, understands pressure too. She's got a child of her own, and a job as a firefighter that could put her life in danger at any moment.

But there are people who have had enough of Michael's defiance, his family's 'bad luck'. Before he knows it, Michael's enemies have turned into the Merricks' enemies, and they're armed for war.

They're not interested in surrender. But Michael isn't the white flag type anyway. Everything is set for the final showdown.

Four elements, one family. Will they hold together, or be torn apart?

Sacrifice Details

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Author : Brigid Kemmerer

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Download and Read Free Online Sacrifice Brigid Kemmerer

From Reader Review Sacrifice for online ebook

Rowing says

Micheal's story? MICHEAL'S STORY?? FINALLY

Eternally fangirling over this!!

Kath S says

Reading about Michael in Elemental:

Reading in Storm what happened after Elemental:

Reading about Michael in Spark:

Update

Michael in Spirit:

Michael in Secret:

Here he's so mature AND perfect!! I really love him. **fangirl moment**

Now...

Michael Merrick's story

...expected ~~July 2014~~ September (Why??? Why?!!!)

Annaiss says

My reaction after reading the title for Michael's story:

Now this is me:

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Sacrifice is book five in the Elemental series by Brigid Kemmerer. I am still reeling from this book. It is non-stop from start to finish. So buckle your seat belts boys and girls, you're in for a wild ride.

Michael has always been my favorite Merrick brother. Right from the first novella, Elemental, when he was introduced. He is rock solid. His sense of responsibility to be there for his brothers, to take care of them, at the ripe old age of 23 is astounding. But Michael has so much more to deal with than three rowdy younger brothers. First he has also taken in Hunter and is giving him a place to live, to feel safe. And then there is the fact that Hunter, his brothers and himself, are all elementals, each holding the power of one of the earth's elements. Hunter, actually, is a fifth, with access to all of the Earth's elements. The guides, though, feel that all elementals are a threat to humanity and want to eliminate them. And they are ruthless in doing so. They don't care who else gets hurt or killed in the process.

Right from page one the intensity starts. Every time something bad happens, Michael is there so it doesn't take long before his girlfriend, Hannah's father, who is the fire marshal, suspects Michael of these horrible acts.

All Michael is trying to do, has ever done, is to keep his brothers safe and together. But can he hold on? Would they be safer without him? And what about Hannah? She doesn't know what Michael and his brothers are but just by being near them, she is also in danger. Michael is constantly at war with himself trying to push her away to keep her and her little son safe but wanting her close. She has a way of calming him, of soothing him, just by being near. Then there is her new firefighter partner, Irish. Is there something between Irish and Hannah? Maybe that would be a good thing. Wouldn't she be better off? Or can he let her go?

I had forgotten how intense these books are. It never really lets up. You are constantly wondering, how much more can he take? My love for Michael did not waver, not even for a second. He never gives up trying to save everyone, to protect everyone.

Everything was “sort of” brought to a conclusion. The ending, though, did seem to leave the door open to more books. I would most definitely NOT complain. Brigid Kemmerer’s writing is genius. I loved every single book in this series. I highly recommend this series to anyone who enjoys the YA Paranormal genre. So what are you waiting for? If you haven’t started this series yet, I hope you will. Thank you so much to Brigid Kemmerer, Kensington Books and NetGalley for giving me the opportunity to read this book.

Wendy Darling says

[DO NOT CLICK ON THIS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW! (view spoiler)]

Amber (Books of Amber) says

This review was originally posted on Books of Amber

Michael is my favourite of the Merrick brothers, so you can probably imagine my intense excitement when I discovered that he was getting his own book. I was flailing about all over the place, especially since his book was to be the last in the series and that is usually a bad sign because everyone dies in series finales. Unfortunately – can you see where this is going? – all of my waiting and fangirling didn’t pay off, because Sacrifice is not the book that I was expecting.

Let’s start with Michael, who was just as brilliant as I was expecting. He’s set on looking after his three younger brothers, and he will do anything to keep them safe, including working with his nemesis to hunt down a bigger threat. I loved him as much as ever, and I couldn’t get enough of his point of view. If Michael Merrick was a real person, I would marry him in a heartbeat. And to add to his flawless personality and agenda, he is also an incredibly powerful Earthbender. Uh, I mean, Earth Elemental.

So that aspect of the book was great, but the rest of it was flawed, starting with the new point of view of the new female POV, Hannah. Her story felt so uninvolved with the rest of the plot, and nothing really was happening with her, which was incredibly disappointing because all of the previous lead females have been pretty cool. I didn’t feel any connection to her at all, nor did I feel any chemistry between her and Michael when they were occasionally in the same room.

In addition to Hannah, the other female characters from previous books were only briefly mentioned. I was expecting everybody to come together and have a Battle of Hogwarts type thing where they were all involved in saving the day, but instead Kemmerer chose to focus solely on the Merricks. This seems like a weird decision to me, because the ladies had equal page-time in the previous books, and readers had grown to love them too, and I’m sure most people would have wanted to see more of them. But we didn’t. We got one or two scenes with (sometimes only just mentions of) each lady, and that was it. Then it was back to the Merricks saving the day. I wanted to see more of Becca and Layne, and I’m sad that they weren’t there. Adam, Nick’s boyfriend, was a little more prominent but even he disappeared before things really got going.

The ending was incredibly abrupt, which wasn’t helped by the fact that my copy ended at 67% and the rest of the book was dedicated to extra content. It didn’t feel like an ending in the slightest, and after the Big Tragedy happened I was expecting someone to pop out and be like HA THE THREAT IS STILL REAL but

it never happened. The book just kind of faded away.

This was incredibly disappointing for me because, as a series finale, I feel like Sacrifice should have gone out with a bang. It should have punched me in the gut and have had explosions all over the place and people coming and going and dying and resurrecting, and it should have been thrilling. But it wasn't. It felt more like a series filler than a finale, and considering the fact that Michael (aka my favourite ever) was the protagonist, I was severely underwhelmed.

I'm sad that such a great series went out this way, especially since one of my favourite characters was the main protagonist. This is often the case with series finales for me; they just don't pack the right punch.

Stephanie (Bookfever) says

They always thought he had the answers. He almost never did, but he was pretty good at faking it.

Sacrifice is the very last Elemental book and it finally features Michael otherwise known as my favorite Merrick boy. I'm so glad that I was right to have high expectations for this book (and Michael) because this book rocked. It's my favorite out of all five.

So Michael is amazing, okay? He really is. I love his brothers but I've always had a thing for Michael from the start. He's a fantastic character to read about and I admire his love and responsibility for his family, which not only includes his brothers but also Hunter, Hannah and James, in my opinion. I just love the guy.

This book was high on the action factor. There was a lot of action (something I really missed in the previous book) so of course I loved. Together with awesome writing, funny and sometimes heartbreaking scenes it made for one hell of a book.

Michael's brothers weren't in it a whole lot due to certain circumstances but I think Hunter (and maybe Tyler) too made up for that. Hunter really became part of the family and Michael did see him as a brother.

We also got Hannah's point of view. I was never a fan of her ever since she entered the books but I started loving her now. She's so feisty! I really hadn't expected to like her this much but there you go. Her relationship with Michael might only just be beginning but oh how I love them together. Yeah, Hannah totally won me over.

The only slightly minor point was that I wished Becca would've made an appearance. But I guess her father was keeping her safe with everything going on so I get it. Still... I kind of missed her.

Overall, Sacrifice by Brigid Kemmerer was the best Elemental book I've read. It had everything I want in a great book; romance, action, great writing and emotional scenes. Oh and FYI: your heart will be broken.

Carolina Carriço says

Edit #2

Don't me why I haven't read this sooner, because I have no answer. **I loved this book nearly as much as I expected.** And all this time between the release of Secret and the the day I picked this book was just too

much without **Merricks** in my life. I love all of them. I loved getting to know Tyler better and Hannah and her family.

I really wish we had more family moments. We saw so little of the brothers ~~apart from Michael of course~~. For a final book I feel like it wasn't enough. We barely saw the girlfriends and some other characters that could've been important. This didn't feel like a conclusion. I hope that means Brigid is planning on picking the Merricks back up and write more of their story.

Edit #1

OH SWEET MOTHER OF GOD !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! SO SEXYYYY!!

Don't you dare kill Michael, Brigid!!! Don't even think about it!

Brigid says

IT'S UP ON NETGALLEY, REVIEWER FRIENDS!!

Ash Wednesday says

3.5 STARS

I really should learn to flip ahead to the end of the galley so I wouldn't feel the ending's abrupt when bonus novellas turn up at the 65% mark. That being said...

I liked the tension in Michael's character: the sense of a young man made old too soon, pushed to breaking point. But then that's what those who stuck around this series to the end (to clarify, this is the last book in the series to be published under K-Teen) appreciated most about Michael Merrick to begin with. I've been reading this in sporadic stretches but I was able to keep track of the plot lines, character conflicts and mysteries all throughout. I can imagine my past reader incarnation finishing this in one night. I thought the story was well-paced and the red herrings intriguing enough to keep you guessing who's the Big Bad Villain. The foreshadowing was a bit hammer on the head, toe and fingers though, and if the reveal in the end paid off the intense build up is a gray area for me. It felt a little underwhelming, though that may be the reader in me believing this to be the last book in the series.

My point of dissatisfaction is the overall world-building. This series was pretty spot on in terms of tackling the very unique, testosterone-fueled dynamic of four young brothers struggling through life after the death of their parents. I suppose I'm a bigger fan of the chemistry between Chris, Gabe, Nick, Michael and, by extension, Hunter more than any aspect of this series. But as a PNR/UF book, there was a bit of a struggle in me in taking what this was pitching me at face value. Especially since the limits and extent of the Elementals' abilities seem to have progressively become more and more ambitious and thus, blurry and complex from how it all started in *Storm*. I may have picked on this on the previous books (or not. I seriously can't remember and am too lazy to check) but it was too apparent in this installment for me not to notice.

I'm mostly lukewarm towards Hannah as a character throughout the series and this book didn't really do her

any favors in my eyes. Her story line for some reason, with the whole daddy issues and the fellow co-worker who may or may not be a love interest, failed to rouse any interest from me. She felt vastly lacking and subpar when paired with a character like Michael.

I still call *Spark* as my favorite and consider the Elemental series as a better option than most of the YA-UF/PNR choices out there. But for a book focusing on a well-loved character in this series, I can't say it was what I was expecting it to be. Not quite disappointed, but not filling my proverbial cup either.

Review Copy courtesy of the publishers.

Jo ★The Book Sloth★ says

3.5 Not Quite There Stars

Arc provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

If I rated this book right now I would reduce 1 star for Hannah and 2 stars for the ending but that wouldn't do the book justice, so I'll try rating it as a whole.

Michael ★★★★★★

Brigid Kemmerer did wonders with Michael's character. As a 23-year-old who had to step up and raise his 3 brothers at 17 when their parents died, Michael is no stranger to caring the weight of the world on his shoulders. What happens though when the weight suddenly multiplies? You start to crack. Michael's character is one of the best I've read in YA. I liked that Kemmerer didn't try to make him this super-mature guy who accepts his responsibilities with great stoicism and never looks back. He is a normal guy, he sometimes thinks how easier it would be if he didn't have 3 teenagers to look after even though he does everything in his power to raise them well. I liked the moments that he seemed like a lost kid who wanted someone to step up and help even though he never asked for it. It was believable. It was relatable.

Hannah ★

I did not see this coming. I thought I would love Hannah but I was way off the mark. Of all the main characters Kemmerer has created, she's the one I liked the least. Even Quinn was better than her in the end. At the beginning of the book Hannah is a normal, matur-ish, working single mother of all 22. Then halfway through the book the problems start. She throws fits for being kept out of the loop, she has immature conversation after immature conversation with her father, she has tantrums and she acts recklessly despite having a 5 year old kid depending on her. I wanted to slap her so much I could feel it. She goes around with a chip on her shoulder a mile long and blames other people for her issues. She had a kid at 17, everyone looked down on her, I get the shame(not about the kid but about she ended up knocked up), but 5 years later she's still ashamed of what she did and projects her feelings on everyone else. Everyone has serious problems and she goes around puffing her chest and trying to prove she has a big cock too.

"You're an adult. It's okay to act like one."<---Irish to Hannah

The Merrick Brothers ★★★★★

The Merrick brothers were as cool as ever although kind of absent in this book. We didn't get to see them much and this is a damn shame if this is the last book. The relationship between the siblings is one of the things I admire most in these books. They may fight between them but they are always there for each other. Their significant others are also absent with the exception of Adam.

Hunter, Adam, Tyler ★★★★★

These three are the secondary characters we see most in the book. Hunter is as impulsive and angry as always but I admit that he kind of grew on me. **The spoiler is major** (view spoiler) Adam was supportive and thoughtful. He's one of my favorite characters in this series and he didn't disappoint in this book. He gave the guys a home to stay into, helped Michael and was there when needed. And the biggest surprise came with Tyler who didn't have a moment of assholiness. He helped, he supported and he actually made good with Michael. That was a great turn in their relationship.

The story and writing ★★★★★

The book, like the others in the series wasn't romance-centered. It was focused on beating the bad guys, Michael managing to keep custody of his brothers, and generally surviving another day. The romance was almost an afterthought. I love how Kemmerer allows real life problems into her supernatural ones. There was no big trust-fund to help the guys deal with any money issues, the police wasn't an absent thing that was mentioned in passing, and although I cried like a baby, the problems Michael confronts with his brothers' custody only made the book seem more real. I liked how the story was written, right up until the end that spoiled everything.

The ending -★★★★★

The ARC included the three previous novellas in the series in the end and I didn't know that. I'm mentioning this because I don't really know if the end was as bad as I think or if it hit me harder because I thought there were a 100 more pages in the book. The end result though remains that it was a completely unsatisfying end to the series. The only thing that was wrapped up was the imminent threat. Nothing else. **Major Spoiler.** (view spoiler) I know Kemmerer likes her abrupt and almost unfinished endings but this was too much for me.

Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says

3 stars...Hopefully, this isn't the end.

Michael Merrick has to grow up too fast . The loss of his parents, the financial responsibility, the danger – all elements placing his brothers on shaky ground compounded by the need to hide from the organization threatening to exterminate the Merrick brothers.

Pure Elementals are not allowed to live past their teens, when their powers manifest. Each Merrick brother possesses power over earth, air, fire, and water, making them even more of a threat to the Elemental community.

Michael has sacrificed so much. How much more will the Merrick brothers lose until this threat ends and what will their family be like when this battle is fought?

“Sacrifice” concludes the Elemental series, but I’m fervently hoping this isn’t truly over. No! No! No! This story has a heart but this can’t be the way the Merrick’s story concludes. There needs to be more. Please!

Michael’s suffering is acute. We finally *feel* his emotions, see the world through his eyes. He’s so alone and afraid. He tries so hard to be the guardian they need, which conflicts with the brother they want. It was my hope this family would rally together for an ultimate battle and leave me giddily punching my fist in the air in triumph, which is how most of the books left me feeling. Instead this ending is ...something I didn’t expect. While it’s a hopeful conclusion, it’s also somber. Please don’t let this be the end. There was something missing.

The heroine’s point-of-view didn’t enrich this story has in the other Elemental books. Michael’s love interest felt like a token female point-of-view, when I really wanted Michael’s POV and the happenings with the brothers, who are mostly missing throughout this book. **I wish this book was just a novella before Merrick brothers’ final story. The other books, especially Nick’s, were so good! This is too worthy a series to end on this note, though hopeful that it is.**

ARC compliments of Kensington via Netgalley

Michael is put through the wringer in this book. His pain is keen. I didn't expect this book to end at the 67% mark. I also expected more from this series finale.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

I'm a huge fan of the Elemental series, so much so that I beg everyone I know to read it. This series has not one but TWO books that made it onto my exclusive favorites list (the amazing Spark and Secret). But this book? Gah! So much wasted potential.

Michael Merrick has been a favorite of mine for ages. He has the weight of the world on his shoulders. Between caring for his brothers financially and emotionally, and watching out for threats, this poor man can barely sit down, much less catch a break. I was looking forward to a book with an older MC, one a bit wiser and more mature. However, that isn't exactly what I got.

The parts of this book that were enjoyable were the action scenes. The elemental storyline was very compelling, and I found myself reading all night to see what would happen to Michael. I love the way that Brigid Kemmerer does paranormal. It isn't all in your face, yet manages to be both powerful and subtle. She just has an elegant way of writing that just speaks to me as a reader. I liked the plot itself and where the storyline took us. My only complaint about the plot is that the villain was very old-school villainy, and it became a little cartoonish towards the end.

I also loved Michael himself. I felt for him so much. I wanted to hold him and comfort him so badly it hurt. I could feel him breaking down throughout the book, and it was emotional to read.

What I had issues with was... well, everything else. In all of the other books, where the brothers were much younger than the adult Michael, I got a sense of passion, of heat between the MCs and their love interests. Though this series is totally clean (aka, no sexual acts on page), I still got a feeling of *lust* and *want*. With Michael being older, I was expecting all that and more. I don't mean sex on page (though, Brigid, can we get a dirty series next time!?), but something a little further than with Michael's younger brothers. Instead, I think we got less chemistry than ever before. In fact, I wasn't rooting for Michael and Hannah at all by the end.

Hannah, Hannah, Hannah. If I could summarize her in one phrase it would be "daddy issues." In fact, I felt like Hannah's dad played a much larger role in her storyline than Michael did. Though I understood Hannah's need to please her father and her resentment towards him, it felt petulant and not in a sympathetic way. There was also a pseudo love triangle that I found distracting. As if I needed a reason to like Hannah any less...

This story has some twists and turns that will wrench the hearts of readers, but ultimately, I'm sad to say, I didn't find this up to par with the other books in the series.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

It's a sad, sad day when I have to even consider the possibility that I care about the characters more than the author does. I could be wrong, of course, but I found *Sacrifice* to be far below the standard of this series, almost as if Brigid Kemmerer lost interest and gave up. It pains me to say this about a series (and author) I love dearly, but *Sacrifice* was simply not what it should have been.

Michael has always been my favorite Merrick, perhaps because he's a bit older, perhaps because of his strong sense of responsibility. I loved his quiet strength, his willingness to sacrifice anything and everything for his younger brothers. There was always something about him that made him irresistible, no matter how rarely he showed up on the pages. Michael is terrified in *Sacrifice*, wounded and burdened with guilt. His internal turmoil, the fear, insecurity and all the other previously undiscovered parts of his character were done extremely well.

The plot, however, left a lot to be desired. Kemmerer borrowed from old school thrillers, the ones in which a killer stalks and mocks the protagonist trying to provoke a reckless reaction. She neatly removed the younger Merricks (which I resented) and left Michael all alone to deal with the threats and multiple terrorist attacks. And that's a whole other thing – the body count in this book is staggering, but the bloody scenes didn't touch me at all. There simply was no emotion behind them, nothing to make me really feel the loss.

Sadly, that lack of emotion spread onto the romance as well. I liked Hannah a lot in previous installments; she's a firefighter and a single mom, what's not to like?! But in *Sacrifice*, she struck me as terribly immature and even childish and in the end, I thought they'd both be better off with someone else.

In conclusion, aside from the impressive development of Michael's character, *Sacrifice* was quite a disappointment in all regards. Senseless, emotionally empty tragedy, unconvincing romance, a two-dimensional villain and a less than satisfying conclusion weren't what I expected from one of my favorite series.

Also, don't be fooled by the number of pages displayed. A third of that are previously published novellas. In the e-arc, this book ends at about 65%.

Melanie says

See more reviews at [YA Midnight Reads](#)

I've been thinking about Sacrifice for a while now, and I honestly don't know how to write down in words how disappointed I am with the finale for Kemmerer's Elementals series. This was also the most anticipated addition to the series for me, because I've always wanted to read Michael's POV. I really only have one question to ask: what happened here?

Sacrifice is Michael's story, and like all its predecessors, it was told in dual POV. As expected, the other person who we follow in this book is Hannah. I've always admired Michael, he has been through so much and carries such a large burden between keeping an eye out for his brothers and trying to hide from the Guide. It was nice to finally get into his head; I really felt for Michael. He's always trying to do the right thing--even though the poor guy doesn't even know what that is at times. Unfortunately, Hannah's character barely scratched the surface. Sure, she's a tough one, with a baby and a job as a firefighter, but I never could sympathise for her because her narration constantly put me on edge. I just didn't like her as I did in the previous novels--she came off a little childish here and albeit whiny.

The romance in here was surprisingly switched to low--mainly because Michael was avoiding Hannah for half the novel but the moments that they did share were very sweet. I just wish we got to see them be together more.

My main gripe with Sacrifice is the plot. Half the time, I felt like there was no plot--because there really wasn't. It was just this constant suspension but there was never much progression or development in it. I got pretty bored after half way, which was a real shame because the previous books were full of action and movement. There was too much playing around with the mystery, is what I'm saying.

Furthermore, what kind of ending was that? I was expecting something much grander and conclusive, but instead we got something that left me feel dissatisfied. I've seen a few Goodreads reviews asking if there's a sequel, and I must agree, this felt like a book where there's another sequel following, if anything. This book didn't feel like a series ender at all, and that disappoints me. In one word? Anticlimactic.

In all, I'm incredibly shocked by how lacking Sacrifice was. The plot and action was merely there, and Hannah turned out to be a pretty annoying protagonist; along with that kind of ending? Yeah, I'm very disappointed. I'll still read whatever Kemmerer has planned next, of course, because I know she can do much better than this.
