



Evade

Jessa Russo

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BOOK TWO in The EVER Trilogy

E-copies available for review from author

In this thrilling sequel, Ever Van Ruysdael's race to beat the odds—and the clock—begins with the introduction of an integral part of her past. As secrets are revealed, and truths uncovered, she learns her imminent death is the least of her problems: Ariadne did more than just put an expiration date on her life; she marked Ever's soul by upping its value for greedy collectors looking to buy their freedom.

Condemned by the countdown on her life, and hunted by hired Seekers, Ever's journey leads her to question everything she's known and everyone she's trusted, while growing closer to the one person from her past she was determined to avoid—and the one guy she never could—Toby James.

With her ex-boyfriend by her side, and the countdown clock rapidly ticking away, Ever tries thwarting fate's plans. But as her nineteenth birthday approaches, and desperate Seekers follow her every move, she may be too late.

A marked soul is hard to come by ... and even harder to escape.

Evade Details

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From Reader Review Evade for online ebook

Tonja Drecker says

This is the 2nd book in the EVER trilogy, and (with the risk of putting my foot in my mouth) much better than the first. No, I'm not trying to imply that I didn't like EVER (see, here's my fat foot). EVER was definitely an enjoyable read (4 from 5 stars), and I've been looking forward to EVADE ever since. But with EVADE, Jessa has managed to scoot up a notch or maybe even two. I loved every moment of the story and didn't. . .couldn't put it down.

EVADE starts where EVER (Book #1) ends, which means that in order to understand the story, one has to read EVER first. The heroine, Ever, (yep, there's a lot of 'ever' in this) finally has her first-love Frankie back and life seems to be getting back to normal. To help her forget some of the past months' problems, Ever's best friend accompanies her on a short trip to Mexico. Of course, it doesn't turn out as wonderful as hoped. Ever learns that she's now a 'marked soul', a hot commodity in the paranormal world, which means freedom and power to anyone who can collect her. The chase begins, and what for a chase!

The action twists and turns, leading from one dangerous situation to the next. Old characters are given new life as Ever discovers a mountain of hidden secrets, many about her own past. And let's not forget the romance! Poor Ever's heart is more divided than before, but with two heroes like Frankie and Toby, who can blame her?

Yep, I devoured EVADE and loved every moment of it. My only complaint is that the books in this trilogy cannot be read on their own. The end, especially in EVADE, is a definite 'to be continued. . .'. I was also a little confused by the different categories of after-life beings and their importance in their world. I hope this will get cleared up in book 3. Or maybe I was simply confused because I did read this in one sitting until 1. . .2. . .3 am???

If you're a paranormal fan (or just like romance, action and irresistible bad boys), you'll enjoy EVADE. And as to book #3, I hope Jessa is a super fast writer because I can't wait to get my hands on it and see what happens next.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author Jessa Russo.)

This is book 2 in the 'Ever' series.

Warning – some unavoidable spoilers for book 1 'Ever'.

Ever has Frankie back, but now her soul has an expiration date, and it seems like that is an attractive quality for soul collectors.

What will happen to Ever's soul? And if she has to choose between herself and Frankie, who will she choose?

I really liked Ever, so I was really looking forward to reading this, but unfortunately didn't like it quite as much as Ever.

Ever was okay in this book. At times she played the victim, but at other times she did make a stand and do what she felt she needed to do. Her best friend did start to irritate me a bit though.

The storyline in this book was okay, and there wasn't anything glaringly wrong, but I just found it quite slow, and there was just too much information in there. I don't think this is the authors fault as such, I just think that because of the nature of this part of the story, there was a lot of explaining needed. While the story was good, and the explanations were necessary, the amount of explaining and questioning and further explaining just dragged, and the whole thing just felt like a giant info-dump. Again, it's difficult to know how the author could have really written this differently, because the information was key to the story, but it was just too much for me and after a while I lost interest.

The rest of the story was okay, but because of the big chunks of talking and explanations the whole thing just felt sluggish. I somehow managed to miss bits because my brain had switched off, but I got the gist. The end was once again a bit of a cliff-hanger, with Ever doing something really quite risky, so it will be interesting to see how this story ends. I'm hoping that without the masses of explanations, the third one will run a lot smoother.

Overall; good story, but a lot of information to take in.

6.5 out of 10.

Gloria Sigountos says

I received the advanced reader copy of Evade from Jessa.

Last year when I read Ever I was pleasantly surprised by what I read. Here was a YA book that was Paranormal Romance that I enjoyed. The heroine is likeable and relatable. The romantic triangle is well managed and the supernatural elements intrigued me. All that is to say that when I finished Ever I was truly looking forward to Evade.

Jessa Russo did not disappoint. There are two big things I enjoyed about this book, the way she handled the romantic tension and the way she opened up her world to her readers. I am generally fairly critical of Romances, particularly the trend where readers choose teams for the two guys that the heroine can't decide on. I don't want to go into too much detail about how this is worked out but I found it refreshing.

As for the way she opened up her world she makes use of the classic fish out of water. Ever has been through into a world that she doesn't understand and is forced to learn the rules of or she is going to get herself killed a lot sooner than her ticking clock predicted. It of course doesn't help that like most girls caught up in the supernatural world everyone is too busy protecting her to tell tell her what's going on, at least until everything hits too close for comfort.

perhaps my only critic of the book is that there is not enough Jessica. yeah she is my favorite character in these books, But really is that much of a critic is it.

Bridgette Hoshont'omba says

There was so much about this book that has my mind screaming "no" in comparison with the first. So much that was unexpected. Of course, this doesn't go to say that I didn't adore Evade. Overall, this is turning out to be a really great set but there is much that can't be said for this one without knowing what happens next. The ending felt sort of like it was missing something, but again, this is just the middle piece. Excited to see what happens next (and to reread the first.)

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

3.5 Stars

I really enjoyed Ever the first novel in this trilogy, in fact, I would go so far as to say that I loved it. The characters were engaging, the writing and plot flowed smoothly and I loved the paranormal aspect to the story, not to mention the love interests. It was, well, maybe not unique per se but unique enough that it was a breath of fresh air and before I knew it, I had the whole thing read in one sitting.

I was pretty eager to pick up the second book and dive right in. Sadly due to other commitments this is just one of those books that just got pushed back and back time and time again until, I am embarrassed to say, it was forgotten about completely.

While going through a list of books I planned to read in March for a TBR pile challenge, I ran across it again and knew it was finally time to get back to Ever, Frankie, Jessie and Toby. I had put their story off long enough and I was excited to see where Russo would take their adventure next. And okay, the gorgeous covers on this series so doesn't hurt either. They draw you right in and pretty much demand to be picked up and ogled some more.

Ever ended on one heck of a cliffhanger and I had no idea how the author would handle it. What was Ever's fate? What was Frankie's and what did this all mean for Toby and all his secrets?

I would love to say that I easily fell right back into this story but the truth is that I didn't. For some reason while I still loved Frankie, Jess and Toby, I had a hard time connecting to Ever. She was different. Her tone was different. She seemed more...angsty and a little whinny and I found at times that I became exasperated with her and the way she treated Toby (not that the boy didn't deserve a little hostility because he did but come on, give it up and let it go already). Her anger and snappy attitude toward him became a little too much, even for me and I wanted that sweet girl back. Granted, some of that anger was warranted, she had a lot to deal with, a lot to overcome still but I wasn't expecting her to change that much. Yes she was stronger, yes she was done playing the damsel in distress bit (thankfully!) but, it almost wasn't done right. Instead of coming off as kick butt or fierce she at times came off as a witch and I didn't like. It was sad, it was disheartening and I wanted the old Ever bad and back now before my opinion of her was ruined forever.

And the thing is, no one else seemed to change as much as she did. Toby was still fabulous, Jessie was still feisty and Frankie was still Frankie. I think that might have been what was hard to take, or maybe too much time had passed and I had built her up in my mind differently than what I remembered. Either way I had a harder time with this one.

It wasn't slow as much as parts tended to drag just a little more than the first book did, which is something so common with those pesky middle books. However, I was impressed that a lot more was revealed about Ever, her family and of course the workings of the Collectors.

There were a few twists that were fun and unexpected and once again it ended on a cliffhanger.

With the way it ended, I am really hoping that Ever is a little more calm, a little more herself and I get that warm fuzzy feeling for her all over again.

My only real complaint other than Ever, was the lack of Frankie in this one. I love his character and I really hope we get to see more of him in the final book. I know it won't be the same, because he and Ever aren't the same but I would love to see him nonetheless.

Holli Anderson says

Way to leave us hanging Jessa . . . :)

S.L. Saboviec says

Note: I received a free copy of *Evade* in exchange for an honest review; however, I purchased my own copy of *Ever*.

The EVER trilogy so far has a solid premise and interesting characters, but the plot pacing never allows it to rise from “I liked it” territory to “I loved it.” *Ever*, Book One, was faster paced with more plot twists, but *Evade*, Book Two, lagged a bit and disappointed me.

While *Ever* was more urban fantasy than paranormal romance, *Evade* was more paranormal romance for urban fantasy. I liked both *Ever* and *Evade* for their plots, but I wished for more, sooner, in *Evade*. It doesn’t pick up speed until about three-quarters of the way into the book, and by that point, I was wondering if anything unexpected was going to happen. It does: The stakes raised and I got excited, but the book was over all too soon.

Evade starts where *Ever* left off: Ever now has less than a year left to live. Trying to make the best of it, she heads to a vacation in Mexico and is plunged into more chaos. She discovers that Ariadne’s mark attracted all manner of unsavory dead folk, and she must run for her life.

I struggled with this premise because it didn’t make sense. If I were Ever, I’d be demanding answers—real ones—especially when her bitch-face nemesis and ex-boyfriend show up again to make her life difficult. Sometimes Ever seems to be going along for a ride, allowing all these things to happen to her. As I mentioned before, it’s only in the last quarter of the book that she starts taking charge.

Something about the world-building was missing from both *Ever* and *Evade*: We never get a glimpse into the Soul Collector life. I’m reminded of that part in *Men In Black* where J first goes down the elevator and sees all the aliens wandering amongst the humans. Neither *Ever* nor *Evade* has a “reveal” moment where we see what it is that Toby, Ted, and Ariadne do. It’s a fabulous premise. It’s lacking in delivery.

What I liked most about both books was the bonus material. After *Ever*'s ending, it contained the opening chapters from Toby's perspective, and *Evade*'s epilogue was also written from Toby's point of view. For whatever reason, those parts scintillated. Also, I was nearly in tears (in the waiting room of a doctor's office—nope, not embarrassed, I own my emotions) reading Ms. Russo's afterward. It gave me insight into some things about the plot that I loved / hated. But I'm a sap and a writer, so I identified with her struggles.

If you enjoy Young Adult, romance, and characters with real struggles, I recommend this book. I'm looking forward to Book Three and hope that Ms. Russo rediscovers her enjoyment of writing this series.

Also posted on Amazon.com and my blog, Magic & Mayhem Book Reviews.

Chuck says

Evade is book two of The Ever Trilogy by Jessa Russo. Now for transparency reasons I will say that Jessa is a friend and has been for many years. Second, I am a guy, a 59 year old guy. I like books with sex, violence, car chases, etc. There is very, very little of that in this book.

I gave this book five stars and it was not out of friendship. I struggled a little with *Ever*, the first book in the trilogy. It took a while to get moving and there was a little too much puppy love, not enough action. However, *Ever* introduced some interesting characters, including some unusual bad guys (and girls), and unexpected plot twists. *Evade* is a book of a different cover!

When I set down to read this book (*Evade*) I was immediately swept up. The action started almost immediately and never let up. The love story also built nicely, if a little pristinely for a dirty old man (but hey, it was written for the young adult audience). I don't think I am giving much away by saying this is chase story, hence the title, and a darn good one. The plot had some very nice, very fast, twists, so wear your seatbelts!

I love the interesting bad guys in this book. I've never really seen some of these paranormal abilities used this way. The main character, Ever, is an interesting, sweet, 19 year old, young lady but she also has some chops! Her best friend Jessie is the girl I would have liked to know in high school, or college. The two main male characters seem to divide the female readers into two camps, Team Frankie, or Team Toby. Neither is my flavor of heartthrob. Sorry, but I am Team Ariadne all the way. I never could resist the evil ones, I just know that with enough love I could fix them, lol! Seriously Jessa, when you are done with *Ever* you could go places with Ariadne.

Great story, can't wait for book three!

N.N. Light says

Wow! I loved this book! Russo takes the characters we met in *Ever* and hikes up the tension, stakes and the paranormal. My heart went out to both Toby and Ever so many times. I really loved reading this book and highly recommend!

My Rating: 5+ stars

Tabitha (Bows & Bullets Reviews) says

The review is also available on my blog, Bows & Bullets Reviews

Ever has left than a year left to live and is trying to spend it with the people she loves most. Spending as much time as possible with Mom, Frankie, and Jessie is all that matters until she learns that there is much more to her countdown than she realizes. When Ariadne put that countdown on her soul, she inadvertently marked Ever soul, making it more valuable to collectors. So now Ever is on the run with the one person she's trying so hard to avoid, Toby. Together, they try to find away to save Ever's soul, while outwitting collectors and Seekers who are determined to claim the prize. Can they beat the clock or will salvation come too late?

I...um....what to say? Well, let's start with the basics. Ever shows a great deal of growth here. She really steps out of that damsel in distress role and I really enjoyed seeing her stand up for herself. She also gains a much dirty mouth by the end and I LOVED that. It progresses slowly, but by the end we get to see her drop the f-bomb more than once. Is that a stupid reason to be excited? Probably, but I fucking loved it anyway. For me, it makes the character much more believable if they curse. I realize that everyone wasn't like me, developing a potty mouth from hell the moment they hit high school, but I adamantly believe that there are very few people who don't swear at all, especially in high stress situations. I'm sorry, but if the shit hits the fan "oh pooh" isn't going to cut it. That really grounded Ever for me even more, making her feel more real.

Then there is Frankie....my dear sweet, amazing, epic Frankie.

What can I say about him, really? He's the exact same sweet guy he was in Ever and I love him beyond words. Seriously, he so perfect, always supporting Ever, while being honest in his opinions at the same time. We don't get nearly enough of him in this novel, but I've been assured that we haven't seen the last of him. (view spoiler)

Then there is Toby. I liked Toby and I sympathize with the boy, but in my mind, he just can't compare to Frankie. He's great and snarky and funny and protective, which is usually a winner, but Frankie was just better. I can see why some people are Team Toby, but I just can't.

The plot of this one is just as much of a rollercoaster ride as the previous one, probably more so. There are multitudes of twists and turns and the ending is something I didn't even come close to predicting. Russo does a great job of giving you just enough foreshadowing that you know something major is going to happen, you are just never sure of what. (view spoiler)

The only reason it gets 4 stars instead of 5 is because of the whole Frankie thing. It's childish, I know, but I have to show my irritation somehow (and no, the spoilery rant above was not enough). If I can legitimately lower a great books star rating to 1 simply because of senseless animal deaths, I think I can drop a star because of the Frankie thing. Really, though, this is another amazing novel. It's an addictive thrill ride that keeps you on the edge of your seat wondering if and how Ever is going to get out of this mess. I can honestly

say this book was well worth the wait (which is a high compliment indeed) and though everything doesn't wrap up at the end, it's definitely better than the massive cliffhanger at the end of book 1. I can't wait to see what the final installment to this series brings (hopefully LOTS more Frankie).

****Thank you to Jessa Russo for providing me with a digital copy in exchange for an honest review****

Sharon Bayliss says

In the sequel, we begin with Ever headed on a fun Mexican vacation with her best friend Jessie. Of course, it's hard for Ever to have much fun away from her new boyfriend, the recently not-dead Frankie...and because she knows she only has nine months to live. She has a countdown on her soul.

That would be bad enough, but it actually gets worse. In Mexico, she's abducted and ends up reconnecting with her ex, Toby, the soul-collector. She learns that her marked soul is of greater value to the meanest, darkest of soul collectors and she's being hunted.

Like the first in the series, *Evade*, is an easy to read paranormal romance that would be enjoyed by any fan of the genre. I enjoyed the relationships between the characters; the friendship between Ever and Jessie, the tension between Toby and Greg, and of course the love triangle between Ever, Frankie, and Toby.

The story is full of yummy romantic moments like this one,

"But the feelings I had for Toby aside, and his feelings for me irrelevant, what I was feeling right now was overwhelming. This feeling, with Frankie's arms around me and his nose in my hair? This feeling was home. His embrace threatened to heal me and undo me all at once. The comfort of his closeness washed over me in waves. Regardless of our relationship's status now, he was and forever would be my very best friend."

Although the story moved quickly, I would have liked to see a little more action and less exposition by dialog in the first half. In any case, I'm excited to see how Jessa ends the trilogy!

Schnoodle.farmer says

I underestimated Ever. She did what needed to be done, and I honestly was expecting her to drop the ball. But she didn't, and I'm excited to see what else she's capable of. Looking forward to the next book!

Jamie Ayres says

When I read the first book, I read the whole thing in one sitting. I practically read *Evade* in one sitting as well. I planned to read it this past weekend, but time got away from me. So last night and tonight I pretty much read the entire thing. And OMG! This one is definitely way more paranormal, whereas the first one was more contemporary with a paranormal twist. Ever left us with so many questions, and I loved the way Russo filled in the blanks for us. There's a lot of information to digest, so get your pot of coffee ready when reading this one! I know Jessa and she's a total pantser, so I loved reading things that tied together so neatly . . . that I don't think she had any idea about when writing the first one. I can definitely relate to just having to

struggle with something until the right answer presents itself.

Let me just say this, to readers and writers alike: Never underestimate the power of the holy crap moment. The twists and turns and flips may make you sick at times, but at the end of the day, that's what sticks with us in a book. So yes, some of this book may drive you crazy at times, but it's also what makes the story epic! So if you love paranormal, romance, and plot twists, then pick up *Evade* today!

P.S. To Jessa, if you're reading this, I can honestly say I ended book 1 clearly favoring Frankie. But now, I've changed my mind. Please have Ever end up with Toby! I'll send cookies :-) And that is all.

Eliza Tilton says

I'm having a hard time trying to figure out how to review this book without giving spoilers because the spoilers are really good, but I won't--I hate spoilers.

If I'm being vague in this review, I'm sorry!

In *EVADE*, we learn about the world of Collectors and Seekers. The paranormal really kicks up a notch and I love all the lore. This isn't just a romance book, there's some great world building.

One of the reason I liked the first book, EVER, was because of Ever. She's a teen most girls will relate with, even us older chicks. Her attitude and honest replies had me laughing. Moments like this one,

“I...” My mouth was dry and raspy. I swallowed, ran my tongue over my teeth a few times—gross—then tried again.

How many times have you been around a cute boy and have done that? I don't consider myself vain, but regardless of what kind of situation I'm in, I'm concerned about my hygiene, not necessarily my looks, but definitely my hygiene.

The romance in this book is complicated and passionate. Russo gives us the perfect amount of hot kisses without going into x-rated territory and always left me wanting more.

There were some new characters introduced and I think my favorite is Samuel. I'm not sure what his deal is, or if he's good or bad, but I like him. Jessie is by far the best YA BFF I've ever read. I'd love to see her and Ariadne have a few rounds in the ring.

And the end...wow...the only thing I'll tell you is book number three is going to be epic.

To give you an idea of how twisty and turny the book gets, I gasped extremely loud during a particular scene and my hubby asked if the book was good, I gave him a big grin and nodded, then didn't leave the chair until I was done reading.

If you haven't read EVER, BUY IT, then snatch up *EVADE*!

Tamara Mataya says

Okay, so I LOVED EVER. But I loved EVADE even more. Russo took the characters and their mythology deeper, making this feel more firmly paranormal than book 1. The pacing is tight, the tension is high , and I'm STILL Team Undecided. I don't know how you guys choose between Toby and Frankie. I'm Team Ever, and can't wait to see more of her journey! LOVE this fresh series, and the play between Ever and her best friend Jessie remains a highlight for me.

If you loved EVER, pick up EVADE. If you were on the fence about EVER, pick up EVADE. If you didn't like EVER, WTF is wrong with you?! O_o PICK UP EVADE! :D
