

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***Spirit Animals: Wild Born* by Brandon Mull**

**Publisher: Scholastic**

**RRP \$10.00**

The first book in this new series is a real cracker. It holds the reader's attention from the first page to the last with exceptional writing, good pace, tension and well-defined characters.

In the world of Erdas all adolescents must drink the sacred Nectar to discover if they will bond with a spirit animal. Only a few receive this rare honour. When four young people from different parts of Erdas summon four mythical animals, the people realise that an uprising is close at hand between the guardian Greencloaks and their old enemy, the Destroyer and his followers.

The two girls and two boys come from different countries and backgrounds, yet they must learn to trust each other and their powerful animals. Danger approaches before they feel prepared. Their diverse personalities are skillfully developed with the uncertainties, frustrations, hopes and fears common to many young people. A large number of supporting characters play important roles in the epic storyline.

Erdas is an awe-inspiring land filled with vast plains, dense forests, oceans, walled cities, unfamiliar kingdoms and many races. It's a place to tread carefully and be alert for hidden hazards.

An online game with excellent animation adds to the excitement. A code with each book allows the reader to choose a spirit animal and join in the adventure. Gameplayers can create their own identity, plus choose their own weapons, heroes and quests. Then they can journey through four continents battling enemies and fighting to save Erdas.

Book One of the hardback series whets the appetite for the following six books to come. The subsequent stories are each written by a different well-known author. If they maintain the standard set by the first book, the series will soar like Essix the falcon.

**Reviewed by children's author Jean Bennett**

**Author's website:**

**[www.brandonmull.com](http://www.brandonmull.com)**

**Series website:**

**[www.spiritanimals.com](http://www.spiritanimals.com)**

