

Wings

Aprilynne Pike

Reviewed by: Sophia Cheng, Age 15

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

From the first day Laurel enters the public school scene, she knows that she is different from everyone else, but she is by no means bothered by her own peculiarities, and easily finds a new circle of friends. Not to mention she has two incredibly supportive and devoted parents. However, when a strange bump appears on her back and blossoms into petals, Laurel does not know who can turn to. Her questions are partially answered when Laurel goes back to her old home, and meets a mysterious boy named Tamani who reveals her true heritage, her being a faerie, which by his definition, is a highly evolved plant. With a few simple experiments, David confirms that Laurel truly is a plant, but any additional information on Laurel's type of faerie seems to be eluding them. Therefore, Laurel returns to Tamani, demanding answers, only to discover how much of her past had been hidden from her, and how much of her human life had been intertwined with the faerie world all along.

Wings by Aprilnne Pike is plagued with problems that make the book less enjoyable to read, given the interesting plot line. The excessively verbose descriptions and incongruous snippets of conversation have faults of their own, and when fitted together, cause the story to become a mass of jumbled parts. Instead of reflecting the main character's personality, the details resemble facts that albeit informative, seem to be voiced by a completely different person. In addition to that, there are grammatical errors and scarce transitions that are easily detectable and disrupt the flow of the story. Furthermore, the cast of characters not only lacks variety, but they are also flat with little development for the most part of the story. Since their personality match their roles, the villains and the good guys are very predictable. Also, a majority of the characters are unwilling to get into a conflict with Laurel, and are too considerate and understanding to make them realistic. Unfortunately, these errors detracted from the story and overshadowed the originality present.

Although beginning of the book was average at best, the story became much more enticing as the story progressed. Once the action started with the appearance of another faerie with a colorful personality, the suspense escalated and the story became more eventful. The writing also became smoother while the interactions between the main characters became more intense, which gave the story the attention-grabbing element that was sorely needed. Moreover, the ending skillfully sets the stage for a sequel with an exciting plot twist.

Recommended Titles

While *Wings* is a fantasy book, the faeries found in this book is not your average, run-of-the-mill faerie with pixie dust and wings. If this book was more well-written, it would definitely be a book to keep in mind. Other than that, I recommend this book to kids around the middle school to high school age. Other books to look into are *Glimmerglass* by Jenna Black, *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke, and *Iron King* by Julie Kagawa.