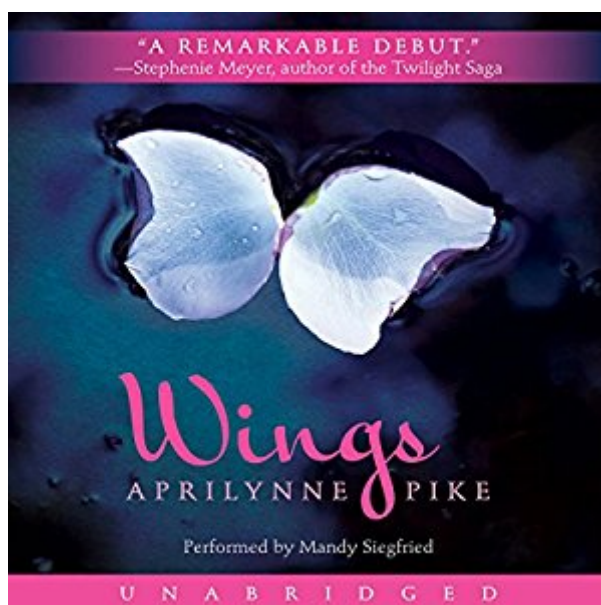


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# Wings



## Synopsis

Laurel was mesmerized, staring at the pale things. They were terrifyingly beautifulâ ”too beautiful for words. Laurel turned to the mirror again, her eyes on the hovering petals that floated beside her head. They looked almost like wings. Laurel's life is the very definition of normal . . . until the morning when she wakes up to discover a flower blooming from her back. As it turns out, nothing in Laurel's life is what it seems. Now, with the help of an alluring faerie sentry who holds the key to her true past, Laurel must race to save her human family from the centuries-old faerie enemies who walk among them. --This text refers to an alternate Audible Audio Edition edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

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Audible.com Release Date: May 5, 2009

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #83 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Arthurian #867 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen #1004 in Books > Teens > Romance > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

This was an enjoyable, light read with a very likable main character. Aprilynne created a very interesting fantasy world that is only introduced here. There is a lot more to be explored in this world. I felt the resolution of the plot was a little 'convenient'. However, for this type of story it is only a minor negative in an otherwise good book. This is not a high tension book, which is why I say it's a light read. There's tension, but the level of tension is engaging not exhausting. I think this book is appropriate for pre-teens. There is a lot of hugging, resting heads on shoulders and some kissing. But it's all pretty sweet and innocent and reasonable for the two 15 year old characters. Sex it talked about, in very broad terms and only briefly. There is one scene with some gun shots, but none are fired by the main character and the target isn't human. I recommend this book and will very likely read the next in the series.

I came across this series when it appeared on my reading class for a literature class called Women of Faerie. I love all things magical and fae so I was excited to read this series. From a technical standpoint, this book was written from the point of view of a narrator, something that I see less and less of in YA literature. I generally like first-person stories better because I feel like I get the main character better, but this really worked for this story line and the characters involved in it. The faery mythology in this book was different than most of what I have read before, these faeries very different from the traditional winged creatures we are used to in literature. Instead, these faeries really tied in the concept of nature by being less humanoid and more plant-based. With that, a faery's appearance changed in accordance with the kinds of food they, as in their hair and eye colors. I loved that little detail! Also interesting is the fact that their "wings" had a real purpose beyond being pretty or for movement. All of these things created an interesting and refreshingly different world. The characters in this book were fantastic. Laurel is our main characters and is seemingly your typical teenage girl. She is the new girl, in public school for the first time in her life. She is beautiful and she knows it without being stuck on it, slim with blonde hair and green eyes. Instead, she is feeling shy and out of her comfort zone when we first meet her. She has been homeschooled until now, living in a tiny town, giving her a complete lack of social interaction with kids her age. That awkwardness makes her real. I loved her loyalty to her friends, even despite all she learns about her history as a faerie. She doesn't forget them when she discovers the truth about herself. Her back and forth between Tamani and David sometimes bothered me, even though I understood it and it was essential to the story line. David is fascinating in that his character accepts Laurel with very little hesitation, perhaps even before she accepts herself. He is highly intelligent and very much a scientific mind which I think helped him accept her. Tamani is interesting because he is rather otherworldly. He is fae, like Laurel, and has lived in the human world just about as long as she has. But they are very different people despite this. She was raised in the human world, living with the ideals and ways of humans. Tamani, even though he technically lived in the human world, lived apart from it. He understood human ways on the surface, but always came across as aloof from human ways. Things to love about Wings... --The mythology. As I talked about, it was very different than most books today and I really enjoyed that. It helped to emphasize the nature elements of fae culture. --The tie-in with established mythology. This book blended Pike's created fae mythology with the mythology of Avalon, my pet favorite. Things I wanted more or less of... --A little less Twilight feel. At the beginning, there was a bit of that Edward/Bella feel to it, the pacing maybe a little slow for some reason. Despite my lack of love of that Twilight

feeling, I do think that the pace actually served to further the impact of Laurel's self-discovery. --A little more explanation. I never really found out why gaining access to the Gate to Avalon suddenly became so important to the trolls. Why now? And was it for their use, or someone else's? --A little less judgment. Laurel's mother and her reaction to Laurel's reality bugged me. Some quotastic goodness... --Typical mother advice. Sweet, honest, and completely useless (7). --This was way more than some strange manifestation of puberty. Mood swings, disfiguring acne, even periods that went on for months were at least semi-normal. But growing oversized flower petals out of your back from a zit the size of a softball? This was something else entirely (49). --Her lips filled with the sweetness of his mouth, and Tamani held her against him as if he could somehow pull her inside of him, make her part of him. And for a moment, she did feel like part of him. As if their kiss bridged the gap between two worlds, even if only for that one brief, sparkling moment (289). My recommendation: A fantastic read for anyone charmed by fae lore, Avalon, and the epic struggle between good vs. evil.

This was a tough book to review. I'm a big fan of faerie novels so I tend to think I'm harder on them. Taking that into consideration, I have mixed feelings about Wings. First, I'll tell you what I liked. I enjoyed most the characters and I think that Aprilynne is a good writer. Laurel is someone I'd probably like in real life. David and Tamani are very different, but could both be good for her so I like this 3 way love triangle that she alluded to. I prefer when the choice isn't obvious. The environments Aprilynne created were very vivid and made it an easy read. I especially liked the scenes in the forest. In terms of the overall story, I thought it was unique. Faeries as plants and also having different powers depending on which season they were born " pretty cool. I'm also a big Avalon geek and I like the ties to Arthurian mythology. Now, what I didn't like. She never sold me on the blossom. I mean that she had this huge bump on her back, yet she never told her parents even though they were close. It never made sense to me that no one noticed. Also the girl (forgot her name) who had the crush on David, but said she was happy that Laurel was with him. I was a teenager once and I seriously doubt that I would be happy that one of my friends was dating the guy I've been crushing on for years. I mean, I think I'm a nice person, but I doubt I'd cheer them on. I can say that the first half of the book was slow, but I think that's because she was setting up the story. The second half was really exciting and I'm going to read the rest of the series because of that. All in all, this was a good read. I would recommend this book. It's a fun and unique faerie story.

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