



Wings: A Fairy Tale

E.D. Baker

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There's always been something a little unusual about Tamisin. Her freckles look more like sparkles, and the full moon makes her want to dance.

But nothing could have prepared her for the day when real, working fairy wings sprout from her back. At school there's a new guy named Jak, who seems to know something she doesn't. As her world gets stranger by the minute Tamisin finds out more about herself and the fairy world.

Wings: A Fairy Tale Details

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From Reader Review Wings: A Fairy Tale for online ebook

Arminzerella says

Tamisin has always been a little strange. She can see things no one else can, and she has pointed ears and sparkly freckles she calls spreckles. She hides these things from other people at school because she doesn't want them to make fun of her. After being selected and performing for her school's elite dance group, Tamisin suddenly sprouts wings. When she confronts her parents about her birth and heritage, they finally admit that she was adopted, but they can't tell her anything about her birth parents. Meanwhile, some of the things that Tamisin has seen have noticed her as well. The goblins have sent one of their own to find her and bring her back to their world. They plan to use her as a bargaining chip with her birth mother, Titania, the queen of the fairies.

While packaged attractively with an enticing cover depicting a very fey-looking girl with long blonde hair, sparkles across her cheeks, and purple iridescent wings, this story did not live up to its fetching promise. It seemed mass-produced. The characters were shallow and difficult to sympathize/empathize with. Their relationships with one another aren't well-developed. The reader is supposed to believe that Tamisin's parents love her, but they manhandle her when she shows them her wings – hurting her. There's really no reason for this. And, although they've been family since Tamisin was a baby, they don't seem very close. Tamisin is understandably angry that they didn't tell her about being adopted, but she breaks away from them without giving them a chance and doesn't seem particularly bothered that she's all on her own. Baker basically starts over again about 50 pages into the book to change from Tamisin's to Jak's perspective. While the reader needs the information Jak has, there is no reason for his conversations with Tamisin to be repeated word for word – it's already been said! Even with this excess verbiage, the story rushes along to its conclusion with little delay, and there's little time or desire to linger and enjoy it. The only point of this exercise seems to have been to churn out a book of a certain length on a certain topic. It doesn't stick to you at all. Unfortunately, because of its ending, you know there's at least the possibility of a sequel.

Leah says

I think that books about fairies are awesome.

Especially this kind of fairies. There are different types of fairies: evil fairies, psycho fairies, fairy godmothers, etc. This book's fairies seemed more in the "fairy godmother" category because they were very friendly and shrunk and sparkled and stuff.

The book is narrated through the point of views of Tamisin and Jak.

Tamisin (what an interesting name she has) has sparkles for freckles and enjoys dancing under the full moon. When Jak takes her through a portal to the Fey world she realizes that she is Titania's daughter.

(yes, Titania, from A Midsummer Night's Dream)

Jak is half goblin. Not the creepy, green, hunched over goblins we know about. These goblins are more like

human-animal hybrids. For some reason Jak's goblin side doesn't show through so he doesn't have to walk through school with whiskers and a tail.

Taralen says

This is a story with an interesting premise: A girl discovers she's a fairy. But that's all it is. An interesting premise.

ALL IT IS.

In truth, this story is about a mary sue and a gary stu. If you are unfamiliar with the terms then please read the following:

MARY SUE: A fictional character (especially in fanfic), usually female, whose implausible talents and likeableness weaken the story

Tamisan is beautiful, has sun colored hair, sparkly freckles, gorgeous turquoise eyes, and the ability to dance well. That might not seem too bad at first considering she's a fairy but it gets worse.

She's half human, half fairy and not just the daughter of any fairy but the fairy queen Titania herself!

Like Titania, she has the ability to control the weather with her emotions. If that already sounds over the top then you're right. It is. But it does get worse.

Apparently being a halfling is better than a full fledged fairy. Actually in this entire book it seems like being half human in general immediately makes you better than being a full blooded anything.

Jak, the gary stu of the book, is horrendous himself. He's supposed to be half cat goblin but he possess no features of actually being a cat. It also doesn't help that he's described as being very sexy. He's the books love interest to Tamisan obviously. Goblins can change natural things into anything else that's natural, like a rose into an apple. Jak somehow, probably because a halfling, can change "manufactured" items into other "manufactured" items. This is ridiculous to me. I don't know if the author is going to use the excuse that being half is "unnatural". Anything that EXISTS is technically natural. Also the fact that he was still born like any other goblin but with human traits still means he's natural, not "manufactured". So that's a logic fail there.

The inconsistencies in this book are ridiculous. First of all, it's assumed that time flows differently in the fey world than in the human world. That's not a problem. What's the problem is the fact the author can't seem to make up her mind just HOW different it is. When Tamisan learns about her birth from Titania, she notes that the ordeal is similar to Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Titania fell in love with a man pretending to be a donkey goblin and conceived Tamisan from it. But hold up here! How in the world did Shakespeare even know about this? Shakespeare was alive in the 1500s. It does say in the book that magical beings and humans did live together once but how did Shakespeare know about this at all at the time? It's a plot hole. But that's not where the madness ends.

If that was during the 1500s, did it take over 500 years for Tamisan to be born? It makes little sense. When Tamisan first returns to the human world, she notes that the season changed from autumn to summer. Also it's ridiculous how at this point Tamisan's family is nearly forgotten. Anyway, she rushes back to the fey world and discovers that several days have already passed.

Hold on there, I thought time went A LOT slower in the fey world? This makes NO SENSE.

Tamisan also seems to forget about her wings often. In the part where she runs into the Soggrassy Sea, she SHOULD have just flown up. Honestly, she's not a very smart heroine. Jak is a lot more tolerable.

Speaking of Jak, I HATED how the author repeated the entire story from Jak's perspective after about 50 pages or so. That was RIDICULOUS and could have been discussed later on in the book anyway.

The beginning is slow compared to how all the events mesh together later on. It goes by so fast that you wonder why the author wasted a good number of pages just recapping Jak's life.

Fairies are also a load of BS themselves. All they do is trim grass and look pretty. That's KIND Of all they do, or at least by what's going on in the book. Shouldn't they be doing important stuff like keeping the balance of nature in check? Obviously the author wasn't thinking this. In contrast, the goblins seem just to be bad to... be bad. They don't really have any substance to them which is unfortunate. More of the actual fey world would have been interesting to flesh out.

Despite all this CRAP, I did LIKE some ideas in the book. I think the whole thing about goblins being what Ancient Egyptians worshiped is a FASCINATING idea that is sadly not explored. Also the wizard who made the gates was probably an interesting character of his own. "Herbert" and Lamia Lou were also really unique characters.

The ending is left open ended but I doubt this terrible book is going to get a sequel and even if it does I doubt it'll be better than this.

Rebecca says

Here we have a children's book with high-school characters and a budding romance, which my TEN year old piano student recommended to me. This book is the kind that I've always thought of as YA. But some newer YA romances depict premarital sex and/or adult situations. The definition of children's and young-adult novels has certainly changed, and you can no longer count on a YA book being "squeaky clean". My recommendation to all parents is to read what their kids are reading. You used to be fairly safe giving a child his own children's library card (which can only be used for X or YA books) and letting them run free. This all very sad. Parents beware.

Elevetha says

A young girl with wings, halflings, the Fairy Court, fey, goblins, a dash of danger, a smidgen of excitement, and a hint of romance.

Tam's reaction to having wings **grow forth from her back!** is something like:

"hmmm.....That's cool.

My reaction would have been:

"AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!! MOM!

LookatthisitsgrowingfrommybackandithurtsandImconfusedandscaredandwhattheheckgetitoffgetitoff!!! I'm a mutant and Stryker is coming for me!"

Her reaction was kinda unbelievable. Mine is truth in my case. At least until I realized what they were and all the awesome stuff I could do with them.

Also, I have never been in the position of being informed that I was adopted but for some reason I feel that I would not react the way characters do in books. I think I would be hurt that my (adoptive?) parents didn't tell me sooner, depending on when they told me. (But, in Tam's case, wouldn't you at least guess there was something hinky going on with your parentage when WINGS are sprouting from your back? And your parents most certainly do not have wings. Not a very perceptive child, is she?)I would want to try to contact my biological parents. But I don't think I would pretty much disregard all the years of love and care that my (adoptive?) parents gave to me and shun them. I certainly wouldn't call them by their names. This is just a generalization of what adopted characters do in books. Only some of them are Tam's reaction.

It is an enjoyable read by not by any means in my favorites of E. D. Baker's books. There be a sequel out: Fairy Lies.

(view spoiler)

Reese says

This book is good. I liked it when I was younger, but now it doesn't hold the same appeal it had. I liked it but definitely not reading it again after this. It got voting as I grew older.

Caro says

This was another great book from Baker. I loved the characters, their personalities, the imagination and creativity, the way this was written, and pretty much everything in between. I'm pretty sure this is going to be a really good series. There was some humor, good dialog, great creatures, emotions, some growth, and a good ending. This book was interesting and not really slow at all. The beginning wasn't slow but full of info to get you started and a little suspense thrown in. I can't wait to read more and am hoping this is something I could read again with my youngest when they get older. Ready for the next... Enjoy!

Tara Higgins says

4.5

Laura says

I wasn't expecting much of a plot for this story, the cover was intriguing, but not deep. When the story took some unexpected twists, I was surprised, but pleasantly pleased. The beginning of the story was nice and all, but it was a lot of background details that could have been neatly edited into a shorter version without losing much substance. I was a little annoyed when we had a break in the story and went to a completely different one. I had liked Jak's character a lot and was interested in finding out more about him, but I did not like the way the author just switched focuses completely and did several chapter's from Jak's point of view. It was a little abrupt. I also thought it was kind of interesting how the story started out as a simple little juvenile book and then morphed into what I thought was a young adult fantasy novel. It didn't flow very well though,

and I kind of wished the author had fleshed out more details about the fey. While I was entertained by this book, I thought it had some flaws. The disjointed breaks in the story along with the overall uneven cohesiveness made it a little less likeable. I might recommend this book.

*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2009...>

Melanie (TBR and Beyond) says

"Unicorns spout the worst kind of drivel. Get up you old fool..."

I'm a complete sucker for stories about the fae, so it wasn't hard for me to get immersed in this fun, little fantasy novel.

Our lead character, Tamisin, is different from other girls, she has pointy ears, dances by the moonlight and has a set of wings growing out of her back. Yep, wings! This is starting to complicate things for her a little bit at highschool. It also doesn't help that she sees little men and creatures all over the place that no one seems to notice but her. That is until Jak shows up.

This story was quite enjoyable. The first half of the book takes place in the "real world" where Tamisin is trying to figure everything that is going on with her. Whereas the second half, which was my favorite, when they actually enter the land of the fae. I loved that there were many different creatures such as fairies, goblins and halflings. Once we were in the fae, I was totally hooked. Tamisin and Jak had great chemistry and were a pleasure to take an adventure with. They were very endearing I thought and I'd be more than happy to read more of their story.

I gave this four stars but it would probably be more of a 3.5 and that is due to a couple of major issues with this book. Tamisin had major things happening in her life, things that are out-of-this-world weird and she never really reacted much to it. Grows wings, meh no big deal. Finds herself in the land of the fae being chased by goblins? Totally normal Tuesday activity for every sixteen year old girl. I wanted to feel the excitement, the terror, everything that a human being would be going through if this was happening to them. Sadly, I got none of that from this book and it really missed that mark in that way. I also love a book with a great cover and this one was kind of blah for me. I think an illustrated cover would have really set the tone better, but now I'm just being nit picky!

Other than that I have no major complaints. The story moved at a decent paced, the main and side characters were all great. The side characters actually stood out more than the main, they got all the great lines. My favorite had to be Jak's grandmother, I could read an entire book just on her alone. The fact that this book goes into the land of fae makes it hard to screw up too much in my world. So, I'd recommend this to anyone who refuses to grow up and just wants to play with unicorns, fairies, and goblins.

Lenni Jones says

Tamisin has always been a little odd. But when fairy wings grow out of her back, that tops all. Jak is the new

guy at school. He is half goblin half human and came from the world of fey.

When goblins come for Tamisin, Jak saves her but they fall through one of the gates that lead into the fey world. Now they must journey to Jak's uncle without getting poisoned, eaten, killed, or kidnapped.

Why isn't it ever easy for the fairy tale characters?

This book, in my opinion, wasn't E. D. Baker's best, but I still give it four stars. And I totally have to read the sequel! Hope this review helps.

Grace says

An amazing book with adventure, suspense and magic. I reccomend this to anyone who has a need for fantasy.

Cathy says

My late grade schooler wanted me to read this, calling it "troubling," "spooky," and "scary." I didn't really find it to be any of those things very much - and I think this child has read scarier things than this without complaint. Apparently, the scary part was when Tamisin danced. I kept waiting for something much scarier to happen, something truly unnerving or frightening, but it never did.

Again, this is an appropriate time of year to read this, around Halloween, because at least two major plot developments happen on two Halloweens.

I knew who/what Tamisin - both parts of that revelation - before she did.

I liked the Jak character, but I was disappointed in the Herbert character. He was too love-sick to be as interesting as he could've been. Queen Titania was a disappointing character as well, in a different way - insufferably self-centered, although I've not finished Shakespeare's "Midsummer's Night's Dream," and she may be portrayed that way there as well.

Tamisin and Jak got a motel room together. Really? He was fifteen, and she was "younger" than the juniors and seniors, so perhaps a high school sophomore or maybe even a freshman? And no one thought that it was odd or that they were too young to get a motel room together? Admittedly, nothing untoward happened, but still not a good precedent for the series. Of course, they were trying to avoid being poisoned and stabbed, too, so maybe that little detail got lost in the rest. I have to wonder if maybe it's a good thing that my grade schooler didn't finish the book ...

I suppose I've gotten tired of stories about fairies over the years, having read more than my fill of them, and that makes them harder for me to read. But I realize, too, that I am not the target audience. All points considered, I did not think it was as awful as my child did, and so I am rating it a 3.

Jenny says

awesome!!! not quite as good as the Frog Princess series, but really, really good all the same!

Reading Vacation says

REVIEW

Wings offers a bit of a twist to A Midsummer Night's Dream. While there are fairies, magic, and a spooky forest in both, the plots are quite different.

Tamisin was always a little different from the other girls at school. Sometimes her face would sparkle, she would dance when the moon was full, and she could see invisible goblins. A little different became A LOT different though when Tamisin sprouted wings. She was startled by this, but she did not go berserk like I would have expected.

Tamisin's quest to understand why she had wings led her to an enchanted land of fairies and goblins. She didn't go there willingly though – she was kidnapped. While there, she met her fairy mother and fell in love with Jak, who was half goblin. It was all very confusing in the goblin world and I was glad that Jak offered some explanations.

I would have liked the story better if it had all taken place in the fairy/goblin world. It was hard to picture the characters going back and forth between worlds without being found out in the human world. As well, I still had questions at the end of the story and wondered what eventually became of Tamisin and Jak.

A good book, but not as fantastic as E.D. Baker's other titles.

RATING

3 Plot

4 Characters

4 Attention Grabbing

4 Girlie Meter

3 Ending

18 TOTAL

4 STARS
