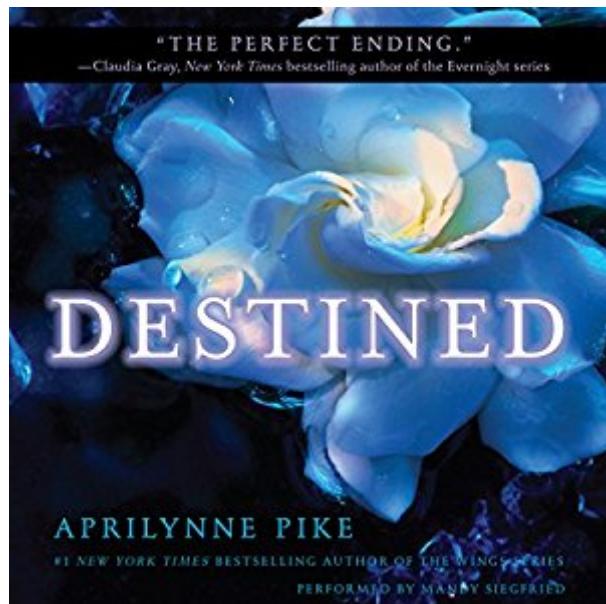


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Destined: Wings, Book 4



Synopsis

Tamani looked at her gravely and reached up to tuck her hair behind her ear. He hesitated for an instant, then his hands found the sides of her face, pulling her to him. He didn't kiss her, just held her face close to his, their foreheads resting together, their noses almost touching. She hated how much it felt like good-bye. Laurel now knows the truth: Yuki is a rare winter faerie, the most powerful - and deadly - of all, and Klea plans to use her to help conquer and destroy Avalon. But Klea's reach extends far beyond one wild winter faerie. With Tamani, David, and Chelsea by her side, Laurel prepares to face what may be Avalon's final days, in the stunning conclusion to the Wings series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been with the series since the beginning and overall the series has been great. It is really hard to say good bye to a series you've grown to love. Aprilynne Pike ended the series on a bittersweet note and she wrapped things up quite nicely. I enjoyed the beginning of the book, however the middle slowed down the pace of the book a lot but it picked right back up for the ending. Laurel is too self-sacrificing and honestly sometimes very annoying. Laurel has definitely grown up from the very beginning of the first book and Laurel shows a lot of maturity in this book. There were several times that Laurel was very frustrating with her decision making in this story. It was nice getting to see why she makes the decisions that she does. Laurel really steps it up in this book and finally makes her decision on who she would like to be with. It is really nice that Pike finally made Laurel choose who

she wanted to be with. Tamani and David are both great characters. They were both surprising me in this book and they both love Laurel and want to be the very best for her. I absolutely loved Tamani from the very beginning. He was my favorite character throughout the entire series. Tamani is sweetly protective and very strong, he is never afraid to pick his battles and he would do anything for Laurel. He is loyal, strong, and has genuine love towards Laurel. Tamani tries to be a very honest guy and he tries to do what he believes is right. I didn't really like David at all; however in the newest edition of the Wings trilogy, I think David became a much better character. David is very brave and he is not afraid to offer his life for the greater good, which is very admirable. He doesn't hesitate for a moment to stand with Laurel and Tamani to save Avalon. Aprilynne Pike has grown in her writing. Her first book was sweet but clearly the work of an inexperienced writer, she has matured in her writing and her story comes out beautifully. The ending was everything a fan could want. The end was gorgeous, it was bittersweet. The ending was very realistic and believable. The special part in the back of the book was the best. I think Wings fans will love it. I was pretty happy with the Wings series and I think Destined was a wonderful ending to the series.

Laurel, as always, is a fabulous main character. I love that, although she is fae, she has retained her humanity and has tried to embrace both sides of her life. But in her quest to save those she loves, both human and faerie alike, Laurel can often be more than a little reckless. She is quick to react and to act, but not always with as much thought as maybe she should have. But her selflessness is endearing, even if she is often too self-sacrificing. I like that, as a character, she is written to be imperfect, which makes her character one that is easy to love and to cheer for. What I find most interesting about her as a character is the type of person she has been created to be. She really doesn't fit anywhere, not fully. She was raised as a human, not knowing her own heritage as a faerie. She has human ideals and her ways of thinking are fully rooted in the human world. But there is no escaping the fact that she is not human, but faerie. There is so much about her that is completely different from humanity, not the least of which is her very anatomy. These things set her apart from her human friends and family in fundamental ways. But nor does Laurel fully fit into the faerie world. She hasn't grown up living within the faerie ways, and doesn't remember her early childhood in Avalon. Many of the faerie traditions and ideals seem wrong to her because she wasn't raised within them. As a result, Laurel isn't just alien in the human world as a faerie, but in the faerie world with her human ways. Pretty clear commentary on the life of a teenager, or anyone! David was a star in this book, as was Chelsea, too. David took on a fight that wasn't necessarily his own,

the fight to save Avalon. Considering he had lost his beloved Laurel to Tamani, there was no reasonable expectation that he take that on. But he put aside his ego and his feelings and stepped forward to be the hero Avalon needed. On the flip side, there was the Queen. I couldn't stand her, which was appropriate for the story line. She was supposed to be the extremely powerful Winter faerie Queen and she seemed to be more concerned with her own power than those who she was supposed to be leading. The ending (no spoilers!) was done in a really creative and interesting way. It was not the traditional, "happy ever after" ending that I was expecting. There is a certain expectation for a neatly tied-up ending, especially in a faery tale. While it wasn't a bad ending, it wasn't at all what would fit that faery tale formula, more bittersweet than sweet. It was terribly beautiful in some ways and terribly heartbreaking in other ways. I came into the ending expecting it to follow that formula, but after experiencing it, no other ending would have been as emotionally right for the series. It could have ended at the end of the final chapter, with a perfectly acceptable ending. But immediately after that, Pike inserts a note to the reader, a note that brings the reader into the mind of the author and subsequently into the mind of David. The note explains that there is more to the end of the story, an end that is not so

"...but more human. In other words, more realistic and more imperfect. This ending is written in the form of a letter and was beautiful, and terribly sad in so many ways. Thoroughly emotional and full of its own magic. Things to love about Illusions... --The themes. This book was a bit darker than the others, and touched on some more universal themes. I think the darker tone made the story, although fantasy, more believable because the situations were not glossed over. --The intensity. This was my favorite of the four books, far more action-packed and far more intense than the others. There was more of the "sweet fairy tale" feel throughout the other books, until the end of the third and this one and I liked the more realistic feel to the darker Things I wanted more or less of... --A little more of the Queen. I felt that her character was underutilized in the overall story. Her aloofness and refusal to protect her own seemed to be too much out of character for those of Avalon so I wanted to know more about why. I really would have liked a more expanded role for her, more depth into her character that would have explained more fully her reactions and actions. Some quotastic goodness... --Sleep wasn't an option, not while the only thing between him and an angry Winter faerie was a thin line of table salt (7). --"Never underestimate the power of a situation you put yourself into (23). --"No person's life should be defined by a single purpose, especially one they

didn't choose (246)." --The best, most lasting changes are those which come about gradually; to reach great heights, a tree must first put down extensive roots (331). My recommendation: I am sad to see this series end and can only hope for a companion series in the future! A must read!

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