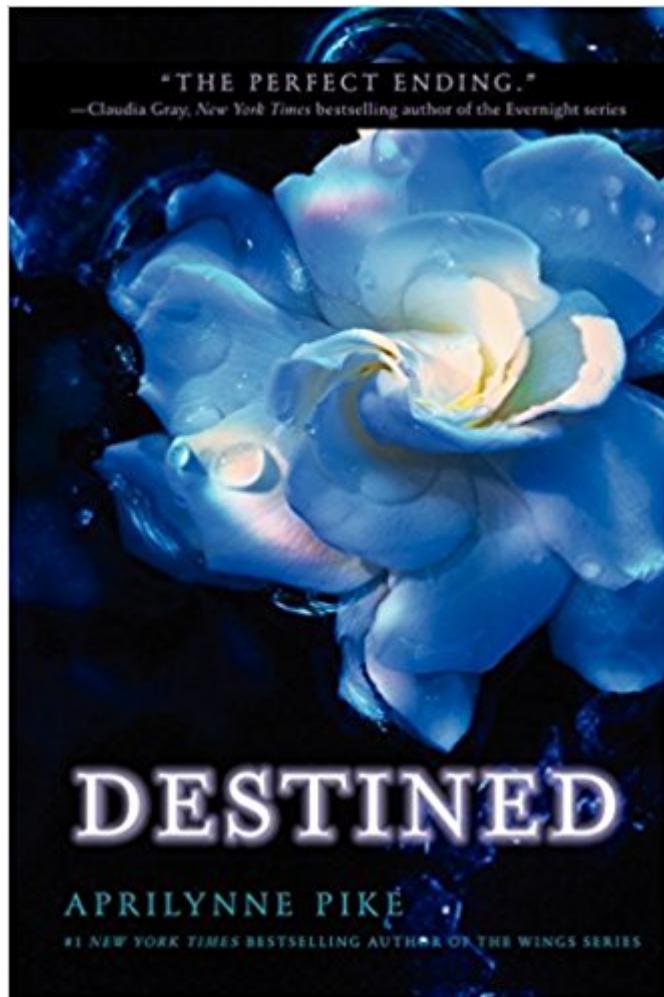


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## Destined (Wings)



## Synopsis

Destined delivers all the romance and action that fans expect as it brings Aprilynne Pike's Wings series to a deeply satisfying conclusion. Laurel used to think she was an ordinary girl from Crescent City, California. She never would have believed she was truly a faerie from a realm called Avalon. Now Laurel must risk her life to save Avalon from destruction by Yuki—a rare and powerful Winter faerie—and troll-hunter Klea. But Laurel won't have to fight alone; David and Tamani, two boys she loves in different ways, will be by her side, along with her best friend, Chelsea. Readers of the Need and Graceling series will want to follow Laurel's story from its beginning in Wings to its heart-stopping end in Destined.

## Book Information

Series: Wings (Book 4)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen (May 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780061668128

ISBN-13: 978-0061668128

ASIN: 0061668125

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 169 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #733,441 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends > Arthurian #1778 in Books > Teens > Romance > Science Fiction & Dystopian #2484 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10-After discovering that Yuki is a Winter Faerie, Tamani, Laurel, Chelsea, David, and Shar must figure out what she and Klea have planned for Avalon. By holding Yuki hostage, they learn that Klea knows where the Gate is located and that she plans to enter Avalon with an army of trolls. The only option is to enter before she does and to prepare Avalon for the troll army. The costs to defend Avalon will be high and lives will be lost, relationships damaged, and heroes made as David and Chelsea become the first humans to enter Avalon since Arthur. Armed with Excalibur, David may lose himself in the process and Laurel will have to think like Klea in order to save the day.

Aprilynne Pike's action-packed, fast-paced conclusion (HarperTeen, 2012) to the "Wings" series takes place over the course of a single day. Her characters, particularly David, are complex and well-developed. Mandy Siegfried's narration is excellent and her tone is perfect for the story. The bittersweet but appropriate conclusion will satisfy most listeners. Perfect for fans of the series and those who enjoy paranormal romance.-Sarah Flood, Breckinridge County Public Library, Hardinsburg, KY © Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A strong closing chapter..." (Kirkus)PRAISE FOR DESTINED: "The greatest part: the WINGS series reaches the perfect ending. The worst part: it has to end!" (Claudia Gray, New York Times bestselling author of the Evernight series)"Pike's clever and innovative way of reinventing fairy tales and myths to make them her own is wonderful. The story is rich in vivid details, action, adventure, and romance." (Romantic Times (Top Pick, 4 1/2 stars))"In this last installment of the Wings series, destinies and betrayals are unearthed at breathtaking speed. The series is action-packed, and the final chapters of the story are no exception. A thrilling page-turner, many readers will read the book cover-to-cover, barely daring to breath." (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review))"The action begins fast and furious and never really stops." (Booklist)

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 "HEA" 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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