



Wings Unseen

Rebecca Gomez Farrell

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To end a civil war, Lansera's King Turyn relinquished a quarter of his kingdom to create Medua, exiling all who would honor greed over valor to this new realm on the other side of the mountains. The Meduans and Lanserim have maintained an uneasy truce for two generations, but their ways of life are as compatible as oil and water.

When Vesperi, a Meduan noblewoman, kills a Lanserim spy with a lick of her silver flame, she hopes the powerful display of magic will convince her father to name her as his heir. She doesn't know the act will draw the eye of the tyrannical Guj, Medua's leader, or that the spy was the brother of Serrafina Gavenstone, the fiancée of Turyn's grandson, Prince Janto. As Janto sets out for an annual competition on the mysterious island of Braven, Serra accepts an invitation to study with the religious Brotherhood, hoping for somewhere to grieve her brother's murder in peace. What she finds instead is a horror that threatens both countries, devouring all living things and leaving husks of skin in its wake.

To defeat it, Janto and Serra must learn to work together with the only person who possesses the magic that can: the beautiful Vesperi, whom no one knows murdered Serra's brother. An ultimate rejection plunges Vesperi forward toward their shared destiny, with the powerful Guj on her heels and the menacing beating of unseen wings all about.

Readers of all ages will enjoy *Wings Unseen*, Rebecca Gomez Farrell's first full-length novel. It is a fully-imagined epic fantasy with an unforgettable cast of characters.

Wings Unseen Details

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Author : Rebecca Gomez Farrell

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From Reader Review Wings Unseen for online ebook

Monica says

Thank you to Meerkat Press for the ARC! Overall a very strong and ambitious story with a beautiful cover of our three-winged bird!

At the heart of the novel is a land torn apart decades earlier by war and powerful, selfish leaders. This left Lansera and Medua, two areas divided by poverty, culture and religious beliefs where "ways of life were as compatible as oil and water." From these come our three main characters: a young prince of great privilege, Janto, must learn how to put his people first to become a strong leader. His beautiful fiancé Serra has to face the demons of her past and make the toughest decision of any young adult's life. From the impoverished land of Medua, Vesperi is an unpredictable woman, dangerous, and full of courage. Forced to work as a team to save their friends and family proved to be a huge challenge.

The descriptions throughout are vibrant and filled with emotion. Even the minor characters bring life and a bit of humor to the story. This is an epic adventure in a world filled with mysterious creatures and magic! I would definitely be interested in a sequel and recommend this fantasy novel to any fan of Middle Earth! This may only be the beginning...

BAM The Bibliomaniac says

Many thanks to Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Meerkat Press, and Netgalley for the free copy of this book in exchange for an unbiased review.

Well, I've debated my review for about a week. To say I was underwhelmed may be a bit strident, but I'm still left with a flat feeling. While I'm certainly glad I read *Wings*, I was never excited about any plot twist. The opening of the book threw me for a loop because it reads like a third chapter. I had no idea about whom I was reading. There was just no preparation. I had to start over three times before I firmly had my bearings. Vesperi was meant to be a despicable creature but came across as grumpy and misunderstood most of the time.

Once I finally got into the groove of the pattern of the chapters there was suddenly a spanner thrown in the works when a fourth cretin of a religious order was introduced and completely threw off my flow. Why did it take half of the book for this evil doer to come along? Shouldn't he have maybe either had a few earlier chapters or at least been integral in the previous storyline? As it is it seems like the author decided just then where the book needed to go and wrote him in. It wasn't a smooth transition.

The book has some good points: the buzzing flesheaters, the squabbling kingdoms of goodness and vice, the "three heads". It was interesting. I just wasn't blown away.

Summer Fantasy Fest read #18

Jeff Kennedy says

Wings Unseen is an enthralling female-driven fantasy debut. The world, magic system, and terrific characters – with two complex, multi-layered heroines along with the male protagonist – drew me in and kept me rapt. The romantic set-up goes sideways in a delightful way, satisfying me entirely. The characters truly grow and change over the course of their epic quest, including a heroine who begins in a dark place and rises above it. An initially unlikable heroine, Vesperi is deftly handled and won a place as my favorite character. Compelling, entertaining, and enlightening, Wings Unseen is a fantastic read!

Angela says

ARC provided via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Things I liked:

- *Different POVs
- *Uniqueness of the characters
- *The setting
- *THE COVER

I knew I would like one of the characters, Vesperi a lot from the beginning. She was unique. But besides her, I can't remember any of the characters until I've reached 40% of the book. I was confused by the plot. It took me a very long time to get through.

Wings Unseen was a good book, but personally I didn't enjoy it a lot.

Laura Martinez says

I decided to get a copy of this book by seeing its book cover and reading the description. I found it to be very intriguing and once I was able to remember the characters I really enjoyed the book. I enjoyed how the characters in this book grew. There is a lot that happens to these characters throughout the book but it was certainly a page turner! I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review.

Chloe says

"The Brothers had only known what could be, not what would be" - Rebecca Gomez Farrell

I think this has been one of **my favourite books so far**, this year. It had such a lovely blend of **amazing characters, intriguing world building and a strong plot**. It was a dense read, it wasn't even 400 pages yet it took me over a week but I did enjoy it. I only had the smallest of issues with certain aspects of the books, one of which I am going to start with because it did follow me throughout the rest of the novel.

Please, Rebecca Gomez Farrell, **show me a map** of this wonderful and diverse world that you have created! Later in the book I did start to understand the general area of some of the major lands but it still would have

helped at the beginning when we are being introduced to so many characters from many different and interesting lands. Along this same sort of line, there seemed to be a weird thing in this book where Farrell would write the name of a fantasy creature and then give no explanation or relevance, it just seemed very peculiar and unnecessary.

Right from the beginning of this book **I loved all our leading trio**; Vesperi, Janto and Serra were all such well-rounded and three-dimensional characters with all had their own arc's and this was all accomplished while never slowing the pace of the plot. I just loved hanging out with them to be honest and the fact they all had their little worlds before coming together just made me become more attached to them before the climax of the plot. I think this was also because **the side characters in this book were incredibly strong** too, I've looked back and there isn't one that I haven't loved, they were all fun and well-rounded and I cared when (view spoiler).

When it came to this triad I enjoyed how **equal they all were within the plot**, they all needed one another to complete the quest they had set out for. The plot really was one of my favourite aspects. I loved what they were fighting and how they manifested, I thought it was such a great idea and gave some real context as to why the people of Lansera have become like they are. I also liked how the idea of Gods and fate was handled in this book too, although I would have liked more explanation in to the God Wars that was mentioned in the book.

Didn't like the beginning of the love triangle and I wasn't a fan of either of the romances that became canon in the end – I'm not a big fan of fate being the defining nature of romances and I just never felt that there was any chemistry between Vesperi and Janto, it was just he had a sexy dream about her and then they were in love? Whereas he and Serra has this long build up friendship and established relationship, I just felt like there didn't need to be a romance and I really didn't like that the epilogue chapter, from Serra, was about her getting in Lorne's pants? Like this whole book has been about friendships and the power of fate and it ends with Serra trying to get her leg over with a man she has just met? No thank you.

Although I'm not usually a fan of fantasy sexism, I saw why it was used in this book because it was, in fact, not seen as the norm by the larger population of the people in this fantasy world and was used by a corrupt religious order to subdue and control his people (view spoiler)

So, while I did have little niggles throughout this book it was never even close enough to make me want to stop, I could have lived in this world and with our three main characters and their friends for longer and seen more of their creature killing, 'I'm taking fate into my own hands' road trip.

I received my ARC from Rebecca Gomez Farrell, Meerkat Press, and Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review. Thank you very much.

Alicia says

Disclaimer: Netgalley gave me a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

The first few chapters were really a struggle to get through, but once I got about 20% of the way into the book, the strength of the plot and characters won me over. There are some obnoxious things about Wings Unseen -- over-the-top unnecessary details, cliché divisions between (literally) a "good" and an "evil" country -- but the plot is strong and well paced, and once you get past the annoying parts, the book is quite

the page turner.

The good: It was good enough that despite what I saw as major flaws, I finished it! And not "slogged to the end because I hate leaving books unfinished" but "read to the end because I wanted to find out what would happen"! I won't give too much away, but once you get past the distractions, there is a really compelling story. The three main characters are well developed, and the supporting characters are interesting in their own right (although there are WAY too many of them). The plot picks up around a third of the way through the book, and it ends up being quite the page turner.

The bad: The worldbuilding was just... over the top. Please, please, please stop making up new words for things if they're not relevant to the plot (kratom wood? tekberries? some sort of bitey fish that might be purple?). The level of detail ended up distracting from the plot, and I honestly almost stopped reading the book in the first few chapters because I found it off putting. BUT... I kept reading. And it was worth it. Also annoying: the idea of a "good" (Lanserre) and an "evil" (Medua) nation is just too cliché. It's not realistic, and it made parts of the plot really flat. I can understand one nation thinking they're good, and the other is bad, but the book plays it as if they actually are. Characters from the "evil" country are cruel and their culture is insane/unsustainable, and even the "good" characters from there have to fight against their nature. I just didn't buy that.

Overall: Honestly, this book would be a 3.5 star rating from me, but since it's not, I'll give it the benefit of the doubt and go with 4. I would have loved-loved-loved this book if there had been fewer extraneous details and if some of the overarching themes were less stereotypical, but when it comes down to it -- I finished the book in three days, and if there was a sequel, I'd probably buy it. So, I would recommend it ... just know that the first few chapters are painful.

Manon says

3.5 Stars

I was provided an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

How to summarize this?.....

Welcome to Lansera and Medua. These two places used to be one before they were separated, putting the bad people in Medua and the nice ones in Lansera.

Veseri lives in Medua. She's the daughter of Lord Sewyll. As a woman in Medua, she has no rights. She basically belongs to her father and should be spending her days in the kitchen with all the other women. But Veseri doesn't like to keep her mouth shut and do what's expected of her, and her father, to keep her out of his hair gives her "some freedom". It actually helps that Veseri can reduce someone to ashes with just a wave of her fingers; though no one but her knows it.

In Lansera, the prince, Janto, is about to get married to Serra but first, he has to go do his Murat (some kind of weird ritual thing that make boys grow into men I guess?).

As she waits for her betrothed to come back from his Murat, Serra is asked to go to a convent of sorts, where she finds out she has a weird ass destiny.

Our three characters turn out to be linked in more ways than one and have to find a way to get along to save the world and shit.

I mostly enjoyed this. I had A LOT of trouble getting into it but once I was, I had a great time and flew through the chapters.

The characters were well painted and even if it took me some time to get attached to both Serra and Janto, they grew on me.

At first, I was living for the Vesperi chapters who I immediately fell for. But I found them to be too rare and short.

There were a couple clichés but they didn't really bother me.

What did bother me was that the romance was central to the story but seemed rushed; like it was just an afterthought. I didn't really feel what the characters were supposed to feel...

All in all, a classic-ish story set in an interesting but enraging world with loveable characters.

Sheila Goicea says

#5 on my TBR for #ARCAugust tag.

See this full review along with others on my blog at: shesgoingbookcrazy.com

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

You know when you start a book, and you don't like the characters, and nothing pulls you into the plot to keep your attention--then that it probably isn't the book for you. **This is exactly my experience with Wings Unseen.**

Being a sucker for great book covers, I naturally picked this up. Seeing a three-headed bird beast, in combination with an alluring title, and an action-packed synopsis, I was ready to be swept away into a new fantasy world.

As we take a step into the world of the warring nations of Medua and Lansera, one thing is immediately apparent: **Vesperi is a not a nice person. Detestable, more like. So detestable, in fact, that I couldn't get the bad taste out of my mouth that she left there. Here's why.** She'd always resort to sexual manipulation to get what she wanted. It was in her internal and external machinations, and she was downright **crude**.

Here's a *few* examples:

Too old to make bedding him fun but not man enough to beat her badly.

She had more pressing matters to attend to than pondering what advantage untying his breeches might bring.

There were more. But I just...don't want to waste my time taking down quotes from a book that I know I won't be finishing.

I liked the fact that the book worked from different point-of-views. I'm assuming that a three-headed bird

will show up somewhere, somehow. The animal-like-creature-human-things referenced in the first chapter were...curious, to say the least. I really wish I could have had an opportunity to go further into this book, but Vesperi made that impossible for me.

Vulgarity: There wasn't any swearing, but derogatory language used specifically towards women.

Sexual Content: **I believe I missed the memo where it is suddenly deemed as "OK" to use explicit language in YA books. This book definitely crosses some lines for me (examples provided above), including the word, "cock." This is probably another one of those mislabeled "YA books" that should be NA.**

Violence: Minimal.

I will not be assigning a star review as I did not finish reading this book.

A big thanks to the publisher for providing me with a copy of this book!

Daphnee (daphneereads) says

Wings Unseen by Rebecca Gomez Farrell was excruciatingly slow. It had great potential but it was lost in way too many details and nonsense. The characters were all pretty boring, except Vesperi who had a good overall character evolution. I wouldn't waste my time for this one. I almost DNF'ed a couple of times.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for this free ebook.

Nikki (Book Allure) says

I received a copy from Meerkat Press via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Wings Unseen reminds me so much of *Falling Kingdoms*. We have around 3 main POVs with a few minor ones that are placed in different points in the 2 feuding kingdoms. Vesperi is the daughter of the estate lord in Medua and secretly harbors magical powers. However, she was not named the heir to the land but instead was bequeathed to her weak sickly brother. Janto, the heir to Lansera has gone on a quest to learn more about ruling his future kingdom. Serra, queen-to-be, follows the Order to find out what she has to do to save her kingdom from ruin.

Things I did not expect:

- The harsh language regarding women. It was very adultlike for a YA book. Words such as "cunt" were frequent in the book.
- A kind king????? I'm genuinely shocked nice kings exist
- It took so long for these characters to overlap. Normally fantasy books with diff POVs overlap quickly but this took over 100 pages. **Despite this, it was still good**
- Plot centering on individualistic paths
- A POV OF A PIGEON. We're in 2017 *Wings Unseen* is in 2057.

Each character was unique in their own way and I grew to love them! Vesperi is wild and unruly but it's the perfect balance to Serra's calm and poised. Even with a patriarchal society, Vesperi and Serra managed to

overcome it in their own ways. Janto was an unconventional male character, not asserting his masculinity. I couldn't feel him dripping testosterone yet respected him as a character. As the book passed I was more partial to Vesperi and found Serra to be rather annoying. I want this book to be one that doesn't pit women against each other given that the society already has a low view of them. The other problem I had with this book was that **my ship was not sailing**. Please just give me what I want. No more love triangles, PLEASE.

I enjoyed the writing of Farrell The places were vivid enough that I was able to picture myself there with them. Each action was written to such precision that it felt like a well-directed movie in my head, leaving little for me to fill in. And that's great! For a high fantasy book, the author's ability to describe is essential and Farrell excelled at it.

Ashley says

I received an arc copy of Wings Unseen from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rating: 2.5 stars

The first thing that caught my eye about Wings Unseen was the cover. It was beautiful and enchanting. Then I read the description and I was even more drawn in.

Within the first few chapters, I already had a favorite character. Vesperi. I know Vesperi is supposed to be despicable but I loved her from the start. I mean a head strong women trying to make her way in a terrible society but also harbors a secret power? Sign me right up. I loved her POV'S. I was disappointed she didn't have that many POV'S in the beginning. I just wanted more of her and I just got Serra which I hate to say but I didn't like her all that much. She eventually grew on me but never topped Vesperi. Janto was also a great character, he had a lot of potential and wasn't a typical testosterone filled male. I enjoyed his sections but Vesperi had my attention.

Overall, Wings Unseen was a good book but, personally, I didn't like it very much. I feel the world building could have been more enhanced especially in the 2nd half. The plot was interesting but I found myself confused and it took a rather long time for me to get my bearings. It feels as if the story starts right off the bat and you have to fill in a lot of blanks. My interest fluctuated constantly throughout. There was a few times where I was riveted but then other times where I was dragging myself to the next part. In general, I think some polishing could be done but Wings Unseen is good.

Wendy says

The description of this book was really intriguing. General plot can be found in description of the book; I don't need to hash it out here.

What I found extremely frustrating was the lack of world building, which stood out more in the first half than the second. Taking a bunch of made-up names for creatures and countries without really giving descriptions of them is confusing and frustrating. Especially to have regular things like butter and apricots thrown in. It's sort of like starting to watch Game of Thrones in Season 3 without having seen the first two seasons, but at least there you have visuals to guide you.

It would help a lot if there were a map.

But, on the plus side, once I started to keep the characters straight, it is a good, compelling story, and it did keep me reading to the end. I appreciate the fact it wasn't a cliffhanger ending very much. The ending may have been a little easy, but the characters went through a lot. I really liked that the characters grew as the book progressed. I'm normally not very interested in religion as an agent of change (although it really could be argued that the religion was really a means of better introspection in the grand scheme of one's place in the world). I was genuinely surprised by one of the characters whose role seemed uncertain. I did like Enjoin and the concept of different "planes" of existence.

The thing that really bothered me the most was the lack of world building, but I think by the second half I just paid attention to the characters and didn't let it get to me as much.

Early Reviewers ARC copy from publisher.

Mel (Epic Reading) says

This book really surprised me. I went in expecting a cool fantasy setting (and yes it's as good as the blurb makes it sound), some different magic and a really annoying love triangle. I was partially right, and partially wrong.

The Not-So Love, Love Triangle

So let's deal with the 'three-headed' love triangle first. Is there a love triangle... not really. There are three people who are caught up in each other's lives in some unlikely ways and there is some jealousy that happens at some points but it's not like a cat fight over the lead man. Nor is it a caddy fight between the two girls. Instead it's just progression of friendship, possible love and how tough circumstances create unbreakable bonds.

The Overall Feel

The three perspectives (two gals, one guy) are all equal and none of them feels like a more important character than the other. Kudos to Rebecca Gomez Farrell for pulling this off. It's a hard feat to have equal standing characters in the lead. The magic is really cool. I love how sparse and yet how important it is. The 'enemy' is subjective and yet obvious all at the same time. The politics are brilliant and I adore our lead man's father who accepts that while he never wanted to be King it was his duty. This solid political base that the world is built around is part of what gives *Wings Unseen* its unique feel.

Of course my favourite character of the three is the morally questionable Vespri (and she has a snake as her icon!). But don't worry the other two main characters, Jantos and Serra, bring in more than enough sweet, moral, hero traits to make up for any pitfalls Vespri may have. Additionally they all have real personalities and real faults. Just like real people. I can't emphasize enough how REAL they all felt to me at times. I started wanting to savour this book at the halfway point. Something I rarely do these days.

Now, what's the best part about *Wings Unseen*?

It's a STAND ALONE fantasy book!

That's not to say that it might have future books; but you can easily read *Wings Unseen* and have enough closure to feel satisfied. I'd love to see future books (and it's unclear to me if it's going to be a series or not...) but it's also so rare to find stand-alone fantasy novels that I almost want to relish in its uniqueness this way.

Could I find faults in this novel?

Of course. But honestly I feel this is a stronger debut than Gilded Cage and I really enjoyed it and gave it four stars. Wings Unseen doesn't have the same plot holes or unexplained circumstances the way a lot of my 4 star fantasy books have had this year and so I've given it 5 stars because I'd happily read it again... is tomorrow too soon?!

To read this and more of my reviews visit my blog at Epic Reading

Please note: I received an eARC of this book from the publisher via NetGalley. This is an honest and unbiased review.

Jessica Julien says

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

This novel is most certainly an adventure, trial/combat, novel that feels very much like a Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones type of story. Right away, you get swept into this world with many characters that are sometimes hard to keep track of. Some have similar names, making it even more difficult to remember who is related to who and who is the enemy, but after awhile it does begin to focus solely on a few main characters. There are a few chapters with what I like to call "Random" characters or stories that could have been left out as I felt there wasn't a good enough reason to introduce a character and tell a chapter from their perspective and then kill them off or never hear from them again. I will say, even though Rebecca switches characters with each chapter, I did like how she added their crest or icon to help remind us who they were or what family they were from.

The world building is not bad in this novel. I had a hard time keeping up with time jumps or lapses as they traveled or how far away places were. I will say, that the author commented on one of my posts about her book and said there would be a map in the final edition, which YAY, that is exactly what it needs to help the reader follow along. Bonus points for that addition to the finalized copy!!

Overall, the story wasn't bad, although I did find myself getting bored at parts and forcing myself to continue waiting for the climax. The ending moved very quickly, too quickly for my liking, and it felt a little unrealistic at how the three were thrown into this prophecy and excelled at it without ever knowing they had those type of skills or abilities? It took one of the main characters the entire novel to understand his role in the whole thing when a majority of the book had been focused on him and his namesake. Just seemed odd he didn't question his role until the very last moment and he had like an "Oh, I see" moment.

I think the whole concept of this story is fantastic. I love the ideas and relationships that were put into the book and intertwined within the cities/towns/kingdoms. I would have liked the epilogue to bring closure to the other two main characters as well instead of only a tidbit of one that I really didn't feel needed to be rounded out in the end. Seeing as one is the prince, it would have been nice to know what happened to him and the other female character. Just a thought.

But, I would still recommend this to someone who enjoys a good adventure novel, especially those who enjoy LOTR and GOT type reads. It was fun story.

(I hope they caught some of the grammatical errors or repetition of phrases on their last round of edits...! I

wish I had kept track of exactly where they were because there were many times words would get repeated "I should have should gone with.." kind of things scattered throughout where removing one extra word would have made it flow more smoothly.)
