



# The Girl with Borrowed Wings

*Rinsai Rossetti*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Girl with Borrowed Wings

*Rinsai Rossetti*

## **The Girl with Borrowed Wings** Rinsai Rossetti

A stunningly written tale of an isolated girl and the shape-shifting boy who shows her what freedom could be--if only she has the courage to take it

Controlled by her father and bound by desert, Frenenqer Paje's life is tediously the same, until a small act of rebellion explodes her world and she meets a boy, but not just a boy--a Free person, a winged person, a shape-shifter. He has everything Frenenqer doesn't. No family, no attachments, no rules. At night, he flies them to the far-flung places of their childhoods to retrace their pasts. But when the delicate balance of their friendship threatens to rupture into something more, Frenenqer must confront her isolation, her father, and her very sense of identity, breaking all the rules of her life to become free.

## **The Girl with Borrowed Wings Details**

Date : Published July 19th 2012 by Dial Books

ISBN : 9780803735668

Author : Rinsai Rossetti

Format : Hardcover 290 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, Paranormal, Fiction, Angels, Shapeshifters, Young Adult  
Fantasy, Contemporary, Teen

 [Download The Girl with Borrowed Wings ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Girl with Borrowed Wings ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Girl with Borrowed Wings Rinsai Rossetti**

---

# From Reader Review The Girl with Borrowed Wings for online ebook

## Liviania says

Right now, I feel very unaccomplished. Rinsai Rossetti is currently twenty one and wrote the first draft of THE GIRL WITH BORROWED WINGS when she was eighteen. I'm twenty three and have yet to write anything as beautiful or as wonderful as Rossetti's debut.

Frenenqer Paje lives the way her father wants her to live. He dreamed of a perfect, submissive, quiet daughter and Frenenqer will be that girl no matter her natural inclinations. He keeps her in her room except for when she goes to the local English-speaking school where she gets a low-quality education. She couldn't really go out if she wanted to, since the streets of the oasis (in an unnamed Middle Eastern country) aren't safe for a lone teen girl. Frenenqer tries to stay within the bounds, escaping only through her books and a dream that she was supposed to be born with wings and she can feel the phantom of them on her back.

Then she meets a boy without a name, a Free person, unbound by any rules. He can shapeshift and travel between worlds and he can take Frenenqer flying. Soon she names him Sangris and he calls her Nenner, a name much lighter than the one of her father's expectations. But as the two grow closer, they become quarrelsome. Frenenqer is afraid to step outside of her father's rules, as well as the rules of society, and Sangris pushes her to ignore them all. Above all else, Sangris is free, and he fears the limits of Nenner's affections.

It's girl-meet-boy filtered through the fantastical lens of magical realism and told in Rossetti's gorgeous, poetic prose. But in addition to the romance, it's Frenenqer's discovery of herself.

"I'm young!" I shouted at him in exhilaration.

"What?"

"I'm young!"

His gaze flickered over me. From my free-flying hair -- I became very aware of it as soon as he looked at it; I felt it lifting off the base of my neck where the spine is tender, and streaming out behind me in tendrils -- to the tightness of my stomach -- I realized for the first time that I had a narrow waist and hips rather than the straight lines of my childhood; when had that happened? -- and down to the legs. At that point he pulled his gaze back up to my face. "Yeah," he said. "Didn't you know?"

-p. 63-4, ARC

I liked that Frenenqer's dialogue, as well as that of her long-suffering friend Anju, are in a modern vernacular unlike the narration. It emphasizes her youth and that she's not truly a prim lady, even before Sangris (and Anju) force her to stop denying her dreams for herself. It complements the narration rather than clashing with it.

THE GIRL WITH BORROWED WINGS is one epic romance. One moment the atmosphere is cramped and stifling; next, there's a lush description of Nenner and Sangris's travels. There's sophisticated storytelling and a heroine who is just seventeen and well aware of own immaturity. It's the struggle between control and chaos. Do not miss Rossetti's debut. THE GIRL WITH BORROWED WINGS is a story of startling power and beauty.

---

## Millenia says

This is the kind of book I love discovering: restrained and thoughtfully crafted, yet sensuous and evocative in its characters and settings.

The problem with most debut authors is that they cram all of their ideas into one book. Rossetti avoids this problem: her book is simple in idea and (for the most part) smooth in execution. Frenenquer Paje is an isolated girl: she's controlled by her father, trapped in the desert, and of (very) mixed cultural heritage. She has nowhere to belong, and is a stifled soul. But, she meets Sangris, a shape-shifting Free person who gives her freedom. Is she brave enough to take it?

*The Girl With Borrowed Wings* is an almost perfect combination of elements. The juxtaposition between captivity and freedom is beautifully represented by the settings: the smothering, oppressive desert versus the airy and ever-changing worlds Sangris shows Nenner. The writing, too is perfect: sensuous and highly metaphorical, lush and evocative, it perfectly evokes the gorgeous landscapes and emotions of the characters. The characters are also highly metaphorical, almost otherworldly: the mischievous cat-like Sangris; the rigid, omnipotent father; the quiet, almost non-present mother. It fits very well together to make one lovely and unique bildungsroman.

Some parts, however, do not work. The romance was somehow both a stronger part of the novel and the weakest link. Sometimes, it worked perfectly as a catalyst to make Frenenquer grow. In fact, many times it felt like Rossetti was subverting typical paranormal romance tropes, giving them new meanings and implications because of the context: A simple, "Am I going to end up with him or not?" is given additional meaning because it's the decision that will determine whether Frenenquer is going to stay in her loveless world or be brave and learn to love and reach towards freedom.

However, many times the romance lapsed into annoying melodrama: there's this one particularly ridiculous sequence when Sangris is trying to talk to Nenner about his feelings, but she's trying to stop him and is becoming more and more desperate, and more and more ridiculous: at one point she even claims to have the slow metabolism of a sloth and how she's about to die of starvation, and sends Sangris to get her some falafel. It was simply ridiculous. But other than this, their relationship always seemed a little off and stuck a little too closely to tropes: Sangris becomes attached too easily despite a lifetime of wandering, there's a typical (and unneeded) jealousy subplot, Nenner acts much too melodramatic, etc. Nonetheless, even the most annoying parts of their romance were much healthier than most you will find in YA PNR, so even some missteps are forgivable.

All in all, this is a beautiful debut, sweeping and sometimes dazzling with beauty and emotion. Despite some hiccups, it was well worth reading, and I can't wait to see what Rossetti comes up with next!

---

## Claire Legrand says

I loved this book. It was odd, unexpected, and so beautifully written that I had to stop and read certain passages out loud just to revel in the language. Different from other YA books I've read, and refreshingly so! Such lovely imagery it makes me ache to think of it.

Highly recommended!

---

### **Sasha says**

This book struck me as the sort of thing I would have written when I was 13 and feeling particularly emo. The ridiculously controlling and emotionally abusive father, the girl who thinks she's ugly even though she's obviously drop-dead gorgeous, and the over-the-top boyfriend who pretty much sings "I can show you the world" in between sessions of begging to be allowed to kiss her feet (no, I am not making this up)...oh, the melodrama! Not to mention the way that the main character's lifetime of emotional baggage instantly vaporizes after a single bold action on her part. I wasn't surprised to discover that the author wrote her first draft of this story when she was a teen. Her prose was actually quite good, so I have hopes that perhaps one day she may produce something I'd enjoy reading, but unfortunately, this one was pretty laughable.

(Just for the record, in spite of my melodramatic writing style at age 13, my father is wonderful, and I have never wanted to have a boy kiss my feet, literally or figuratively.)

---

### **Nafiza says**

2.5

I find myself, for the first time ever perhaps, struggling to properly organize my reaction to a book. So I am going to jump right in and hope that you follow me.

The first aspect of this novel that bothered me is the title. *The Girl with Borrowed Wings*. Maybe it just me being too picky and finicky but I feel that there's a "the" missing there; the absence of which makes the title sound awkward and feel uncomfortably incorrect. It is probably me. I am no grammar queen.

The novel itself is a hotchpotch of contradictions and conflicts. Frenenqer is not an easy character to like or empathize with. In fact, I am of the opinion that I dislike her somewhat intensely but more on that later. The novel starts with a profound assertion of the main character's existence being a result of a thought. Hm. I immediately thought (with no little delight) "She's a Tulp!" No, she's not. This is just Fernie's way of being all melodramatic. Her father who is a tyrant throughout the novel simply decided he would have a daughter. Really, maybe it's just me but the strict rules that Fernie announces with utmost gravity that she lives under does not seem to be as big of a deal as she makes it out to be. She is not beaten. I mean, it is sucky that her father seems to want to rule her to the last strand of hair on her head but he doesn't hit her, he doesn't lock her into her room and he doesn't put bars outside her window which would have been a good idea to portray her father's tyranny. I have friends whose parents are more paranoid and perhaps just as controlling as Fernie's dad is shown to be. Now you are going to counter that physical beating isn't the only way to abuse a child and of course I know that. I do. But there have to be consequences for rebellious behavior in abusive parent/child relationships and here, apart from a stern face and disappointed sighs, there aren't any. So if Fernie doesn't love her parents as she asserts, why do the sighs and faces make any difference to her?

Another thing that bothered me about this novel was the gradual cohesion of an ideal beauty. In this case, it would be what Fernie looks like. The first clue given was that Fernie couldn't go outside without men staring at her with varying degrees of lust. She refused to go outside in fact because she couldn't handle it. And then

later with the appearance of Sangris, there was mention, once and again, of how Fernie was obviously much better in her stick thin self, with her budding breasts and long coltish legs than those plump (fat) girls with doughy hips and you know, curves, ugh. Right? And Fernie, as smart as she was purported to be, going to a multicultural school as she was, couldn't discern for herself that people come in different shapes and there is no one standard size for beauty. To make Fernie beautiful, everyone else (the more common sort of beauty in that part of the world, I guess) becomes ugly. What I don't understand is why more people don't look different because according to the novel, the school is full of expat kids from all around the world.

The multiculturalism provides a nice segue for my next point. There is a point in the novel when dearest Fernie wonders why people celebrate their culture. They are having a heritage day at their school, see, and since Fernie is a global creature with no one culture to belong to, she dislikes the fact that people place importance on their own cultures. This she shows by her less than enthusiastic "representation" of Thai culture and language with emphasis being placed on how none of the items were really "Thai" and the entire thing was, in fact, an amalgamation of products from different countries etc. I wonder how a Thai reader would react to this particular portion of the novel, I really do. Because let me tell you, I was somewhat insulted that diversity, instead of being celebrated, was being knocked. She could have celebrated all of her identities, not picked any one and said she belonged to all. There were so many other ways that this could have gone but no. It didn't.

Fernie treats her best friend like a secretary. No, seriously, she does. It is horrible. She asks her stuff like "what classes do I have today? What am I doing tomorrow?" And the best friend obliges. Oh, she addresses this and excuses herself as saying that she is pushing her best friend to see how far she can go before she breaks. And that's all good and great but don't expect me to like you any more than I did which wasn't very much. Similarly, her relationship with the winged boy is strange. She is so mean and horrible to him and he keeps on returning to her. Why? I certainly do not see what is so great about her. I really don't. There are certain limits a MC cannot cross because to do so makes her less than a main character and more a person I'd like to squash under my thumb. She goes and crosses that line. And no, I'm sorry, I do not buy the justification. A well rounded main character would see the adversity, realize it and still find beauty. Fernie loathes the desert and she lets us know it over and over and over again. There's not one single redeeming quality about the place she lives.

The romance is contrived. The existence of the winged boy is not discussed in any depth and we do not know if the world in which Fernie exists has other creatures like him because the ease with which she accepts this guy/cat/whatever suggests there is but it is not mentioned explicitly. There are barely any other characters worth mentioning and Fernie does have flecks of a Mary Sue in her. A lot of flecks. So I have written almost a thousand words on this book and come to the conclusion that I didn't really like it.

However, I hesitate to write it off completely because as unlikable as Frenenquer is, as unbelievable and illogical the story is, it is still something different. The monsters in this novel all exist inside and it is an internal battle that colours liberty a different shade. So I would advise you to check this out yourself and make up your own mind. You may end up liking this more than I did and well, Sangris was the one redeeming point of the novel. I wish he had fallen in love with the best friend instead.

---

## **Kate says**

Frenenquer (what a name) lives in an isolated oasis in the Middle Eastern desert, under the iron rule of her father. Her father has put her into a little box and she is not allowed to do anything remotely immodest. Then

one day she rescues a cat. A talking cat. A cat who turns out to be a shape-shifting, flying "free person" - someone not even bound by the rules of staying human.

She names the boy Sangris, and despite everything she finds herself enjoying her time spent with him. He takes her to places she's only dreamed about. But is she truly her father's daughter?

This was an interesting story. The setting and culture were strange and unfamiliar and it was interesting to see how the culture of repressed women affected Frenequer, who clearly yearned to be free of all the rules. I grew frustrated with her as she continued to be mean to Sangris, who was clearly in love with her, but happily the story ended well.

---

## Ashleigh says

This book had EVERYTHING going against it....

Stupid names (Frenequer and Sangris)---CHECK

Deep eccentric bookworm protag---CHECK

"Insert Supernatural Dude Here"---CHECK

I was just WAITING for some cheesy dialog and whiny insta-love....the horrible mixture that makes so many paranormal YA Romances so violently unreadable to ruin it...but no. This story was different and surprisingly refreshing!

First reason I like this book; the focus isn't on the relationship between girl and supernatural boy. It is about *freedom*.

Frenequer's name translates to 'restraint' because as she puts it, she wasn't born, her father "thought" her up. In a way, the man truly believes he did. Her father pushes upon her all these expectations and demands--literally trying to warp her very disposition into the ideal daughter. He even writes a list of "rules" she is supposed to study that will make her into the perfect, meek and submissive woman. (I wanted to strangle this man for his ghastly misogynistic views) This psychological torture leaves Frenequer in constant fear of messing up whether it's closing the door too loudly or spilling a droplet of milk on the kitchen table. This is a legitimate form of abuse.

She is not allowed to think for herself. She is not allowed to leave the house (without permission as she is an expat in the Arabian desert) and she is taught to believe that love and affection are disgusting. Frenequer becomes so afraid of disappointing her father, and so utterly deprived of independence that she later fears she does not even *own herself*...

In fact it comes as a complete shock to her when Frenequer defies her father's orders and rescues a dying cat from the animal souk.

This kitty of course turns out to be a shapeshifting boy and her first taste of freedom.

Which leads us to the SECOND reason I enjoyed this book.

The dialogue isn't stupid. The characters in this story talk and act like teenagers. There was no haunting voice

of a long-dead Shakespearean character awkwardly spewing out poetry like so many YA novels. In this story, despite the fantastical aspect of traveling to different worlds on the wings of a magical "Free Person" I could almost believe the banter between the two characters. It was as if they realized how absurd their friendship was and they sarcastically went along with it just for the ride.

And their friendship was believable! At first Frenequer didnt know what to make of this naked boy climbing out her window but she certainly didnt instantaneously fall in love with him! She said--and I quote--"I think I should scream now..." And he in turn responded with a perfectly rational fear of being exposed. Their later run-ins could be attributed to their overall curiosity towards each other. Frenequer, a caged yet completely unattached girl could genuinely relate to Sangris (as she named him) the nameless, family-less rule-less Free Person who was caged in his own sense because he was completely and utterly alone.

As they came to understand they were almost one and the same.

I honestly laughed at their conversations. It was sweet to watch the great and powerful Sangris slowly fall in love with Frenequer and even more comical to see Nenner's (Sangris' nickname for Frenequer) halfhearted attempts to deter him from confessing his love for her. (She sent him on a mission to retrieve falafel from Puerto Rico just to stall the conversation)

Which leads to the THIRD reason I enjoyed this story.

For ONCE there was finally a character who was genuinely unable to love. She was not suppressing feelings for Sangris, nor was she in denial that he loved her. Frenequer was simply incapable of loving someone because she didnt know how. This leaves her feeling ashamed of his kisses and afraid of his advances. The nudging finger of her puritan-like father was still digging at her make-believe wings. Love was shameful, disgusting and irrational. Frenequer tried everything to ignore Sangris' affections and deter him with insults and borderline cruelty but he was determined to hand over his heart. But as he later realized, she couldnt give him herself because she wasnt her own to give.

It takes a YEAR to finally work up the nerve to face her father and understand that he was not omnipotent. She had to do that to finally see that she was her own person.

Thankfully a certain shapeshifter was harassing her comically robotic school-friend for news about her the entire time they were apart. That being said, the story has a happy ending.

I just really REALLY liked this story. I might even buy it after reading it at the library; it was that wonderful. It was funny, insightful and worth reading a second time. (And third, and fourth, and maybe fifth and sixth like Frenequer as I too live in the desert--in California but a desert no less!)

My faith in books with 16 year old protagonists has been restored!

Thank you Ms. Rinsai Rossetti, I'll be keeping an eye out for other books under your name! :)

---



## Bree says

Couldn't finish

---

## Octobercountry says

I've just finished reading "The Girl with Borrowed Wings"---isn't that a lovely title?---by Rinsai Rossetti.

How to describe this? It's a rather odd story, no doubt about it. At once we're plunged into a description of this terribly restricted life in a small middle-eastern town, bound and dominated by the harsh desert. But when the heroine rescues an unusual cat trapped in a cage and dying of the heat at a crowded animal bazaar, then the magic begins. Because it turns out this is no cat at all---Sangris can take many forms, though one of his most common is as a impossibly wild and beautiful winged young man. And together they begin a journey down a sometimes difficult road to friendship---and something more?

I confess that I wasn't particularly taken with the heroine. She was so repressed and cowed, so emotionally and socially stunted and inhibited, that I really did lose patience with her. Okay, I know her difficulties in relating to others was kind of the POINT of the entire story, and a quite natural result of her extremely restricted (and frankly emotionally abusive) home life. (Her father really is awful, and the mother isn't much better.) So---I did feel for her, but at the same time I just wanted to say "Snap out of it!" (Yes, not very helpful I know.)

However, the enigmatic Sangris helped make up for a certain lack of interest in the female lead. Many aspects of his past and the world he comes from really did remain a mystery right through the end. I found myself wanting to know much more about him, though I can't say the ending (with its lack of full disclosure) was disappointing at all. To the contrary, it was quite satisfying.

The book is beautifully written, but to be honest I can't quite guess how other people will react to it. But as for me---yep, in the end I did like it and will recommend it.

I had to think about the cover image a bit---at first I thought they could have come up with something more imaginative for the dust jacket, given the content of the story---something much richer. But on the other hand, I do like the symbolism---and there's a mysterious bit of the image on the back that doesn't show up in this scan.

---

## Emma Looker says

Personal response

\*Spoiler alert\*

At first, I thought this book was kind of boring, but then it started to get pretty interesting the more I read. The main character is a very strong person because of how she put up with her awful father every day amazed me honestly. This book had many ups and downs that were really exciting and intense.

Plot summary

In the beginning, the main character, Frenenqer Paje, explains how she came to be. She lives in a desert place

called the oasis, where her father controls her every move. Frenenqer goes to this shop with her parents where people were selling animals and all kinds of goods. In one of the cat cages, Frenenqer notices that the cat is sick and almost dying, so she tells the shopkeeper and he throws the cat out. She goes and picks him up and takes him with her. Her father is totally against it, but she stands up to him and gets to keep the cat. Well, that night it turns out the cat was actually a free person in the shape of a cat. She makes friends with him and he takes her flying with him at night to all different country's. In her home, there is no love so Frenenqer feels like she can't love anyone. Sangris, the free person, tells her he loves her and she rejects him. He doesn't come back and it turns out he's been talking to her best friend Anji. Frenenqer stands up to her father and she tells him she loves him. She goes back to Anji's place and when Sangris comes she greets him. She tells him she loves him and they make up.

#### Recommendations

I recommend this book to people who have a hard time finding good books. I wouldn't recommend this book to someone who likes horror and dark books. I also think someone who likes happy endings would like this book because it has a pretty good ending.

---

#### Alexa says

My review can also be found on my blog [Collections](#).

Before I started *The Girl With Borrowed Wings*, my sole reason for wanting to read it was the cover. It easily lured me in, and I couldn't stop thinking about what kind of story could be inside a book with such a vibrant and gorgeous cover. Reading the summary made my curiosity grow even more. There are tons of books out there with amazing covers but with stories that don't live up to their covers' greatness. I had a good feeling about *The Girl With Borrowed Wings* though, and while it took some time for me to fall in love completely, it ended up being much more satisfying than I expected.

I wasn't prepared for this story at all. It really surprised me. The first couple of chapters were interesting, but I admit I wasn't exactly wow-ed. I remembered thinking, 'Where is this all going?' I came in with some expectations and was nervous when none were met right away. All I had to do was wait and be patient, though, because this story eventually crept up on me. I remember the exact moment when I suddenly realized I was in love with this book. It was an amazing feeling! However, at the same time, the moment I realized how much I cared was a moment during the book that had my heart breaking into pieces. It was very bittersweet.

In the beginning, it almost sounded like the main character Frenenqer was a wingless angel and that her father was God. I started believing that was the case because of the cover. This book actually wasn't about angels, but in a way, the father and God comparison was true. Frenenqer was an isolated and lonely girl who wanted to be free and her father was a controlling bastard with twisted ideas. I desperately wanted her father to be thrown over a cliff into crocodile-infested water. I wanted Frenenqer to take Sangris (who will I get to in a bit) up on his offer to rip her father to shreds. I don't think I've ever hated a character as much as I hated Frenenqer's father. In his goal to create the perfect daughter, he came off as an emotionless, out-of-touch prick. I won't say more because you'll have to see for yourself. Besides, it's time to focus on better things, like what made this book for me: Frenenqer and Sangris.

Frenenquer was a complicated character. It's almost hard to describe her. Although she acted docile around her father to please him, she wasn't timid and spineless in the least. She desired freedom above all else. The thing was, if she truly had the chance to be free, would she actually take it? And because of the way her parents treated her, she lacked certain emotions. Or she believed she wasn't capable of certain emotions. Like love. It made her seem like she was uncaring of others, but deep down she knew she cared. It made her a really frustrating person at times. There were some moments where I wanted to shake some sense into her because I believed she was being completely unfair. But I understood why she acted the way she did. And there were some moments where I wanted to hug and comfort her. So, it all balanced out, and I grew to really admire her character.

Her relationship with Sangris was the highlight of the novel for me. It was the reason why I fell in love with this book. Sangris is a Free person. Free people are capable of shape-shifting and traveling to any world they want. Although Free people tend to keep to themselves, Sangris wasn't afraid or uncomfortable to let Frenenquer in. He was an open book with her and couldn't help hanging around. He was fascinated and curious, even though Nenner (his nickname for her) was cold to him a lot of the time. After he started taking her to exotic cities and worlds so that she could experience freedom, it was clear that he had feelings for her. And that underneath all that sarcasm and mischievousness Sangris was really sweet and loved deeply. He was capable of all the feelings Frenenquer lacked, and he helped her see what she was missing. It was strange that, although their personalities and views were different, they still were able to understand each other in a way that no one else did. It was a special bond. I wish I could go on and on about them, especially Sangris, but just know that they were perfect together and their interactions with each other were my favorite parts of the novel.

As I got closer and closer to the end of *The Girl With Borrowed Wings*, I was not only scared of what would happen but also sad that it was almost over. I didn't want it to end. Thankfully the ending didn't destroy my heart like I feared, and I could see just how much Frenenquer had changed. It was wonderful to read. *The Girl With Borrowed Wings* was just the type of story that I needed to read. While I can't say everyone will fall in love with this book the way I did, I thought the story ended in a way that everyone could appreciate. It brought a huge smile to my face and got me close to tears. It was a story that resulted in pure happiness and love, and one that I can't recommend enough.

---

## **Victoria says**

I've read quite a few good books this year, including one or two that aren't part of series, or are debut novels. But I think this may be the best one yet. The story is simple, but it's one of those times when "simple" makes the story that much more powerful.

Frenequer Paje belongs nowhere, can claim no nationality or birthright. From the beginning she has been her father's creature, bowed down under the weight of his impossible expectations and trapped in a cycle of suffocation within her own small home in the middle of the desert. Sometimes she swears she can feel wings struggling to break free, but so long as she is smothered by her parents, freedom is only a faraway dream.

And then Frenequer, in a small fit of rebellion, rescues a dying cat from an animal market. That night, she awakes to find a lean, black-haired, yellow-eyed, winged boy climbing out her window. And suddenly freedom is within grasp, because that boy is a Free Person, a being born without walls or rules in their bodies, minds, and spirits. And he's willing to show her the world that exists outside the desert and beyond. But the walls holding Frenequer are not just the ones in her house, and the barriers erected by fear,

repression, and shame will take much more than one boy's wings to surmount.

This is one of those books where I feel I can use words like '*lovely*', '*lyrical*', '*triumphant*', and '*heartbreaking*' to describe it, and it isn't flowery exaggeration. The prose is breathtaking, especially because it's written in the first person. And the first person window is used here to the fullest; you live through every sweet, painful, beautiful, conflicted thought and moment with Frenequer inside and outside her mind. When she struggles, you struggle. When she feels, you feel. You see what she sees, and that is what a truly well-done first person novel is made to do. The sensory detail is balanced perfectly with internal feeling, the showing with telling; it's just unreal. This is one of the few books I've read where all the components together make it feel almost poetic, although it's written as a novel.

And my gods, the *romance*. I read books like this and I wonder how I could stand to read one of those bland cookie cutter romances ever again. The relationship that forms between Frenequer and the mischievous, innocent, playful, wild boy she names Sangris is just...incredible. I would say very, very near perfection. The arc of it is rich with development, power, and honest conflict. There are no invented, forced relationship bumps here, and for once internal struggles take precedence over external forces. And every step of their road, whether it be forward, backward, or sideways, resonated through every one of my emotions. As for the "swoonworthy" side of it, please look no further. Rossetti is not trying to make this romance steamy or doe-eyed; it is far too deep and important for that. But she, as few authors have ever seemed to be able to, writes the interactions between Frenequer and Sangris as charged with something soft, fragile, fierce, intimate, and aching *human*. It was just something that needs to be experienced, as I honestly think words are not adequate here.

And upon seeing how few reviews *The Girl With the Borrowed Wings* has and thinking of how I only discovered it through a small glowing review in a local newspaper, I realize how *severely* underrated it is, and I hope this review will encourage others to add this gorgeous novel to their to-read list.

---

## **Jen Sainty says**

I had already checked other person's reviews before starting the book, and I saw rave reviews, and some mediocre. I must say I'm not disappointed and I found it to be a great book. It ended on a happy note, so that may have upset some who love tragedy. While the romance in the book did get a bit melodramatic at some points, I didn't find it largely overdone; in fact, it appealed to my inner romantic female.

I loved Rinsai Rossetti's writing style. She has the gift of lovely, flowery, descriptive language, that not all writers possess, with quotable lines like,

"He. Does there have to be a he? It seems weak and unoriginal doesn't it, for stories told by girls to always have a he?"

and

"The hard thin body of my childhood was just beginning to miraculously soften like the cracked ground of wadi when rain falls."

Her description, as I mentioned, also initially drew me in,

"Pale sky, white land; like somewhere past the end of the world"

All in all, a good read.

---

## Soumi says

*"I am unlike most other people because I began, not in the body of my mother, but in the brain of my father. He invented me, you see. He sat down one day and dreamed me up. I started out as no more than a figment of his imagination"*

The Girl with Borrowed Wings is completely different from any other books I have recently read. I found the book thoughtful work of young adult literature where we see a soul is caged on her own body, controlled by her father. The Girl with Borrowed Wings is story of Frenenquer Paje, a sixteen years old girl who wants to fly away with her imaginary wings and be free of her father's strict control. Her father wants her to be the daughter he always dreamed off, a daughter who will follow his footstep and be the most obedient one. As an act of rebellion, she brought a sick cat home and the cat turned out to be a shape shifter boy with wings and who can really fly. The closer they got, the more Frenenquer got taste of a life without fear, a life out of her father's control and soon she started questioning herself about the life she lived, about her feelings and newly grown friendship.

The Girl with Borrowed Wings is the story how Frenenquer found her wings and learn to fly, how she learn to fight back against everything that has hold her back. She learned to confront her isolation, showing her emotions. Her whole life has been something only planned by her father and I liked her transformation from a puppet to a girl. I adore the author's imagination power, I must say reading the from Frenenquer's perspective, it feels like all real, not a story I'm reading. We see the joy of first love and fear of accepting her feelings.

Always obedient Frenenquer lived a restricted life, now when she broke free of parental bond she realized what freedom mean and what the person who gave set her free means to her. The romance was not overdone; it was rather smooth and sweet.

It was really a pleasure to witness the girl with imaginary wings finally broke free. I felt Girl with Borrowed Wings is not only a fantasy, it's actually reality told behind mask of a fantastic fantasy.

---

## Jessica says

**I could not put this book down and ended up finishing it in only 3 hours.**

Frenenquer (I understand it is pronounced Fren-in-qar (like car but with a q) but I may be wrong) was created in her father's thoughts unlike other children. Her father one day wanted a daughter, a perfect, ideal, submissive, daughter who would bring beauty into the world. In order to create this ideal daughter there were rules, strict rules. No slamming doors, no reading too much, milk should not drip from the spoon, silence, do not slouched, no romantic ideas.

And then one day Frenenquer discovers a world unlike her own. No rules to abide by, free to fly, run, yell, get dirty and she discovers this all through a boy who lives in a completely different world.

**This review contains a few spoilers.**

Should I write about the good or the bad first? Hmmm... Let us go with the bad and get the very few things out the way.

I'm not completely sure if it was Rossetti's idea to leave the father detached from the story, even though he was the main cause of grief in Frenenqer's life, or if it was on purpose to give us, the readers, a sense on how he appeared even to his daughter. There was no real insight to how he became his strict self, how he became.... well... an asshole really. I would have loved to read a little bit more about him before he wanted to have the 'ideal daughter'. The same goes with the mother, and while the story doesn't centre on either of them I believe that there was so much that could have been said.

### **How I would react if my father tried to take my books away.**

One other thing was the whole (view spoiler).

Now, I don't consider myself ignorant of the Middle Eastern culture, well at least on the main points, but I'm pretty sure that even showing the soles of your feet is considered rude. So that fact that Sangris practically begs to (view spoiler) just threw me off for a little bit.

### **Now for the good!**

This book is beautiful. I'm not even talking about the cover, or well that is amazing as well, but the story itself is just filled to the brim with all sorts. We have a teenage girl who is controlled by her strict, domineering, father and a mother who seems to just exist. And along comes a boy who shows her the world.

In the end this book is simply about learning to love when all you've ever been told is that love is wrong.

### **How I imagine Frenenqer standing in front of the mirror in the last few pages summoning up the courage to go and see Sangris.**

---