

My POV.....
by Sarah Heath

It seems that William Burt's series, *The King of the Trees*, just keeps getting better and better with each book I read! *The Downs* is filled with self-sacrifice, redemption, and love. In *The Downs*, the reader finds himself in a world where things may not always be quite what they seem.

I love that with each book in *The King of the Trees*, Burt chooses to focus on a different facet of his literary world. This installment is set in the land of one of Gaelathane's creations, the Faeries. I truly enjoyed this tale, as William Burt has a unique take on what seems to almost be a fantasy novel staple: Faeries. He has fleshed out their history and traditions in a way not many fantasy authors do. Because of their world's fallen nature, as they age, the faeries lose their wings. Unable to discover the cure to prevent their wings from disappearing, these "slipwings," as they are called, must walk the earth, disguised as a normal person. Owen, the son of a shepherd, stumbles upon their land by mistake and finds himself caught up in a law that cannot be overlooked. He, along with his sparrow companion, must each learn to embrace who they truly are and what their destiny holds for them.

I think there's a little part of every girl (or woman!) that loves faeries, and I am no exception. Unlike what you may expect, the Faeries in *The Downs* are a much more "grown up" version than the fairies you'll find in Peter Pan or on the Disney channel. They are more reminiscent of the wise Elves in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. *The Downs* is, so far, my personal favorite in the series. I found that it satisfied the hopeless romantic in me but didn't place so much importance on the romance aspect that it lost its true roots as a fantasy novel. Highly recommended!