



Isabel: Taking Wing

Annie Dalton , Mark Elliott (Illustrator)

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London, 1592

Girls must always be good and stay at home. But when you are a boy, the whole world can be your home. Men build houses and ships and sail off to discover strange new lands. But women must stay indoors, sewing stitches so fine that no one will ever see them. Our work is only visible if we do it badly. Aunt Elinor says I must be ladylike, like Sabine. But I will never be like Sabine in a thousand years...

Isabel: Taking Wing Details

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Tarissa says

No one knows it more than Isabel Campion that life is not very thrilling for a young girl living in London, England in 1592. Leaving her frustrations at home, she finally decides to make her own adventure, even though she knows it's risky. However, taking that risk just might be the beginning of the change of pace she was looking for. Her dreams just might be in reach.

The author did an excellent job of incorporating just enough facts about the time period, and about their daily lifestyle, that the entire story seemed very realistic.

I loved everything about the book and I would read it again in a heartbeat!

Amie says

This was pretty good. I feel Elizabethan England is a common topic for middle grade books, but it's hard to get right. It took a while for the drama to unfold, but once it starts, it doesn't stop. I wish these characters had several books like the original American Girl series. I'd like to see if Isabel meets Meg's brother again.

Megan says

An amazing story! Isabel dreams of freedom and adventure, especially now that her sister is to be married, and all the household chores will fall on Isabel. But when Isabel sneaks a chance to play, it ends up in disaster. Isabel's found out, and her father sends her away, to Isabel's aunt, that she hardly knows. On the way, Isabel is attacked by brigands. They leave her alive, but completely alone. A band of traveling players takes Isabel long with them-disguised as a boy for safety. Isabel knows that the life of an actor is only temporary and ultimately not for her. But what is?

Kelly says

I believe I have tried to read this once before. I found it quite dull, but this time around I enjoyed it. The beginning is rather slow, but it picks up. It is a gentle view of some dark topics. I love the mood of the book. The slight dreariness of the Elizabethan times comes out very well.

Spoiler: I was quite upset that there was not a scene where Kit comes back at the very end. That would have been a sweet romantic ending.

Rosa says

Isabel is a girl who lives in the 1500's in Europe. She must be living like the proper girl she is expected to live like; following all rules and staying at home helping around the house. Though she doesn't like it, she dreams of going out onto the world and exploring. One day she goes sneeks out and comes back late at night all wet. This forces her father to send her away to live with her aunt to help her with her patients.

Kaetlyn says

I like "Isabel Taking Wing" because she wants have fun and do things a different way than she has to do them. I like that she doesn't want to be like a another person that's not like she is. I like that she helps her sister from dieing. I don't like that her father sent her away from home were she lives to her aunt she doesn't really know and has only seen two times.

Leilani says

A Girl who lives in england and her mom had died when she was little, and her sister had been terribly sick, she meets a servant and plays with her, then she has to be sent to her aunt beacuse her dad is running low on money and her poor little sister is so sick plus she made a bad choice... on her way 2 her Aunts she falls of her horse and gets lost missing her little sister not knowing if she is still alive! THIS IS SOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO GREAT!

Katy says

Loved this book. I like how it goes from Christmas to spring to summer to the time of the fever. I love the adventure Isabel takes to get to her aunt's house. Although, she did have to go through a lot of trouble on that journey. The servant that was taking her to her aunt's dies and she finds a frind from town who is going the same place she is and she has to pretend to be a boy to go with him and his group. This isn't the only thing the book is about. I love the friendship that Meg and Isabel have and I think that they became friends not only because Isable has been longing for a riendship but that she has a heart for this poor dirty servant girl. The books ends on a wonderful sweet sad-happy tone.

Janet says

I really enjoyed this book. It was very uplifting and a very good read. Any young girl would like this book. {Or young at heart} It was refreshing and a great change from the other books that I have been reading. I loved the time period it was set in Old London 1800's. Isabel was a great charactor. I will check into other books by Annie Dalton.

Sydney says

this is a great book, but I though that Cecile: Gates of Gold was much better. There was just something about

the writing style, and the way things flowed in this book that was different. otherwise I really enjoyed this book.

Joanna says

This is my favorite among this series and I highly recommend it. It has been a while since I have read it but I remember really liking it and that it was a very powerful if not a little sad but amazing.

Molly says

Isabel is a very imaginative girl, who longs for adventure, but has no idea what "finding adventure" altogether entails. In her story Isabel learns, bravery, courage, hardwork, and by the end of the novel is learning how to be a lady.

I personally don't understand the mindset present in the time period of always having to obey the rules, when it's proven that most of the good things in this book happen when Isabel defies the rules, (although usually she is forced to do it by the circumstances).

All in all it was a very good story, perfect for younger girls.

Sean Harding says

First of multi author series describing life for different girls in different time periods from different countries, looked good, and was easy to read, but was pretty forgettable in content and not that interesting over all.

Sarah Crawford says

This novel is about a girl in 1592 London named Isabel, sort of a tomboyish girl who does not fit her father's image of a "proper" girl. She makes friends with a servant (a definite no-no), and even has the audacity to watch a play at the theater.

In response, her father sends her away to stay with an aunt for a while to learn how to behave in a proper manner. Along the way she ends up in a situation with robbers, is rescued, then has to disguise herself as a boy to join a group of theatrical performers.

She has a really good time doing that but eventually makes it to her aunts, finding out that her aunt's idea of what a "proper" young girl should be like doesn't exactly match the image that her father had.

The novel also shows some of the fear that existed over the various plagues that struck Europe during that time. Most of the "doctors" of that time were not really doctors by our present-day standards. Indeed, many of the "wise women" of the times, knowledgeable in the study of herbs, were better able to handle sickness than the so-called doctors who believed that illness was caused by "bad blood" and who would bleed those who were ill, in effect lowering their chances for survival.

Overall a pretty good book.

Emily says

3.5 stars

I remember this being one of, if not my favorite girls of many lands book when I read them originally in middle school. I can see why I liked it. A lot happened. And I think it was written well for the targeted audience. As an adult I feel the beginning was slow. Which I also think I must've thought when I was in middle school. And that the most eventful parts of the story such as Isabel's time with the traveling actors was too short and I wanted more. But that's coming from an adult reader. I think it is enough for younger readers. I liked reading about her time with her aunt in the country. It was nice to see her live happily and comfortably for the first time in the novel. As a character she seemed like a great person and I think she deserved that. I would've liked the ending to bring her family in London together with her aunt living in the clean and pretty county so that Isabel could continue to care for her family and be with her family but also pursue her dreams of learning medicine and working with her Merlin. I also think after reading someone else's review that it would've been nice to know if she and kit ever saw each other again.
