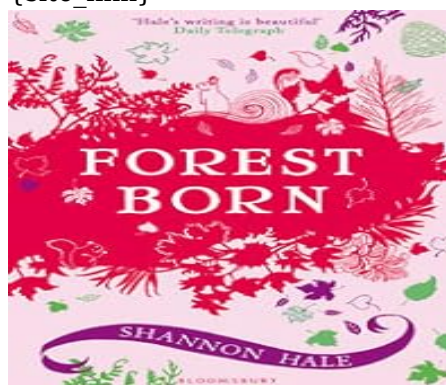


Forest Born By Shannon Hale After I turned the last page I decided right there and then that one day I'm going to re-read the whole series again and cross my fingers that Shannon Hale will get the notion to make one more. Rin's story was a bit difficult to read because at one point you just feel just as defeated as her and beat down but you just know that somehow they all will figure something out. :) So overall absolutely amazing! I suggest it to any fan of the series and if you haven't read the Book of Bayern yet I highly suggest you pick them up next time you're at the library. As she learns more about the three women's magical talents she finds her own strength comes from places both expected - the forest - and unexpected - the sound of her own voice. A brilliant addition to the Books of Bayern this book is a treat for fans of this series and stands alone for readers who might be discovering the joys of Shannon Hale's writing for the first time. Forest Born Shannon Hale is the New York Times best selling author of six young adult novels: the Newbery Honor book Princess Academy multiple award winner Book of a Thousand Days and the highly acclaimed Books of Bayern series. How can you identify with someone who's determined to be nothing and changes her personality to fit in with whoever she's speaking to? I think the book would have been far more interesting if Hale had focused on Rin's people-speaking and explored what it's like having such power when you want to be a good person. But I like that Forest Born was about trusting yourself and allowing yourself to blossom and walk in the sunlight and be powerful especially after so long of hiding in the shadows and pretending to be nothing. In the interval I've changed my own self-perception a lot both via the 'normal' self exploration of college and via diagnoses for depression and anxiety - so it was weirdly comforting to come back to this book and remember that years ago before I realized what was going on in my brain I read Rin's story as an allegory for depression and that it still holds true now. I know there are some people who don't find this book very engaging either for the passivity of the protagonist or the slowness of its movement but for me those aspects are really key. Rin is in the painful position of not knowing much about who she is except the parts she hates and that draws her inward to a greater degree than any of the other Bayern protagonists. Rin's slow path to self-acceptance and forward progress while resolved a bit more neatly than actual depression was genuinely comforting to read and I appreciated that her emotional resolution didn't come through the resolution of the external plot but from intense reflection. This isn't to say that the male characters aren't good at things but that it's refreshing to read books where ladies take the lead and their beaux serve in support roles since it's so often the other way around. Not only that but the friendship between the 'fire sisters' and Rin is one of the central emotional touchstones of the book and most of the external catalysts for Rin's growth are female characters. Shannon Hale really does do a great job of writing not only diverse compelling female characters but also of writing friendships and support between them and that is so important and so rare. Isi has become a mother and a queen Enna has learned to love herself and others Razo has come to understand that even normal people hold great power and finally Rin learned that it is the person who makes gifts what they are not the gift itself. This is one of my favorite series and I was so excited to read Rinna's story: So I was surprised that I just didn't like this one as much as the others: I'll start by saying that if you read and enjoyed the first three books then you should read this one, Rin is Razo's little sister and the main character of the story: She has spent her entire life in the forest living in the shadow of her mom: She finally decides to visit the big city and to try and figure out who she is, Rin was always comparing herself to those around her especially the strong Isi Enna and Dasha: She has the ability to people-speak although she doesn't know what that is until the end of the book: She thinks there is something horribly wrong with her and is constantly down, With the example of her mom and the other three girls she tries to be good and to do the right thing, She learns to have confidence in herself trust her abilities and learns to stop looking at others and to be her own person. Below are some of the things I didn't like about Forest Born it does contain spoilers so read at your own risk. All the other books had that aspect and I really feel that Hale messed up by leaving that out, Each of the previous books have a fairy-tale feel to them especially Goose Girl,

Although it's not the main point of the stories it really adds a lot to each one: We hear about a neighbor boy Wilem throughout the story I kept hoping maybe something would happen with him at least but NOTHING: And come to think of it there really wasn't a lot of closure with that storyline either, I would have appreciated an additional chapter where Rinna has to face Wilem: Second it felt like the book was mainly recapping the previous stories: Even the "villains" were characters from old books and so the whole thing felt repetitive and kind of unoriginal. I love Isi Enna Dasha and Razo but they really stole the show from Rinna. It was more their story than hers and because of their overshadowing I really didn't feel like I got to know Rinna or appreciate her growth. Maybe because of the missing love element or because her abilities were so weak it just felt blah for me: So the overall feel of the book was just kind of boring for me, Maybe I'm being too harsh and I do think if you've read the other three books you should read this one as well: Paperback I don't know why every single time I pick up one of these books I'm always surprised that it draws me in so quickly, Though I should add that really like with the other books it can stand alone and ends well, For the fourth book of Bayern we get to explore the life of Razo's little sister Rin, Rin is the good girl Ma's favorite child and Razo's best friend, Rin can listen to the trees but what really eats her is a secret that she's been hiding for too long: Unbeknownst to her that secret she harbors will be a key part in saving the great Kingdom of Bayern. Every book a building block in the knowledge of this world: I feel like this place actually exists and that really is creating magic. Plenty of Razo Finn Geric Dasha Enna and Isi to go around in this story and I appreciated that. You kind of grow up with them and see how they've changed but also keep true to themselves: The plot had great pacing but I won't go into that so you can be good and surprised once you read it: I feel in a way that I have a kinship to Bayern and will always root for them, I love the pride that Rin Razo Enna and Finn have being Forest born as they should, By the end of the story Forest born Rin learns that being your true self sometimes takes time to find out but that's ok and just part of the road we all go through, Characters re-enacting their same idiosyncrasies endlessly--every time they open their mouths: One of the characters was so repetitious and persistent that I skimmed whatever he said toward the end of the book, There is also a very strong and frightening co-dependency that is only given a passing nod rather than actually being dealt with: Through most of the book the main character is addressed in a condescending mocking or set-apart manner--like she's not a real person: Her brother is the worst culprit yet she's supposed to love him more than anyone: It's like every time Hale wrote a line that could be interpreted in a different way she turned it into a joke, And the joking manner of the females and how the males love them best when they are angry or murderous--not funny either:)The writing is loose and baggy; it reads like an early draft, The great thing about her first novel Goose Girl was that she had obviously reworked the story and rewritten it until it was truly finished. Go rewrite it a few times and then we'll see if it's more fully formed: Let's get it in print and make more money! I think I'm done with Hale: Unless someone whose taste I trust recommends something by her I think I'll just let her go by now, Paperback I almost feel guilty giving this five stars after reading Shannon's latest blogs on star-ratings but I can't help myself! This book, I cannot BELIEVE how much I loved this book! It was different then her other books: I felt like she wrote this book specifically for me; it's taken such a special part in my heart: The story was original intriguing and the POV made the feeling absolutely relatable heart-wrenching and magical: What I love is even after their books are over Shannon's supporting characters continue to grow. For example in this book you see how Isi has kept growing, Same with Enna and Razo and Finn and Dasha and even Conrad makes an appearance in this book that I appreciated. Paperback A bit repetitive at times but a wonderful end to this series, Paperback Rin Razo's little sister is haunted by the forest she has always loved: When Razo invites her back to the city to be one of Queen Ani's waiting women she happily accepts . only to end up on the adventure of her lifetime following the queen Enna and Dasha into the countryside in search of a fire-starting enemy that no one can see: She has written three books for adults including the upcoming Midnight in Austenland (Jan: She co wrote the hit graphic novel Rapunzels Revenge and its sequel Calamity Jack with husband Dean Hale, They live near Salt Lake City Utah with their four small children and their pet a small plastic pig: She has

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A disappointing end to the Books of Bayern quartet, Having heard about Razo's little sister Rinna in earlier books I was looking forward to seeing what she was like as a character: I don't have *River Secrets* to hand but in that book Razo describes his sister as someone annoying that you can't help loving. From that I assumed that Rin would actually have a personality but no. Instead it was all about Rin's tree-speaking which -- given that trees are inanimate objects -- led to lots of one-sided rumination on Rin's part,) Her internal struggle that runs through most of the book was desperately boring, Rin discovering that she could move in slow-motion seemed utterly ridiculous: Why did tree-speaking even have to have a ~power~ in the first place? Just so Hale could write a climactic scene like something out of the Matrix I suspect: Also the idea of tree-speaking balancing out people-speaking didn't sit quite right with me, It's just a shame it was smothered by a dull and repetitive story: I have to say I was as impressed as Razo by the term fire sisters, Love the lips not the ribs? Seriously?) Speaking of cringing I'm not fond of reading scenes with young children like when Tusken is all Win! Win! to get Rin's attention, There were endless descriptions of Rin cuddling/kissing him and the games they played all day long: And now for the big spoiler: I HATED that it was Selia! Selia was behind everything! Selia started the war Selia did this Selia did that. Revealing that there was a big villain behind the scenes all along made it less real: Instead of there being larger forces at work -- the Tiran war Ledel training his own fire-speakers -- it was all down to Selia. Whatever happened to shades of grey and everyone having their own motivation? Selia can't be the only evil person in the world: Before this revelation it felt like there was a whole WORLD in these books with hundreds of stories and threads and plot intertwining -- and now, Now it was all Selia lol~*~ Paperback I'm so sad this series is over!!!! It's been a long time since I've binged a series but I loved every second, It had so much excitement! I didn't like that Rin never found love though, □ Paperback I first read this book years ago as a galley and I haven't reread it since, All of Hale's leading ladies struggle with internal conflict but Rin's is one of the most complex simply because she has so little sense of self, She's not like Isi whose conflicts are mirrored directly by external factors or like Enna's dramatic troubles: As someone who often feels like there's nothing good to me that really resonates. Another factor that I loved about this book - and one of the things that keeps me coming back to this series - is the complete narrative dominance of the heroines: There are several points where they literally send their male love interests away because the women are more capable of handling the problems at hand than the men: I would be remiss not to mention Selia's presence here which I honestly loved: Seeing her from Rin's perspective made her much more rounded and nuanced and Rin's analysis of where her endless desire for power came from made me almost sympathetic towards her: Her ending was a bit ignominious but I can see the rationale for not letting any of the main characters kill her and it did resolve the plot neatly. One last thing: The chemistry between Isi and Enna continues to be so strong, You can tell me Enna's in love with Finn as much as you want but they're just not as potent as Isi and Enna together, Paperback Having grown up in a large family I could instantly identify with Rin. She is the youngest agget-kin

and just does not know where she fits: How many of us do this? We try to figure out what our parents brothers sisters friends want us to be and we try to imitate that. She was introspective and aware that she is not the only one that matters. I feel like I have watched the characters grow up and change. And frequently her message is that we can do hard things, I also believe that there are people who have people-speaking, I have met them and they will destroy those that are closest to them, I wish when I was a teenager I could have spotted these people better and then I could have avoided them: There are new girls in town and they can actually kick butt[1]

I had really high hopes for this one. I loved meeting up with Isi Enna Dasha and Razo. I also liked the cover. First there is no romance in this story. Leaving that part out made for less interesting reading. Third the whole ending was kind of anticlimactic. I just had my expectations too high. She can do no wrong but Rin knows the truth. Hale is just perfect at world building. She gets better every time. Paperback Belabored. Drawn out. Page after page saying the same plot piece. The humor in the book tries way too hard. It gets old. Fast. (Condescending toward all the women again. Not this one. Slap-dash. In short Hale's editor failed her. Her editor should have said This is a good idea Shannon. You have some good moments. But instead her editor said Great another book. Too many disappointments in a row. Goose Girl is still her best book. BY FAR. oh my goodness. Let me try to put this into words. Shannon Hale has outdone herself. again. so much more internal conflict. The writing was wonderful. Of course. Enough said. Rin was a wonderful character who I absolutely love. She was a very different voice in the series. 2012) companion book to Austenland. 2012) companion book to Austenland. She was completely bland. (And by rumination I mean wangst. That's a good message. I cringed every time I read it. (Not that Razo was much better. Considering this is a teen book it seemed out of place. It made everything from the previous books seem cheap. It's such a cop-out. Paperback It was the most twisted plot! I loved it. So she imitates. Rin was grown up for her age of 15. Very unlike normal teenagers. I enjoyed this book the most out of the bayern series. Shannon Hale writes fairy tales for the teenage girl. That is something lost in our culture. Yet the ones they hurt keep coming back. A very worthwhile read! Move over Cinderella and Snow White. Paperback.