



2009

# Forest Born

Ruth-Anne Brown

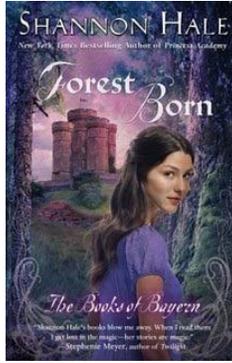
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Brown, Ruth-Anne (2009) "Forest Born," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 30 : Iss. 1 , Article 25.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol30/iss1/25>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).



Hale, Shannon. *Forest Born*. Bloomsbury, 2009. ISBN 9781599901671. \$17.99. 389 p.

Reviewer: Brown, Ruth-Anne

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy fiction; Fairy tales;

Subject: Fairy tales; Human-plant relationships--Juvenile fiction; Self-esteem--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Rinna was born in the forest and can understand the trees. She can read a feeling or a lie by looking someone in the face. However, she keeps something inside, afraid that if she lets her secret out, she will become a monster. Rinna has the power of people-speaking, and after using this power to talk a boy into kissing her, Rinna feels wrong. She goes with her older brother Razo to the palace of Bayern to serve Queen Isi as a nursery maid. Rinna is suspicious of one of the other maids, and it turns out this maid was trying to kidnap the prince, Tusken. The maid was working for Selia, a powerful people-speaker and old enemy of Queen Isi, who is determined to take Isi's crown, child, and life. Rinna allows herself to use her gifts in order to overthrow Selia.

The theme of confidence in yourself is woven through the story. Rinna is afraid of what she will become through people-speaking, so she emulates those around her. She shuts up her true self deep inside. Eventually, Rinna forgives herself for past mistakes and strives to use her talents for good. She realizes her power, but chooses self-control. She seeks out the boy she hurt and makes things right. Rinna uses persuasion and her gift of reading people to build up the confidence and strength of others in need. This story will inspire readers to be their best selves.

Volume 30, no. 1 (September/October 2009)