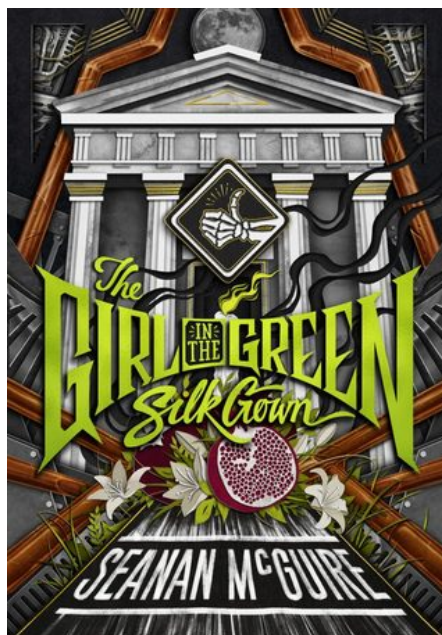




The Girl in the Green Silk Gown

Seanan McGuire

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The second book in the Ghost Roads series returns to the highways of America, where hitchhiking ghost Rose Marshall continues her battle with her killer--the immortal Bobby Cross.

*Once and twice and thrice around,
Put your heart into the ground.
Four and five and six tears shed,
Give your love unto the dead.
Seven shadows on the wall,
Eight have come to watch your fall:
One's for the gargoyles, one's for the grave,
And the last is for the one you'll never save.*

For Rose Marshall, death has long since become the only life she really knows. She's been sweet sixteen for more than sixty years, hitchhiking her way along the highways and byways of America, sometimes seen as an avenging angel, sometimes seen as a killer in her own right, but always Rose, the Phantom Prom Date, the Girl in the Green Silk Gown.

The man who killed her is still out there, thanks to a crossroads bargain that won't let him die, and he's looking for the one who got away. When Bobby Cross comes back into the picture, there's going to be hell to pay—possibly literally.

Rose has worked for decades to make a place for herself in the twilight. Can she defend it, when Bobby Cross comes to take her down? Can she find a way to navigate the worlds of the living and the dead, and make it home before her hitchhiker's luck runs out?

There's only one way to know for sure.

*Nine will let you count the cost:
All you had and all you lost.
Ten is more than time can tell,
Cut the cord and ring the bell.
Count eleven, twelve, and then,
Thirteen takes you home again.
One's for the shadow, one's for the tree,
And the last is for the blessing of Persephone.*

The Girl in the Green Silk Gown Details

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Author : Seanán McGuire

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From Reader Review The Girl in the Green Silk Gown for online ebook

Robin (Bridge Four) says

3.5 Stars

This review was originally posted on Books of My Heart

Who the hell thought ghost spiders were necessary anyway.

Rose Marshall is far from sweet sixteen and never been kissed. She has been sixteen for over 60 years now, so kissing is the least of it. She is the phantom prom date, the girl in the green silk gown and depending on which ghost story you are listening to, she is either a protector or a harbinger of death. A girl can be anything she wants to be it seems, even in death.

Rose has a new boyfriend, or maybe he'd be considered an old boyfriend, since she knew him in life. Sure, he might look like a car today, but every relationship has its challenges. Too bad that isn't the only thing making her afterlife challenging. Rose also has a psychotic serial killer after her and he has a brand-new plan and a whole bunch of tricks up his sleeve.

Bobby Cross is back and he might just have a way to be able to kill Rose all over again if she isn't careful. With an unlikely ally, Rose will go through hell to make her way back to the twilight, and find a way to save herself from Bobby and his machinations.

The best thing about this series is, it is different. How many books are out there with a ghost as the main character? It is interesting to walk on the other side of death with Rose. There are rules as to what kind of ghost you could become, if when you die you're not ready to move on. There are things and places that were loved so much in life that they leave an impression in the twilight, even after they are long forgotten in the mortal world. It is interesting and different and weird in so many ways and it might look a little bit cruel to those looking from the outside in.

Why is it that there's always a point past which belief won't go? You don't get that with science. Say 'we can make light where there is none by flipping a switch, and also we've flown out to the moon to say hello to the rocks, and these are equal applications of the scientific method,' everyone smiles and nods their head and says good for you, Science Person, congratulations. But when a bunch of ghosts and witches say Muses exist, everyone gets their knickers in a twist.

Sparrow Hill Road suffered a little from being disjointed since it was the culmination of a bunch of ghost stories about Rose, peppered in with the story of how she died, and then her current battles with Bobby. **The Girl in the Green Silk Gown** is much more linear and that made it easier to follow and stay in touch with the story. It did get a little repetitive in a few parts but overall it has a much better flow and there was always something interesting happening. I'm very interested to see how the wrap up will go in the finale to the series.

Review copy was received from Publisher. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Steven says

Thanks to Netgalley and Berkley for providing me with an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

Holy cow, was that book a ride! I love Seanan McGuire (she's one of my favorite authors, if you hadn't noticed), and her Incryptid series is fantastic. I love that she's melded this ghost world into the Incryptid world, and chose to expand on Sparrow Hill Road's storylines. Sparrow Hill Road was originally a bunch of different short stories that got tied into a package deal, so while it is still really good, the overarching narrative was a little disjointed. This one, however, continues the story with aplomb.

Fair warning: the events of Sparrow Hill Road are vital to understanding what's going on in Girl in the Green Silk Gown, so make sure you read that first.

Rose Marshall is trying to move on with her afterlife following the misadventures of Sparrow Hill Road, but that danged Bobby Cross just won't leave her alone. He creates an intricate plan and acts on it, and Rose has to live out the dangers (literally) and try to find her way back to what she calls home.

Because this one was planned as a full book, it was plotted and planned and developed. And boy, did Seanan do a great job! It took everything I loved about the first book - Rose, routewitches and phantom diners, interesting ghost and afterlife lore - and not only pulled all of that back into a new story, but expanded on it, kept it interesting, and kicked it up multiple notches.

I won't say more because I'd gush over it like a fanboy and spoil something, but I hope you'll pick up this one and follow Rose's shenanigans as she takes on the last thing she'd ever expect to have to face after dying at 16 and being a ghost for so long -- life.

? Kimberly says

The first book in the series, Sparrow Hill, originally was told as a serial and followed a non-linear timeline and while interesting it was hard to sink your teeth into the story. The Girl in the Green Silk Gown, follows a linear timeline and picks up where Rose's story left off and McGuire delivered an engaging story that held me firmly in its grasp.

Rose Marshall once again finds herself in the crosshairs of Bobby Cross. Bobby has schemed and laid out the perfect trap for Rose. Can she along with her friends and enemies outwit him or has he once again ripped her from her home?

I love urban legends, lores and mythology and McGuire has blended all three in a deliciously dark way. After the mark and blessing Persephone gave Rose she thinks she is safe, but Bobby is ruthless and he wants Rose. He will stop at nothing to have her. Rose finds herself ripped away from Gary and her friends, the Queen offers her aid and we experience the Twilight's version of Halloween. Twists, turns and walking amongst the living await Rose.

Unlike Sparrow Hill this story follows a linear timeline with summoning circles, twists and more. Moments were dark and filled with tests and trials. Rose Marshall has spent sixty years as a hitchhiker helping those about to pass move on and has gained power even she doesn't understand. Umbramancer, routewitches, lore

and a deeper understanding of the rules and lands for the unliving were riveting.

I felt this story was stronger than its predecessor and allowed me to become more emotionally connected to the players. I loved all the footnotes to the urban legends surrounding ghosts, crossroads and mythology.

I absolutely loved the lore, the twists, betrayals and heart-pounding moments as we travel the highways, take to the air and visit the gods. Fantastic story from beginning to the end. While this tale wraps up nicely, Bobby still rides, and this story is far from over! This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Reviewer

Barb (Boxermommyreads) says

I knew last month when I picked up "Sparrow Hill Road" I would be continuing the series soon (plus I had an arc that was about to expire so I was on a timeline). However, despite that, this is a book that I couldn't wait to read. "The Girl in the Green Silk Gown" picks up where the first book in the series leaves off. Rose Marshall is still haunting the highways and trying to stay away from Bobby Cross, the man who initially killed her on that cold and dark night so long ago. This time around, Bobby is hot on her tracks and due to something that happens early on in the book, Rose is in more danger than ever. She also has to join forces with an individual who once tried to banish her ghost forever, so that makes for some interesting dynamics.

I don't want to give too much away since this is a sequel. I will say that once again, I feel in love with the world McGuire created as well as many of her characters. I will also note that this book is much more linear than the previous one and is a much easier read. If the formatting of "Sparrow Hill Road" has you doubting picking this one up, don't. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised once you dive in. I am still seriously in love with Gary, and I don't know if another book in this series is planned, but if so, I'll be jumping on that bandwagon as soon as I find out.

I received this book from the Penguin First to Read program in exchange for an honest review.

Tammie says

For Rose Marshall, death has long since become the only life she really knows. She's been sweet sixteen for more than sixty years, hitchhiking her way along the highways and byways of America, sometimes seen as an avenging angel, sometimes seen as a killer in her own right, but always Rose, the Phantom Prom Date, the Girl in the Green Silk Gown.

The man who killed her is still out there, thanks to a crossroads bargain that won't let him die, and he's looking for the one who got away. When Bobby Cross comes back into the picture, there's going to be hell to pay—possibly literally.

This is the second book in the Ghost Roads series and while it was pretty good, it lacked something that made it great for me. I enjoyed the first book more. Maybe that's because it was a compilation of several different stories and I didn't mind reading about Rose in shorter stories. This book was one long novel that didn't feel like it needed to be as long as it was. It started to drag in places before I even got halfway through. Certain things are repeated too much, and there is also a whole lot of exposition in this book, so much at times that it feels like the author is going off on tangents. Rose was also less likable for me this time around because she was really whiny, but at least she knew she was.

Parts of the story were compelling especially when Rose is trying to evade Bobby and the parts in the underworld. There are a few unresolved things at the end of the book, like Gary and his situation, and there is definitely more to explore there with his and Rose's relationship. I initially thought this was going to be a duology, but it's a series with, at this time, an undetermined number of books. While I like this ok, I really don't feel like I'm enjoying this enough to keep reading a whole series, so I'm good with stopping here.

Thanks to First to Read for giving me a copy of this book.

Review also posted at Writings of a Reader

Amy says

[Greek mythology (another fave) (hide spoiler)]

Melliane says

3.5/5

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I love Seanan Mcguire and the first volume came out a while ago and I did not think that we would have a sequel. Also, I was surprised and delighted to see this new novel while continuing the adventures of our dear Rose Marshall.

Always avoiding her former torturer, Rose will unfortunately face him again and the consequences will be disastrous. Become human again to better torment and kill her once and for all, Rose will have to find how to adapt in this new world and especially find a way to return from where she came from! Yet it will be far from easy and she does not know how bad Bobby is when he wants something!

I had a good time with this story. It was a pleasure to see Rose again and see one of her new stories. Besides, we learn a little more about mythology and I found it quite nice!

I enjoyed seeing Rose again even if I admit that I expected a bit more.

Lisa Wolf says

This has been quite the year for me and Seanan McGuire. I was a fan of her *Wayward Children* books already, but this year I obsessively consumed her *October Daye* and *Incryptid* series -- so of course I had to read the *Ghost Road* books too.

The Girl in the Green Silk Gown is the sequel to the 2014 book *Sparrow Hill Road*. I first started *Sparrow Hill Road* about a year ago, and couldn't get into it. This year, in the midst of my Seanan McGuire frenzy, I decided to give it another try, and actually enjoyed it -- enough so that I was keen to read *The Girl in the*

Green Silk Gown as well.

This book is the continuing story of Rose Marshall, who was killed in a car crash on the way to her prom back in the 1950s, and has haunted the highways of North America ever since as a hitchhiking ghost. Rose is the stuff of urban legends, who escorts doomed drivers to their afterlives but also helps those that she can to avoid a deadly fate. All the while, she's been on the run from Bobby Cross, the driver who killed her, and this time around, it looks like he finally has her trapped.

Sparrow Hill Road is more like a bunch of interwoven stories that make a whole, whereas *The Girl in the Green Silk Gown* is a novel with a beginning, middle, and an end. It's a hero's journey, an epic quest, and a story of belonging and home. Rose makes unusual choices, accompanied by unexpected friends and allies, and has both bravery and kindness to see her along her way.

The ghostly elements aren't scary -- this isn't a horror story -- but create an atmosphere that's otherworldly and strange and (yes) haunting in the best sense of the word.

For those who haven't read *Sparrow Hill Road*, I'd say start there -- but you can also start with *The Girl in the Green Silk Gown*, as there are enough reminders and exposition to get you up to speed even without prior familiarity with the general story. Also, for those who've read the *Incryptid* books, you'll see some familiar names popping up in this book. Not being familiar with *Incryptid* won't get in your way at all, but if you have read those books, you'll smile in recognition at least a few times.

Rose Marshall is a memorable lead character, and I hope we'll see more of her!

Anelis says

You know what I think? I think that Seanan McGuire's books would be a helluva lot better if she wrote fewer of them. Apparently she can't quite keep track of what she's written, so she always needs to make sure. How else would you explain the fact that she keeps explaining and repeating the same things in EVERY.SINGLE.CHAPTER.

This is something that becomes prevalent in her series rather than her standalone books. It always annoys me in her InCryptid series, and it almost knocked me out while suffering through the goliath that was the Parasitology series. And I'm sad because I thought she'd found a way to work through it. In the first Ghost Roads book, that's essentially a short story collection -unlike this one that is one story- it wasn't much of a problem because that's how collections of gathered tales go. It was charming, added character to the stories and helped intensify the feeling that they were tales about an urban legend. Maybe that's why it's one of my favorite books of hers under the Seanan name (because nothing will ever compare to killer friggin mermaids, NOTHING!).

My minds scatters and I'd forgotten much of the details from the first installment, even though I've read it twice thus far and plan on reading it again. Even so, the repetition killed me. Not repetition of events, people and relationships. The repetition of the premise, the pointless description of how one walks, enters a plane, does the smallest of things.

Ah, yeah I wish she wrote a bit better or maybe that she had a more severe editor. In all honesty Seanan is an amazing creator and I think, were she not a woman, she would have the fame she deserves, at least under her Mira Grant pen-name. But she doesn't and because of that I always feel uncomfortable criticizing her. Her books, current one included, are the ultimate comfort for me, action, fun, with strong women, queer people,

feminist politics, sometimes magic, sometimes gore. And truly, what more can a girl ask?

I outta write a spoilerific synopsis of what happened, so I can remember it later on, but I'm out of time. This will probably be rectified sometime in the near future.

the spoiler edit

Ok so, infodump time for future granny Anelis who forgets everything.

In this book Rose is chilling with her boy, maybe Gary is his name? He's the one who loved her when they were teens, and somehow managed to become a ghost car just for her, after he died. So Rose and the Car are hanging out in a diner, er, don't remember the name, which is run by her friend who's a banshee, but we spell it the proper way, something like bean sidhe? She also has a name; maybe someday I'll remember it. Rose also has a friend who's a ghost rider, Tony or Tommy, maybe Tommy. Tommy was with Laura when alive. In the previous book Laura fixated on Rose thinking her the cause of Tony's death. Bobby Cross is the James Dean-type actor who killed Rose. He's a forever not dead prick that has a car that instead of diesel runs on souls or ghosts or something and he is also fixated on Rose because plot reasons. There are also route witches, Apple is their Queen, and a highway called the Ocean Lady is like their goddess or something.

Rose has had a tattoo that's a seal that's Persephone's blessing and protects her from Bobby Cross. Bobby finds a way, through a ritual that requires the self-sacrifice of a young witch, and damages her seal, while also managing to lock her away from the twilight, for some time, the twilight being the place where she's safe from Bobby. So to set things straight she needs to do a thing on Halloween. Dammit future self, don't ask me what it was because hell if I understood.

Some ghost hunt in a farm. Ghosts are set loose and whoever kills them -for good- earns another year of life, and if the ghosts kill a human they become human again. The owners of the farm are being coerced by Bobby to resurrect her and so they do. When she wakes up she barely escapes, finding shelter in a diner. Not knowing anyone in the mortal world -apart from the Price family- she calls Laura for help, who for some reason comes. Rose promises Laura she will be her psychopomp when she dies so she can be reunited with Tommy. Laura agrees to help and pretends she is Rose's aunt. Girl-bonding happens, but we know not to trust Seanan. Ensue hillaridink jokes about Rose pooping herself and forgetting how to pee because she was dead for way too long.

She and Laura walk the Ocean Lady to find Apple who tells them to go through Hades' gates like Persephone did, so Rose can die again. Rose now, alive, is a powerful witch, it's handy. Important: Rose needs to die in a way that will ensure she'll be the same kind of ghost as before, hence the trouble. So they go to London, to look at all the stoies greek marbles and such. They are accompanied by a creature. They meet Hades and Persephone and Cerberus. Once they are close to the finish line Laura reveals she betrayed her and cooperated with Bobby. WHY? IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE. WHY GO THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE? -Anelis, calme-toi, just state the facts dammit.-

Ahem, so, just before they exit the gates of the underworld Bobby comes, crashes Laura with his car, Rose is kinda trapped but at the last moment Laura looks at her, just before dying, so Rose not only dies again and becomes the same kind of ghost she was before, but she also has Persephone's blessing intact again. She tells Bobby to fuck off and guides Laura's spirit to Tommy and they unghost, or die-die, or go towards the light together. Kinda the end.

Kyra Leseberg (Roots & Reads) says

In 1952, Rose Marshall set out for her prom and instead became an urban legend, known to most as the Girl in the Green Silk Gown or the Phantom Prom Date. 60 years later, she's still sweet 16 and hitchhiking her way across America, helping travelers get to their destination unharmed or holding their hand to guide them in to the twilight. Her boyfriend Gary is now dead and has become a car in order to spend his afterlife with Rose, so their relationship (as well as the rules of being dead) is obviously complicated.

To complicate matters more Bobby Cross, the man who killed Rose, has never stopped looking for her. He made a deal on the Crossroads to live forever and keep his youth, but it's all tied to his iconic car. He has to keep his car on the road and the tank filled with souls. Rose is the only soul that got away and he intends to correct that.

Summoned through a ritual, Rose finds her protections from Bobby have been weakened and she has to survive Halloween night as mortal for her protection to return. Unfortunately, Bobby has thought of everything and when Halloween is over, she's still alive. If there's one thing Rose is more afraid of than Bobby Cross, it's living.

Traveling through the twilight and depending on help from unlikely allies, Rose attempts to escape her killer and return to her life of ... well, being dead.

A thrilling ghost story filled with all the rules of the road you didn't know about, The Girl in the Green Silk Gown is a clever combination of urban legend, greek mythology, and paranormal fantasy.

Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for providing an ARC in exchange for my honest review.

destiny ? howling libraries says

#1 Sparrow Hill Road ★★★★★

#2 The Girl in the Green Silk Gown ???

Carrie (brightbeautifulthings) says

I received a free e-ARC through First to Read from the publishers at Penguin Random House. Seanan McGuire is one of my newer favorite authors, and my TBR officially includes everything she's ever published. It will take me a while but, hey, I'm nothing if not a dedicated reader. There are mild spoilers ahead for Sparrow Hill Road.

Rose Marshall, famous hitchhiking ghost of Sparrow Hill Road, the Phantom Prom Date, and the Girl in the Green Silk Gown is locked in an ongoing afterlife battle with her killer, Bobby Cross. Bobby was the James Dean of Hollywood before there was a James Dean, but he made a deal at the crossroads and became something more. As long as he keeps feeding the souls of roadside ghosts into his car, he's immortal. Protected by the blessing of Persephone, Rose is determined to find a way to stop him, but Bobby will stop at nothing to end her first.

If Sparrow Hill Road got stars for writing, character, and world-building, this one gets them for all those things, plus plot. The first book was, by admission, not entirely novel-like and somewhat meandering in its narrative, but The Girl in the Green Silk Gown revs its engine and takes the plot on a wild and gripping race through the ghostroads, the daylight, and the underworld. Presented early on with about as extreme a

problem as a ghost girl can have, Rose spends the rest of the novel desperately trying to right the wrong Bobby has inflicted on her world, and it's a hell of a ride. The storyline is much tighter and more straightforward, to awesome effect.

I still love our sassy deadgirl heroine, and her character development is surprisingly good for someone who died more than sixty years ago. The plot forces Rose into a whole new, not always charitable, light, and I empathized a lot with her situation, while also finding it hilarious (in true McGuire fashion—she pairs horror and humor better than many). I like that it demands she reevaluate some of the things that happened in the previous book (trying not to be spoilery). Professor Laura Moorhead also returns and has more page time than probably any other character besides Rose, and her involvement is fascinating. They're not friends, but circumstances temporarily force them to be allies, and I really enjoyed Laura's utter moral grayness. She isn't evil, but she isn't totally good; she's not all that likable, but she can be sympathetic, and McGuire constantly keeps us guessing about her.

Given the mark of Persephone that Rose acquired in the last book, I probably should have been prepared for more Greek mythology tie-ins in this book, but it still caught me a little off guard. McGuire is so good at building her own mythology that I wasn't expecting her to pull in someone else's, but it works better than I thought it would. Her underworld reminded me a lot of her Hall of the Dead from *Wayward Children*, which is an interpretation I enjoy, and her characterizations of gods are both mysterious and a little terrifying—without giving them so much page time that they become watered down. The ending is satisfying and nicely wraps up this particular adventure, but there's obviously more to come in Rose's world. I'll be eagerly awaiting the next book.

I review regularly at brightbeautifulthings.tumblr.com.

Olga Zelenova says

I never really considered being alive to be an inconvenience. It's definitely a thought I'm having now!

Galley courtesy of First to Read.

Kira says

3.5 stars

Once I started reading, I realized I remember almost nothing about Sparrow Hill Road. It turned out that was okay. It still flowed well with only remembering the basics of Rose's history and the world building. Actually this flowed much better than the 1st book because it was written as a book rather than a collection of stories grouped together to make a novel.

I'm not sure what it is, but I have a hard time getting into this series. The pace is slow and the world building is repetitive at times. I like Rose but don't care too much about any of the side characters. Her relationship with her boyfriend Gary is weird for many reasons, one of them being he is a ghost car. Most of the other characters are friends but with conditions as long as it doesn't violate the rules of their positions. Although the story got more interesting about a third of the way through, it still wasn't a page turner.
