



Tricks for Free

Seanan McGuire

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Penance, noun:

1. Punishment for past actions.
2. An attempt to pay for what can't be bought.
3. See also "exile."

Antimony Price is on the run. With the Covenant on her tail and her family still in danger, she needs to get far, far away from anyone who might recognize her--including her own mice. For the first time in a long time, a Price is flying without a safety net. Where do you go when you need to disappear into a crowd without worrying about attracting attention? An amusement park, of course.

Some people would call Lowryland the amusement park. It's one of the largest in Florida, the keystone of the Lowry entertainment empire...but for Annie, it's a place to hide. She's just trying to keep her head down long enough to come up with a plan that will get her home without getting anyone killed. No small order when she's rooming with gorgons and sylphs, trying to placate frustrated ghosts, and rushing to get to work on time.

Then the accidents begin. The discovery of a dead man brings Annie to the attention of the secret cabal of magic users running Lowryland from behind the scenes. They want the fire that sleeps in her fingers. They want her on their side. They want to help her--although their help, like everything else, comes with a price.

No plan. Minimal backup. No way out. Annie's about to get a crash course in the reality behind the pretty facade. If she's lucky, she'll survive the experience.

Tricks for Free Details

Date : Published March 6th 2018 by Daw Books

ISBN : 9780756410407

Author : Seanan McGuire

Format : Mass Market Paperback 409 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Fiction

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From Reader Review **Tricks for Free** for online ebook

Tria says

Temporary rating to help counteract the guy who decided to rate this one star before anybody's read it. I hate it when people do that. Rating to be revised when I *have* read it.

Sarah says

3.5 stars

I love the Incryptid series, the crazy Price family and the huge variety of weird and wonderful creatures (particularly the Aeslin mice!) are just so much fun to read about so of course I was excited to read **Tricks for Free** even though Antimony is actually my least favourite of the siblings. I enjoyed her first book a lot more than I expected to but unfortunately this one just wasn't as good as I was hoping it would be. Antimony is the youngest of the Price children and she shows a lot of immaturity here, she tends to blame her family a lot and act like she was never loved as much as Verity and Alex but at the same time she complains that they're overprotective of her because she's the youngest. Which one is it Antimony? Either they don't care or they care too much - they can't be both at the same time! I can understand why she has to keep her distance from her family here but I missed them all in this story, Mary pops up a few times but it's just not the same as having all the characters I love around and since she's also separated from the Aeslin mice we don't even have them to lighten the tone a bit.

We do get to see a few of Antimony's old friends from her roller derby days but to be honest I've always found Antimony's endless talk of skating pretty boring in the short stories about her so that didn't really help me much. **Seanan McGuire** has obviously spent a lot of time and energy creating her own theme park called Lowryland, it's a full scale thing with it's own imaginary characters and lots of fun rides and Antimony is currently hiding out there as one of their newest employees. I appreciate the effort that the author has gone into making somewhere that feels so real but the endless descriptions of the place started to get boring after a while. It's a bit like having a friend come home from Disneyland and then wanting you to sit through a slideshow of the 600 photos they took, the first few are interesting enough but it's not long before your eyes start to glaze over, especially if you know you'll probably never be able to afford to go there yourself! Some things are only THAT interesting if you're actually there at the time and I felt the endless descriptions really slowed down this story.

There wasn't really a huge amount happening in this book and for probably the first two thirds I was pretty bored which is unheard of for this series. Things definitely got more interesting when Sam finally turned up, the last third of the book was far more exciting and it's definitely set things up for the next instalment but I just didn't love **Tricks for Free** as much as I'd hoped to. I still think **Seanan McGuire** is an incredible author, this series is usually so much fun to read and I'm also a huge fan of the October Daye books so she remains on my auto-buy list.

Beth says

Antimony, Annie, Price is on the run hiding from her enemies and her family. If she went to her family the Covenant could use her magical signature to find them. Her only chance. Find a massively populated area and hope it masks her magic. What better place then one of the happiest places on earth...a Florida amusement park.

Little did she know that the amusement park is ran but a magic using cabal, just waiting to use Annie for their own means. To top it off, horrific accidents have begun to happen and Annie can't help but think they are all centering around her because she is at the scene each accident has taken place.

Annie must do what she does best, jump right in head first without a plan in sight and let the chips end where they may...

McGuire imagination is amazing. We are now 7 into the InCryptid series and its still as original, fresh, exciting and new as the when we finished DISCOUNT ARMAGEDDON back in 2012. Strong characters, heartfelt friendships and a plot with back bone.

I received this ARC copy of **Tricks for Free** from Berkley Publishing Group. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Tricks for Free** is set for publication Mar. 6, 2018.

My Rating: 5 stars

Written by: Seanan McGuire

Series: InCryptid (Book 7)

Mass Market Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: DAW

Publication Date: March 6, 2018

ISBN-10: 0756410401

ISBN-13: 978-0756410407

Genre: Urban Fantasy

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Tricks-Free-In...>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/tric...>

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/tric...>

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Robin (Bridge Four) says

This review was originally posted on Books of My Heart

I received this book for free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

The thing I really like about Seanan McGuire is - she is different. I might not always be completely into everything she is writing, but as an author I think she takes chances and delves into topics other authors shy away from. For instance, in this book alone, there are Ghosts of various shapes and sizes, Witches, Humanoid Creatures that are definitely not human, A Non-Disney Theme Park and just to top it all off Roller

Derby Girls.

Antimony Price is a Cryptozoologist from a long line of Cryptozoologists. What that means is she hunts monsters and things that go bump in the night. Not to kill them; some of them are really nice, but mostly to study them. The killing comes only if necessary. She is currently in hiding and laying low at an Amusement Park from the Covenant, a band of fanatics that kills all the things Antimony is trying to study, and the rest of her family, since they defected a few generations back.

This is book seven of the *InCryptid series* and there is no way you can go into it without reading the others and know what is going on. I think this is a series that even though the main characters change each story builds into the next.

Antimony is actually one of my least favorite characters of the Price family (even though I really like the first book with her as the MC) and I really enjoyed both Verity and Alex's books although **the book I'm totally waiting for is Alice's since she has been looking for her true love Thomas for 60+ years.** The one issue I have with this entire book is that this felt like a filler book. Honestly it just killed some time and one really 'big thing' happens at the end but I kinda got the feeling this book was just to facilitate that 'big thing' happening so other stories could move on from there.

This is my least favorite book of the series so far but that is mostly because Antimony is pretty isolated and on her own, no Aeslin Mice with her either. Some of the magic of the other books is the Price family and all the shenanigans that go along with them. While Mary, a Crossroads ghost, can be a bit fun she isn't the rest of the quirky Price family and I found myself really wanting some time with Verity, Alex, Grandma Alice, Sarah or the Aeslin Mice even.

I was happy to see Sam and a few other characters that were in Antimony's short stories like Fern, a sylph cryptid, but this book suffered a little from info dumping in a few sections and had a few pacing issues throughout.

Still McGuire did come through on the unusual and interesting in trying out a few new things in her story including luck manipulation, fighting on roller skates and a monkey man boyfriend. I look forward to the next book in this series and what new and interesting plot lines it will bring.

Notable Quotables:

“Ain’t no party like a pity party, because a pity party only ends when you bury the bastards who made you feel sorry for yourself.”

—Frances Brown

“Huh,” said Fern. She paused before asking, more delicately, “Has he actually met you when you were being you, or did he only ever meet you when you were pretending to be somebody else? Because you can be really sweet when you’re pretending to be somebody else.”

I threw a biscuit at her. Fern laughed as she dodged.

“You’re only angry because it’s true.”

--Fern and Antimony Price

“Whoever he is, marry him and keep us in the style to which we’d like to become accustomed.”

“He works in Public Relations.”

“Whoever he is, murder him and make it look like an accident, but make sure you get away with his wallet,” Megan amended.

-- Anitmony Priceand Gorgon friend Megan

Kira says

This series has always been hit or miss for me. It's probably because each book takes place in a different setting with new side characters even if the main characters are the same. Each book can have a totally different vibe depending on those things. I loved the last book along with Antimony but didn't feel the same this time around.

Antimony made one bad choice after another. Her reasons for staying away from her family made sense. She could have used Mary as a good between if she wasn't comfortable talking to them any other way. Maybe she wouldn't have made some of the stupid choices she did if she had tried to confer with them. As much as she complained that she isn't loved like everyone else in the family it seemed contradictory that she wouldn't let them know where she was partly because they would come get her regardless of the danger. I felt like her immaturity showed strongly. Although she's strong, brave, and reliable, she lacks good forethought. Whenever something happened she jumped into it without thinking of the consequences or developing a plan, which really screwed her in the end.

I was bored for most of the book. It was around the 60% mark that it finally felt like something interesting was happening. Except for one thing, nothing relevant to the overarching plot happened. That one thing will have a big impact on Antimony later. I'm going to have a hard time feeling bad for her because it was her choice. The whole Lowryland thing didn't do it for me. It was lacking compared to the carnival in the last book. I didn't care much for the side characters. They were dull, and I didn't trust any of them until the end of the book. It was weird not having the Aeslin mice around despite not liking them much in the first place. They added a quirky quality, and it wasn't right not to have that there.

Alexis says

Loving Antimony's voice in this one.

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

TRICKS FOR FREE, the seventh book in the InCryptid series continues this series' trend of high adventure, exciting storylines, and unique worldbuilding. I am constantly impressed how each book comes off as fresh and full of thrilling plots, thought-provoking social commentary, with warm bonds of friendship and family at their core. I'm never bored reading these books! TRICKS FOR FREE continues Antimony's adventure and I absolutely love the detailed description and backstory of Lowryland -a low rent Disney World- which she finds herself working in (and which I kind of want to go to). The plot is mostly a very grisly mystery and a coming to terms story in regards to Antimony's magic and the tough choices she has to make.

Since Antimony has actual magic abilities we get introduced to some more kinds of magic users that exist in this world and fun magic infused fights. One thing I like about these books is how human the Price family is in that they make really dumb mistakes that really anyone could make, except Antimony's mistake ends up having really bad consequences. Also, unlike her older siblings, she is still learning who she is and it's really neat to be able to watch her grow up into an awesome adult member of the Price family. I liked all of the secondary characters including Antimony's roommates who were a fun addition to this story as they brought much of the humor to this story.

The InCryptid series continues to be storytelling at it's best. TRICKS FOR FREE sends us on a rollercoaster of emotions and thrills with its engaging plot and ever expanding and fascinating world.

Ferdy says

Still didn't like Antimony, her personality was boring and her martyr like attitude grated on me, she couldn't go a page without being smug or judgmental or a know it all or without looking down on people. Her worst qualities though were her bitterness and the huge chip she had on her shoulder, especially when it came to her being the youngest sibling and the weird bitchiness she had towards Verity, she really had no reason to complain but she twisted everything to make everyone look bad whilst she was the poor little hard done by victim. It was exhausting to read, she was so unaware of how truly awful and irritating she was.

Lowryland was the most dullest setting ever.

All the info dumps about cryptids, past plots and Lowryland were beyond boring, it was like reading a textbook.

Steven says

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

Seanan McGuire is one of my favorite authors. Seriously, she's on my auto-buy list. I love the worlds and characters she creates.

InCryptid is one of those worlds, and I struggle with deciding if it is my favorite or if October Daye is. Every time I read one of the books in either series, I decide that one is my favorite Seanan series. Then I read one in the other, and change my mind.

Tricks for Free picks up with Antimony's story, following the crazy events of Magic for Nothing. There is a shorty included that takes place in between the two novels, but I read that last year when it was a Patreon story, and I highly recommend reading that one first, since it takes up the story immediately while Tricks for Free's narrative starts a few months later.

Antimony has been on the run, and found her way to a theme park (of course!), hoping to hide from the Covenant in the crowds. But of course, Seanan never lets her protagonists' plans work out like they expect, so hijinks ensue. We did see some returning characters, both expected and unexpected, and made a few new friends along the way.

I'd like to say I was satisfied with this one. I loved it, but it wasn't, and doesn't ever seem to be, enough. I'm already ready for the next book -- supposedly "That Ain't Witchcraft" starring Antimony again!* -- and can only hope that the next October Daye book's release (usually a fall thing) can tide [Luidaeg joke!] me over until I can get my next Seanan fix.

*After this, Seanan has mentioned the next two will be Sarah (Imaginary Numbers, Calculated Risks) and then ALICE (Spelunking through Hell: A Visitor's Guide to the Underworld)!!!!

Review to be published on release date... but damn, I need news from her that we are getting more and who the POVs will be!

Shelley says

Source Publisher

Genre Fantasy, Paranormal

Rating 3.5

Thoughts

Tricks for Free, by author Seanan McGuire, is the seventh book in the InCryptid urban fantasy series. The series features the Price family, an eccentric group of cryptozoologists who safeguard the world of magical creatures living in secret among humans. Tricks for Free once again features the youngest Price, Antimony who was last seen escaping the Covenant of St. George (Magic for Nothing) and leaving her new "friend" Sam Taylor and her Aeslin Mice, Mindy and Mork, behind to their own adventures which you can read about in the back of this novel.

Full Review @ Gizmos Reviews

<http://gizmosreviews.blogspot.com/201...>

Wanda says

I picked up this paperback in the store on the day it was released, but it took me a few days to get around to reading it. I went in knowing that the Aeslin mice really didn't feature in it (Sam takes them to the airport and they head for home). Would the magic still be there without the mice?

I enjoyed the mouse-less adventure just as much as the previous books. It also helped that there was an adorable novella featuring Mindy & Mork (Annie's mice) at the end of the book. I'm liking Annie better than I did in the previous novel and will look forward to her further adventures in the next one. The presence of "Aunt" Mary, the ghost, also ties in one of McGuire's other storylines, combining the two nicely.

Obviously I read this because I love the series and I'm a big fan of Seanan McGuire. But it also filled a space in my PopSugar challenge (a book published in 2018).

Maria Dimitrova says

It's cryptozoology time at BB&B.

Originally I rated this 4 stars but the more I thought about it the more I realized that it doesn't deserve it. Don't get me wrong, it's a good book but it's mostly a filler. It sets things for what's to come but the only really relevant chapters were the last 2-3. Everything else was well not boring but unimportant. Add to it the lack of Aeslin mice and I was really disappointed. However, as I said this sets the scene for some future adventures and provided some interesting information regarding Grandpa Thomas and the crossroads. I greatly enjoyed the cameos from Mary and Rosie and I hope we'll get more books in the Ghost Roads series.

Erin (PT) says

Not only did I enjoy this book on its own merits, it's a really excellent follow-up from the previous book...and largely for the same reason: the story of a woman who, separated from the only family she's ever known, begins to build one of her own.

Though nothing about Antimony's story is a direct read from she or her family being from a marginalized group (if anything, the books go out of their way to rightfully point out that she is NOT), there's still a kinship to be found and felt between the necessary secrets she keeps and the awareness of living carefully in spaces that are always potentially hostile.

And in those situations, it's not just emotionally necessary to have the bonds of family (or found family), it can be literally life-saving. As well, too many heroines (I was going to limit it to Urban Fantasy, but let's be real) spend a lot of time shoving their loved ones (and everyone else) away. It's a valid archetype, but it's overused. It also makes *sense* that, coming from a large and loving family, (and having spent the last book on her own) Antimony begins to build what she knows. Because that's what Prices do.

In more spoilery territory: (view spoiler) It felt like a natural and smart progression of Antimony's story and maturation, instead of a tangent from a main story.

From reading *The Recitation of the Most Holy and Harrowing Pilgrimage of Mindy and Also Mork*, I saw the gun on the table, so I wasn't surprised by the ending, but like a lot of McGuire's books, the end is seldom the point. The book--and the ending--are satisfying.

Melliane says

Mon avis en Français

My English review

I really like this series and I was eager to discover another of the novels. Besides, I was very happy to see that we were once again following Antimony because I loved having her as the main character in the previous volume. And then after all the events, I wanted to know how this young woman was going to act!

Annie is on the run, she knows that finding her family would put them in danger. So to try to blend in, she decides to go to work in one of the largest amusement parks where she can evolve without being noticed. But now, it seems that the place is not as safe as she thought. When terrible and oddly accidents happen, Annie is always present and she begins to wonder what exactly is going on. In addition, it seems that a cabal who manages the park is aware of her gifts. They offer to help her, to teach her how to use her talent without danger. Annie can only accept that but at what price?

It was a new very nice volume even if I admit that I really preferred the precedent one. Antimony tries at best to act even if it's not easy for her. We will discover some of her friends and I admit that I was really delighted to meet Sam over the course of the story. It is a character that I appreciate very much. I wonder how our heroine will manage the next events because she goes again to new adventures! Once again, Seanan McGuire offers us a great story!

Caitlin says

I like Annie, but not too much happens in this book. Yes, there's a conflict set up and resolved, and characters introduced (or reintroduced), but it's mostly set up for the next adventure. And that's going to be a doozy.

Still, it's a fun set up--at a theme park, with plenty of cryptids, and some romance along with the backstabbing and danger. And the short story with Mork and Mindy is adorable.
