



Oh Pretty Bird

Seanan McGuire

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It's been years since the death of their first child, Daniel, but Jonathan and Frances Healy have never been able to catch the person responsible...until now. When word comes that the Apraxis hives are moving strangely, and that a familiar woman with black hair and no history has appeared, it seems like things may finally come to fruition.

And it's not like they won't have backup: Enid and Alexander Healy have not forgiven the woman who cost them their first grandchild, and they're not about to let Johnny and Fran ride out alone. They don't know much about the situation that they're walking into. They know enough to be afraid, to be on their guards, and to stay together at all times.

Can they avenge their own without paying more than they can afford? Old questions are finally answered, and old debts are paid as the Healys walk into the most dangerous situation they have faced thus far. It's for Daniel. There's no question of whether they'll go. There's only a question of whether they'll come back.

Oh Pretty Bird Details

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From Reader Review Oh Pretty Bird for online ebook

? Irena ? says

Finally.

The Healys have caught up with a person responsible for the death of a three-year-old Daniel Healy. They have to leave baby Alice with a babysitter (now, that is another interesting bit thrown in because the babysitter is not quite what she seems).

In *Oh Pretty Bird* you get more about the grandparents' past, why they had to run from the Covenant, who was left behind, why they have to hide and so on. If I liked Alex and Enid before, I love them now.

The build up is perfect. I was even worried a bit whether they could pull it off. The parts about the past and the Aeslin mice ('*"HAIL!" proclaimed the leather case in Enid's hands, not to be left out of this conversation, as they had so many others.*') are what makes this story even better. The responsible ones got off too lightly though.

Nitpick: 'She dare didn't offer her name' was enough to put a damper on the fun.

Jessica says

It's interesting to find out the history behind the discovery of cuckoos by the Healys and read about Mary, whom I read about the first time in Sparrow Hill Road, and her history with the Healys.

This short story is a satisfying conclusion to the tragedy of Daniel. At least justice has been served. Though I must say that a sad feeling remains in my heart even after finishing the short story. I wonder if this is what the Healys feel like.

This short story is highly recommended for fans of Seanan McGuire's InCryptid series.

Coyora Dokusho says

These short stories are really interesting!!! It's interesting to read about the first encounters between the Healy family and cuckoos...

Susana says

[librarian (hide spoiler)]

Marjolein says

3.5 Stars

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Another short in the InCryptid series. Jonathan and Fran have finally tracked down those responsible for the death of Daniel. It is a harsh reminder that some of the things they have been trying to protect are indeed real monsters.

It was good to finally see the characters get their revenge. As always nice to see the Aeslin mice again.

Myndi says

I was so excited to see that McGuire had put out another short about Fran and Jonathan. This story was bittersweet because we revisit the story of what happened to Daniel, but it was nice in the fact that we see that Alice is doing fine (which we know from the other books, but still it's nice to see) and we get some closure on what happened to Daniel. We also see how the Healy family found out about Cuckoos, which of course is very important later on in the series with cousin Sarah and the adopted Grandmother. We also see Mary, whom we've heard about in the future books as well. I hope McGuire keeps giving us more little tidbits to fill in the gaps of how everything happened to get the Price family where they are in the current books.

Sophie says

The Healys find out who was responsible for the death of Daniel Healy, and set out to get revenge.

Seanán, as always, excels at horror. The town entirely under the control of two powerful mind-manipulators is chilling in a Camazotz sort of way. However, I found that the mind-control aspect was diluted slightly by the fact that they never actually take over any of the Healys' minds in this particular story. They try with Fran, but she's immune to them, somehow, and don't think I don't want an explanation for THAT particular quirk, Seanán. Especially since Fran was supposedly left at the circus as a baby. WHY DOES FRAN HAVE MAGIC MIND POWERS. WHERE DID SHE COME FROM.

This story also marks the first appearance of Mary, the ghost babysitter, who also appears in Sparrow Hill Road.

Kathy Davie says

It's a free short story from Seanán McGuire, 0.10 in the InCryptid urban fantasy series, and revolving around a family of renegade "monster hunters" seeking vengeance for the assassination of their young son and grandson.

If you're interested, there is a chronological listing of the InCryptid books on my website of the live-and-let-live Healys who have seen the error of their ways when it comes to huntin' down monsters.

My Take

I already know how easily McGuire kills off characters, and I was terrified that someone would die in "Oh Pretty Bird". After all, how do you combat a supernatural who can manipulate your mind?

But their cause was just, and I burned as well for vengeance.

The Story

It's taken five years for the Healys to track down the assassin responsible for their baby's murder. Now they've found her, and they'll take her out or die.

The Characters

Jonathan Healy is married to **Fran**, and they have a baby daughter, **Alice**, who prefers teething on antlers. **Enid Carew Healy** and **Alexander Healy** are Jonathan's parents. They all live in the same house on the outskirts of Buckley Township. The **Aeslin mice** keep an oral history of absolutely everything that happens in the Healy family.

Mary Dunlavy is the Healys' babysitter and much beloved. She quit school to housekeep for her father when her mother died.

Whiting, Indiana

Mrs. Tapper is the town librarian with a finger on the pulse of the community. **Robert Tapper** is the school principal.

Heloise Tapper is a mind manipulator. Alexander is positive she is responsible for setting up a "suicide", that of his contact, **Marcel**, a Bigfoot in Connecticut.

The **Red Angel** is a drinking establishment in Buckley. A **Letiche witch** makes amulets to protect minds from being invaded. **Apraxis wasps** are brain-eating bugs with a migrating pattern. Alexander has set up a fail-safe with **Arturo Gucciard**, a family friend we first met in "Sweet Poison Wine".

The Cover and Title

The cover is rather terrifying in its gothic splendor with the three-story Gothic Revival mansion set far in the back and slightly off-center on that brick-baked street. It's a wide road going through town, and the barely seen storefronts on either side of the "path" are a metaphor for the townfolk.

The title is a mockery of the Healys' prey as they seek "Oh Pretty Bird" to achieve vengeance.

Jessica ❁ ⇨ **Silverbow** ⇨ ❁ **Rabid Reads-no-more says**

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

0.10 - Oh Pretty Bird

4 stars

SO. I finally learned where all the hatred the Healys are harboring for most Cuckoos comes from . . . It's justified.

The less said about this one the better. Pretty much everything about it was a surprise, including the babysitter . . . o.O

Nichole says

Even though it's been years since Daniel was killed, his family has never stopped trying to find his killer. This new lead just might be the one to point them to her. Great short. This story gave a little more background on Alexander and Enid too.

Angela says

Finally! Finally, they can get justice for the unimaginable wrong that was done to them! This was an incredibly emotional story for me. I've been waiting for this since Daniel died.

It's hard for me to be objective and actually talk about the story, because I was so invested in what was happening. But I did love that we learn more about the cuckoos here, and even see how it came to be that the Healys (to-be Prices) learned so much about them.

Maria Dimitrova says

I always wondered how the Healys discovered the cuckoos. I never expected it to be the cause of a family tragedy along the way.

Years ago Jonathan and Frances came across a strange cryptid capable of telepathy. That encounter led to one happy event - the marriage between those two - and one tragic event - the murder of their young son. By targeting the youngest Healy that cryptid ensured that she would be hunted to the end of the world and beyond. And now the Healys have finally caught up with her.

The experience was creepy as hell. The power a cuckoo has is extraordinary and extremely dangerous. I had grown lax in my weariness of the species because of Sarah and grandma Baker but seeing what just two of them had done to an entire town cured me of that! *shudders* Still I wonder what Jonathan and Frances would have thought about having not one but two cuckoos adopted into the family :) They would probably freak out at first. But I'm sure that Sarah and grandma Baker would have won them over.

Sarah says

It's been a long time coming (five years in terms of the storyline but several short stories for us readers LOL) but the Healy family have FINALLY tracked down the person responsible for baby Daniel's death. This is one hunt that will need the entire family to work together if they want a chance of success so young Alice is left with a babysitter while her parents and grandparents set out for revenge.

I don't want to say too much about who they're up against or what happens but things get more and more creepy the closer they get to their target. Fran, Jonathan, Enid and Alexander are facing the most dangerous cryptid they've ever come across and they've been able to find out very little information about what type of creature it is or what kind of abilities they might have. I was actually pretty worried that not everyone would

survive the battle and I'm not going to put you out of your misery on that front either so you'll just have to read the story for yourself to find out which of the Healys make it home safely.

I'm so invested in this family and they definitely deserve a little happiness after everything they've been through but we've already had a few hints that everything isn't what it seems with Alice's babysitter so I'm really hoping nothing horrible has happened while they were away from home.

Darcy says

Finally Frannie and Jonathon got the vindication they needed for what happened to Daniel. It couldn't have happened to a nicer person.

Jenevieve says

Review first published on My Blog. Check out all my reviews there.

The continuing adventures of Fran and Jonathan Healy. It's been several years since their first child, Daniel, was murdered in his bed. They have moved forward with their lives and have had a little girl, Alice, but they have never stopped looking for the person who cost them their firstborn. Now it looks like Jonathan's parents, Enid and Alex, have a lead but the odds are not in favor of their surviving this trip.

It was nice to see some resolution on that storyline. It sounds like we won't see much more of Jonathan and Frances which is a bummer as I have really enjoyed them.
