



The Shadow (Borrowing Abby Grace, #1)

Kelly Green

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Smart and sassy Abby Grace is a seventeen-year-old with a talent for getting out of trouble. Sent to repair the lives and loves of teenagers on the edge of disaster, Abby is the perfect girl for the job. She has everything going for her... except one thing: a body.

This fast-paced and exciting episode is the first installment in an ongoing mystery series with a supernatural twist.

Episode 1

When Abby Grace wakes up in the back of a van, she has no idea who she is, how she got there, or why anyone would want to kidnap her. After escaping her masked captors, she hurries home, only to discover that she unknowingly left her younger brother behind in the van. Unable to answer the police's questions with her memories gone, she retreats to the safety of her bedroom where she tries to reconstruct her life. Just as she is settling into the belief that things will one day return to normal, she looks in the mirror—and sees a stranger's face.

As Abby learns next, she has become a Shadow, sent to inhabit the lives of strangers in trouble. With nothing to go on except the vague hints of her cute but maddening Guardian, a 19th century ghostly teenager named Will, Abby sets out to rescue the missing brother. But she will need all of her intelligence, fearlessness, and wit, because if she fails to find him in time, she will remain trapped in this unfamiliar body forever.

Episode 2: Girl Steals Guy <http://t.co/MZ01r1Aq>

Dropped into the life of a gorgeous senior with a heartbroken best friend, Abby Grace must navigate high school keg parties, football games and power couples as she discovers that love and revenge are sometimes the same thing.

Episode 3: Teacher's Pet

Coming in early December; preview at: www.borrowingabbygrace.com

Abby finds herself in a boy's body for the first time, where she has to fumble her way through a secret love affair, while getting to the bottom of a grade-tampering scandal that could send her to jail.

The Shadow (Borrowing Abby Grace, #1) Details

Date : Published October 17th 2011 by Backlit (first published October 16th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Kelly Green

Format : Nook 47 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Young Adult, Mystery



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From Reader Review The Shadow (Borrowing Abby Grace, #1) for online ebook

Lisa says

Originally posted at Read Me Bookmark Me Love Me

In just two words: fun and refreshing. Borrowing Abby Grace is the first episode of what will be a fast-paced and exciting series. After returning to consciousness in the back of a van without any memories, Abby discovers she's a Shadow. Waking up in a new body every few days, she must fix a large aspect of that person's life, otherwise she'll be trapped in the body forever. Gripping storyline, am I right? I've never read an episodic series before so this was a new experience that I really enjoyed.

This first episode follows Abby's investigation of her body's brother's disappearance. Suspects are around every corner but I can honestly say that my theories were nowhere near close to the truth. Borrowing Abby Grace is scattered with little clues Abby must piece together using her quick thinking and steely determination. I loved that we were just as clueless as Abby, in regards to her Shadow situation, as it made the story seem more personal and realistic. While you'll finish each episode in no time at all, you'll be engrossed for that short period of time, hoping for another piece of the overall mystery to be revealed!

Abby is a great narrator, coming off as strong-willed and witty. Although she feels as if she's very alone, Will cheekily hides in the shadows, watching to make sure she's safe. His character is one of great intrigue also. As a Guardian ghost he's very cryptic and of no "real" help at all, but I like the support he shows Abby, even though she doesn't appreciate his frustrating secrecy at all. With these episodes being so short, we don't get to know the characters very well but I imagine, just like a television series, their personalities and histories will continue to build on as the series continues.

For my first read of something like this, I think it went fabulously well. It's almost exhilarating to read something so short, as opposed to my usual 300-400 pages! Mystery lovers will really sink their teeth into this series - just like a true crime show, we have a sticky situation that we're able to solve in less than an hour ;) A great, fun debut series by Green!

Kelley Smith says

Title: The Shadow: Borrowing Abby Grace (Episode 1) and Girl Steals Guy (Episode 2)

Author: Kelly Green

Publisher: Back Lit Fiction

Publication Date: 2011

Source: Author/Publisher (Received copy of books in exchange for honest review)

Cover: I completely dig them. They catch your attention and make you go "hmm?" And isn't that just what every cover is supposed to do? I approve.

Genre: YA Episodic Mystery. You get a complete little mystery in every episode, from when Abby drops into the story to when the case comes to an end.

Plot: The chapters are short, making the story move really quickly. Since it's written in episode form (i.e. you get a full-slightly-longer-than-short story in each hit), the story progresses quick enough to keep you interested but is short enough to make you want more when it's done. The story also makes sense to be given in episodes. At first, I worried it'd be like a chapter being sold one at a time, but the story lends itself to a format, and each episode is complete enough to be on its own (as opposed to it being a chapter of a large novel). I don't think it would really work if they were put together.

Romantic Element: There are hints of romance, enough to make you want to read later episodes. BUT, and this is huge for me, I was more than okay with reading the story without Abby running after anyone. Girl Steals Guy is especially good in this aspect. (Psst, still read Borrowing Abby Grace first for context—they could be read separately, but they're cheap enough for you to start from the beginning and get the full picture).

Overall: These episodes are worth getting into. There's enough mystery to keep you interested; enough twists to keep you from getting bored; and it moves quickly enough that you can feel accomplished after reading each episode. What's not to like about that? Fair warning, Abby may sound a little robotic in the beginning of Borrowing Abby Grace, but she does grow on you, and by the time you read Girl Steals Guy, you should like her. It's a good snack mystery—a.k.a. a full mystery in a little package with a YA twist. Green gives great authentic teen analogies, and I fully support these episodes as being awesome for younger YA and up. (Note: Borrowing Abby Grace is PG-ish, and Girl Steals Guy is more late-PG-13)

Idris says

The Shadow is the first episode of Borrowing Abby Grace series. The story starts with a girl, who wakes up in the back of a van. She doesn't know why she is there or who she is. Now she will need to find out, with the help of an estrange but good looking guy, Will, the reason of why she is there and what she needs to do. The answer will surprise more than one. Abby Grace has a mission, and she needs to complete it in order to move forward. Where? She even doesn't know it yet.

I don't want to talk too much about the plot because I think it's awesome with capital A, and I consider everybody should read the book and discover the story by themselves. Lovers of YA books, that enjoy stories full of suspense, action and supernatural elements, will love this book, specially because I think it has everything a book needs.

First, like I said before, an amazing plot. The book is full of mystery that makes you read and read and read until you finish it and go running to buy the next one, because you need to know what is going to happen next! What is going to happen to Abby? Will she go home? Will she remember? Is she d...? There are so many questions that need to be solved!

Second, long story short. Sometimes you read a story that has more than 400 hundreds pages, and you get bored with so many descriptions and so many details and so many things that most of the time, are not necessary! But in the case of Abby Grace, the story is short, is an episode of only 47 pages, but with a really well developed idea. You don't feel rush, or a brusque ending. Of course, you want to read more, but you get a felling that the book ended in the way it was supposed to finish.

And last but not least, lovely characters. I love Abby. Abby Grace is a really smart girl, and even though she

is not in her best moment she has time to make you smile and laugh with some of her ideas or when she is mad at Will, or when she does something a little bit crazy or risky. She is strong and brave, and she doesn't stop until she discovers the truth, she has the gift to make everything go well again. That's why she was selected...because she is perfect for the job!

Ah! And I almost forget! The covers are amazing! They tell you a lot about the story! :)

Happy Reading!

Jamie says

The Shadow is a short, fast and exciting read. It is a bit of mystery with a supernatural twist. The story flows along at a great pace and gives the reader unexpected twists and turns.

Abby wakes up to find herself in the back of a van with strangers. She also can't remember who she is. When she realizes she has been kidnapped she makes a quick escape out the back. Once the police take her home her father wants to know where her brother Paul is. It's not long before she meets Will and finds out that she is a shadow. She takes over bodies to help the person fix a problem in their life. Abby has taken over Brooke's body and life in this first installment. She thinks this will be easy, just find Paul and maybe she can go back to being Abby, whoever that may be.

The author did a great job of keeping me on the edge of my seat with all the mystery and suspense. I was shocked when the story came to a close. I was way off track of what I thought was going on with the plot. I loved it, it was not predictable at all. But really exciting and unique. I have already started reading the second book because I had to know what happened to Abby next. Readers that love mystery and/or supernatural elements will enjoy this series.

Brittany says

A girl wakes up in the back of a van. She doesn't know who she is or how she got there. After getting herself out of the situation however, people start filling in the blanks...sort of. Will, Abby's guardian, informs her that she is currently in Brooke's body. Brooke is borrowing Abby, who is a Shadow, because she needs help with something. No one can tell Abby what she must fix in Brooke's life, only that if she doesn't fix it the consequences are major. So Abby has to figure out what she's supposed to be fixing and how to fix it while keeping up appearances since there is no way she can explain her situation.

Abby's situation reminds me of Riley Bloom's from Radiance. She is thrown into a weird situation where she has to help people, but doesn't really know where to start. It is sort of paranormal and no one really wants to say what's going on. There is also a fun Nancy Drew aspect to this story, girl detective and all. I really want to know more about Will too. He seems intriguing even if he is kind of a pain. The story was a bit too short to really twist you up in the mystery. There just weren't enough pages to have lots of false leads and other mishaps. It was intriguing though, especially since it starts off with a kidnapping. The ending sort of came

upon me suddenly. I thought that it would be at least a little longer once I found out that the job wasn't over. The length though lends itself to being a great reluctant reader pick. There is enough action to keep the reader hooked and they won't be intimidated by a 400 page tome. This story is perfect for the younger YA crowd too. You should definitely check this one out when you get a chance, it was a fun read. Kelly Green is an author to look out for, maybe she will be picked up on some mystery anthologies somewhere down the line. I eagerly await the next adventure that Abby is sent on and hope the next tale will boast a few more pages.

First Line:

"The first thing I realized when I woke up in the back of the van was that I had no idea at all how I'd arrived in the back of a van.

Favorite Line:

"I thought maybe I should invest in a black unitard, or a trench coat and hat, to go with my new line of work."

Read more: <http://www.areadingnook.com/#ixzz1a2k...>

Varsha Dinesh says

You have to give it up to Backlit Fiction: they know the power of good editing and design. Honestly, in the world of independent publishing, it's hard to find a book that engages both my artist side and my writer side, but Kelly Green's Borrowing Abby Grace series does that: it features eye-catching covers, seriously well-edited books and zero grammatical/spelling glitches.

The Borrowing Abby Grace series features short, fast-paced stories that are easy to read, fast-paced and quite engaging, with interesting characters, new ideas and lots of humor. The concept is fun and original: a girl-ghost, a.k.a "Shadow" who can be "borrowed" into other bodies as other people, with lots of mystery and sassy good humor thrown in to boot. Abby reminds me of a quirkier, sassier Nancy Drew. She's all A to B, no tears and tantrums, inquisitive and funny and mostly fast-thinking. While she solves the mysteries and problems in the lives of other people- people whose bodies she is forced to take over because that is what Shadows do- she questions her own existence and the possibility of what might have happened to her own life as Abby Grace. There is also Will- the boy in the shadows who is supposed to be helping her but chooses to be infuriatingly smug instead- whose mysteries I hope will be revealed in the forthcoming books. The plot doesn't lag anywhere- it moves in one continuous sweep from the beginning to the end, and that might also be a shortcoming of this novel.

Sometimes it just seemed too FAST.

Perhaps that has to do with my reading preference of books with long winding paragraphs of description, but I felt that Abby accepted the Shadow thing too quickly. That the problem in the first book which she was supposed to solve wasn't quite a problem at all, that the girl she'd been "borrowed" into could have just solved it herself instead of going in for a paranormal solution. I mean, when you have a paranormal solution, the problem should involve guns blazing, vampires dying, world ending...right? Maybe it's just me with my need for descriptions and emotional stuff and all: but I thought the book should have been longer, Abby should have been more fleshed out, and the problems...actually problems which NEED to be fixed paranormally. And also, couldn't the decisions that she makes as someone else totally affect the "someone else" when they are back in their own body? This is a question I was asking myself throughout the Girl Steals Guy book (the 2nd one in the series) because Abby makes some pretty important choices for the girl that she has been borrowed for, Michelle. I kept thinking what Michelle would feel when she came back.

(And for her to come back, where did she go in the first place? Maybe we'll get to know that as the series continues!)

But that said, there was no problem with enjoying Abby Grace and her wittiness at all. I liked Abby's voice: her sarcasm is much appreciated in the place of usual YA heroine whininess.

I liked her relationship with Will, and I want more of him in the next books. I liked that each time she does a job, a memory of hers comes back. I liked that it made me laugh, and that it also got me curious regarding the real Abby Grace, and Kelly Green's writing-style is quite good.

Just...less speed next time, more people, more PROBLEMS.

The covers rocks, though. Dude, it does.

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

Kind of a cute and fun mystery definitely geared more towards a younger crowd but one that older book lovers might enjoy as well.

Tammi says

Episode one is where you are first introduced to Abby Grace and where she learns that she is a Shadow. This is where she "borrows" people's bodies in order to help them solve their problems. The story begins with Abby waking up in the back of a van. She is confused as to where she is and who she is. She doesn't even remember her own name. She is living the life of Brooke, the girl whose body she has taken over, but when she looks into the mirror, she sees Abby. After surviving the daring escape, she learns from Wilhelm aka Will, who is her Guardian, about Shadows and that she is supposed to solve a problem. He doesn't know much about what her current mission is, but is there to guide her along the way.

Brooke has a brother Paul, who is also missing. She learns about this when she is brought home by the police. To Abby, her mission is clear – to find Paul and reunite him with the family. Since Abby is new at being a Shadow, she doesn't always know what she is supposed to do and soon learns that there is a time limit to her missions. If she doesn't complete them, she will be trapped in Brooke's life forever.

I really liked this story. It was a short one and I read it very quickly. I found myself being mesmerized by this book. I couldn't put it down until I was finished with it. When it was done, I quickly downloaded Episode 2 because I just had to find out what would happen with Abby next.

I Like:

? How this story is different than books I normally read. Don't get me wrong, I like books about paranormal beings as much as the next person, but I love it when a book challenges my imagination further than what the mainstream ideas do.

? The aspect of figuring out what the real problems are and how Abby is going to fix them in the allotted time. I've always liked crime shows like Law and Order, CSI and NCIS. This series brings out the investigator in me.

? Will. Even though in the first Episode, Abby seems to be annoyed by him, he still seems like an asset to the

books and her operation of being a Shadow. I imagine we will see more of how he is helping Abby in future episodes of this series.

? The cover of the book. I must credit Backlit Fiction when they came up with the cover. I love how you see both Abby and Brooke in the cover and it reminds you that even though she inhabits Brooke's body, she is still Abby. She has all the traits that come with her.

? Abby is not always right. This makes this more realistic. (As realistic as being a Shadow can be.)

I Did Not Like:

? Waiting for more episodes of this series. Other than that, I couldn't find anything I didn't like. As rare as that is, it's true. There really isn't a "bad guy" or love triangle in this book, so there isn't many characters that you don't like.

Maia says

Smart and sassy Abby Grace is a seventeen-year-old with a talent for getting out of trouble. Sent to repair the lives and loves of teenagers on the edge of disaster, Abby is the perfect girl for the job. She has everything going for her... except one thing: a body.

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As Abby learns next, she has become a Shadow, sent to inhabit the lives of strangers in trouble. With nothing to go on except the vague hints of her cute but maddening Guardian, a 19th century ghostly teenager named Will, Abby sets out to rescue the missing brother. But she will need all of her intelligence, fearlessness, and wit, because if she fails to find him in time, she will remain trapped in this unfamiliar body forever.

Review: So that synopsis pretty much sums up about everything that takes place in the story. I would just like to add my own thoughts.

This book was fast pace and kept you on the edge of your seat. I was like *what's going to happen?! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?!* It all seems over wayyy too fast and will make you go running to buy the second book, so consider yourself warned.

It's interesting to see how everything plays out and how she does it. This book didn't quite explain everything, like who Abby is or what a shadow is, but I'm hoping it will in the next book.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. It was very well done. Just from reading this book I'm already a fan of this author. She has a real nice writing style. One that flows and make for easy reading.

I give this book a **5/5**. Still wish it would have explain more, but it was still good.

No content warning.

Douglas Larson says

A short book and probably written with a teen or preteen audience in mind.
The story makes rather large leaps in the progression of the story and also assumptions.

C.C. Thomas says

My favorite series are those that have lots of changes: I hate when I am stuck in one place with one person too long (after all, if I want that, there is my own life to live). My favorite heroines are those that has a little chutzpah in them: pushovers make me want to throttle someone. My favorite books are thrillers: ones where I can't wait to turn the page and keep on with my roller-coaster read.

Borrowing Abby Grace ticked all those boxes for me. The premise is so original and is sure to keep me coming back for more. Abby, or the main character who may yet be someone else altogether, wakes up in the back of a van, apparently in the middle of a kidnapping, with amnesia. How's that for the first chapter? And from there, the action just keeps going.

After foiling the kidnappers and returning home, Abby is told that she is a Shadow-a creature that inhabits the body of another person in order to help them in some way. If she can't figure out what they need and in a timely manner, she might just be trapped forever in this body and never figure out who she is or how to get home, if she can ever remember where home is. The family she has landed in has huge problems. How exactly is she supposed to know what to do and when to do it? What I love is that the author didn't pull any fast ones here. I loathe books where the ending is a trick, something the reader had no way of knowing but that neatly sums everything up. This book doesn't do that--we follow right along as the main character bumbles her way through.

I love series, like this, that you can just drop in on. I like the idea of a new story and new characters in every single book and this one is setting me up for one grand adventure after another. These kinds of books give the reader a chance to get to know the characters as they grow and develop. Abby is one of my favorite types of heroines. She is charming and funny with just the right amount of spice. I am pulling for her all along, even though I don't know much about her because she doesn't know too much about herself.

All in all, I loved this first installment. It holds lots of promise and I can't wait to see where the next book goes. I have to read it--to answer all my questions and theories about who this person is! The idea is very unique in a market that tries to hard to be like every other supernatural best-seller. The real treasure here is not the measure of 'sameness' it has, but the measure of uniqueness.

Rebecca McKinnon says

This book was provided to me by the author, in exchange for an honest review.

This is a fun, super-fast read. The idea with these books is that they're episodes, so they're short and sweet.

Right off, we meet Abby Grace. Abby is a shadow who gets "borrowed" by people who have problems that Abby can fix for them. The biggest problem is that she doesn't know anything about the person she's supposed to be---not to mention the person she is.

We also meet Will. At this point, Will is a blank page, but there is potential there. I hope that in future episodes we get to know more about him.

I'm looking forward to learning where this series is headed!

Jodie says

As you fall deeply into Borrowing Abby Grace, you'll find yourself hooked and yearning for more. Suspenseful, thrilling, and exciting! You'll find yourself sitting on the edge of your seat.

She awoke to find herself confused, disoriented, and in the back of a van with two complete strangers wearing ski masks. But how did she get there? Kidnapped! Not wanting them to know she was awake, she quietly snuck to the back of the van and opened the door, only to barely get away, as they had realized her intentions and tried desperately to stop her.

She landed in the middle of a beautiful subdivision where everyone was now running towards her to check to see if she was OK. Once the officers from the wailing sirens had checked her out and asked if she belonged to the address in her wallet, she could only shrug and say yes. She had no recollection of who she was or what happened.

When they arrived at the house and the man came outside, running happily towards her, she knew she must be home. But then the question came. Where is Paul? Her brother was kidnapped too. She didn't even know who she was, and couldn't break his heart by telling him this, so she just played along. Looking at the pictures, at the blonde, she realized, that must be her. Except, when she looked into the mirror she seen someone completely different. Someone with black hair, and pale, not tanned skin at all.

Suddenly, someone appeared by her side. Explained to her that she is a shadow. That the body she is in belongs to Abby, and that Abby needs her help. Yet, she only has a short time to do it or she gets stuck inside forever...

Cathy Keaton says

Plot: Abby Grace is a Shadow, a mystical being, formerly human, who inhabits the bodies of living people who need her to solve their problems. But, her problem is that she has amnesia upon first inhabiting her new body and doesn't remember anything about herself. She is in the process of being kidnapped when she first comes to, in the beginning, and manages to get away. Then, discovering who she is and who she's pretending to be takes her on a wild Nancy Drew-like mystery solving journey. The main objective of this episode is for Abby to find the kidnapped younger brother of Brooke, the girl whose body she's inhabiting.

Characters: Abby is a funny girl, apparently a teenager herself, though she has no body. We never find out why she is a Shadow, or rather, she never finds out how the whole "shadowing" process works and why she's a part of it. The other presence in the story is a boy her age named Will, who is like a ghost, and he's there to help her out. He can't tell her how to solve her mysteries, or anything about who she's supposed to be helping, but he can tell her some things about what is expected of her, how much time she has to complete her mission, and the consequences if she doesn't complete it on time. Clearly, he has an important function, but I can't form an opinion of Will because he simply isn't in the story enough.

Technical Writing: It's good and written in a believable YA voice. Abby has probably been leaping around from body to body (kind of like *Quantum Leap*) recently, since she's aware of modern technology and knows how to use it, even with amnesia.

Storytelling: It's supposed to be an homage to the *Nancy Drew* mysteries of yesteryear, but I can't even draw that comparison because I never read any *Nancy Drew*. My older sisters loved those books, but they're ten years older than me, and I just had no interest. I thought the books were outdated, but, that was how I felt as a kid. (Don't kill me!) Still, I thought the mystery was done really well insofar as mysteries are concerned, and I never saw the climax coming. It wasn't predictable, and Abby did her job, even helping to repair a broken family at the end. It was very sweet.

Overall Quality: Great. I wasn't sure what to think when I first started reading, but it quickly became a fast, fun, engaging story as Abby tried to figure out so many different unknowns all at once. I'm surprised it could be done within such a short space (40 pages).

Favorite Scene/Moment: Easy. The scene where Abby sings a solo as Brooke (who has a killer voice) in the choir concert. She didn't know the words to "Danny Boy," so she started making up stuff around the middle of the song--stuff about Danny losing his teddy bear and eating a hamburger. Then, in the middle of her solo, she takes off, chasing after a kid she believes is connected to the little brother's kidnapping, leaving the entire audience completely O_O. I laughed out loud at the pure Randomy McRandom-ness of it all!

Kristan (Lost Amongst the Shelves) says

Could you imaging waking up, in the back of a moving van, with no recollection of who you are or how you got there? Terrifying, right? This is the case for Abby, a teenage girl with a very interesting secret. Abby is a Shadow, a being capable of entering another's body and literally taking over in order to solve that person's disastrous dilemmas. In this first story of the Abby Grace eseries, Abby finds herself in the process of being kidnapped and must struggle not only to save herself, but figure out just who she really is.

The author of this eseries, Kelly Green, was sweet and gracious enough to request this review, and I'm so glad she did. This story is a fast and fun read. Each ebook is relatively short, this one only being 58 pages, but that allows the reader to get caught up in the story right away. Green made a wonderful comparison to this story as being a modern day Nancy Drew, and I couldn't agree more. The mystery and intrigue is palpable as you get caught up in secret after secret, dying to know how Abby is going to solve any. You're thrown into the thick of the story, right along with Abby, which I found to be an amazing writing tactic. It truly feels like you're sitting right along with her, just as lost and confused as to who she is and what mystery she is supposed to solve. With each clue that is unveiled, I was left wondering where this trail would lead us next!

In this first ebook, Abby has taken over Brooke's life, and must try and figure out why someone attempted to kidnap her and where her missing brother, Paul, has been taken. It was really thrilling, following Abby along while she collects clues and tries to unravel each mystery, all while the very cute ghost, Will, tries to steer her in the right direction. I loved Abby's character, she's smart and sassy with an edge to her. Although in a very stressful predicament, she doesn't come across as weak or whiny and therefore I never once was annoyed with Abby. I found her internal dialogue to be witty and hilarious and there were several times that her responses left me either smiling or laughing. Abby was sincerely a very enjoyable character who was so easy to connect with!

I recommend this series to a middle grade audience or for those who love a good mystery. They are definitely fast reads, but the stories are engrossing and leaves you questioning what really is happening to Abby Grace. Green does a fantastic job at giving you just enough detail to leave you wondering right along with Abby, a great exemplification of the author's writing style! There were a few surprising twists as well, that really shakes the story up too! In the end, Borrowing Abby Grace leaves you satisfied and with a sense of accomplishment that you could solve the mystery right along with Abby.
