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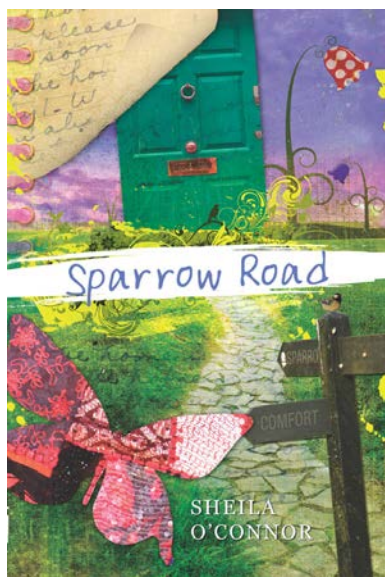
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SPARROW ROAD

By Sheila O'Connor

Advance praise for *Sparrow Road*:

- “Readers finding themselves in this quiet world will find plenty of space to imagine and dream for themselves.” - *Kirkus*, starred review
- “*Sparrow Road* is a book that strikes—and gentles—with Truth... What a sweet and hopeful and engaging story”—Gary D. Schmidt, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and *The Wednesday Wars*
- “*Sparrow Road* has everything I could ask for in a novel—mysteries, secrets... a cast of unforgettable characters, and a twisting tale of self-discovery.”—Ann A. Martin, Newbery Honor-winning author of *A Corner of the Universe* and the bestselling series *The Babysitters Club*
- “Sheila O’Connor’s book about the importance of love, loyalty and dreams, charmed me... *Sparrow Road* is quite wonderful and I recommend it highly.”—Karen Cushman, author of the Newbery Medal winning *The Midwife’s Apprentice* and Newbery Honor-winning *Catherine, Called Birdy*



This spring, Penguin Young Readers is proud to publish **SPARROW ROAD** (on sale May 12, 2011 ▪ G.P. Putnam’s Sons ▪ 9780399254581 ▪ ages 9-12 ▪ \$16.99), a novel that one bookseller proclaims “has restored my faith in middle-grade fiction” (Colette Morgan, Wild Rumpus Books).

SPARROW ROAD is the story of one young girl’s summer at a mysterious estate, where she discovers a secret about her past. In the summer before seventh grade, twelve-year-old Raine O’Rourke’s mother suddenly takes a job hours from home at mysterious Sparrow Road—a creepy, dilapidated mansion that houses an eccentric group of artists. As Raine tries to make sense of her new surroundings, she forges friendships with a cast of quirky

characters including the outrageous and funky Josie. Together, Raine and Josie decide to solve the mysteries of Sparrow Road—from its haunting history as an orphanage to the secrets of its silent, brooding owner, Viktor. But it’s an unexpected secret from Raine’s own life that changes her forever.

A novel about writing, imagination, and the importance of dreams, **SPARROW ROAD** is author Sheila O’Connor’s tribute to the thousands of writers that she has mentored throughout her life while living in Minnesota. Many of those students are now adults with children of their own, and Sheila’s debut book for young readers works to further inspire a new generation of writers in their own creative endeavors.

About the author

Sheila O’Connor (www.sheilaconnor.com) is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *Where No Gods Came*, which was a Barnes & Noble Discover pick and won the Minnesota Book Award as well as the Michigan Award for Literary Fiction. Her poetry and fiction have been published in a host of anthologies and magazines, and she is the editor of two collections of poetry written by students from throughout Minnesota: *Come Home Before Dark* and *In My Hand Forever*. She received her MFA from the University of Iowa, Iowa Writers’ Workshop and is an Assistant Professor of Writing at Hamline University. *Sparrow Road* is her first book for young readers.

G.P. Putnam’s Sons ▪ A Division of Penguin Young Readers Group ▪
On Sale May 12, 2011 ▪ ISBN: 9780399254581 ▪ Hardcover ▪ Ages 9-12

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