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Ghost Talkers

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Synopsis

Ghost Talkers: a new novel from beloved fantasy author Mary Robinette Kowal featuring the mysterious spirit corps and their heroic work in World War I.Ginger Stuyvesant, an American heiress living in London during World War I, is engaged to Captain Benjamin Harford, an intelligence officer. Ginger is a medium for the Spirit Corps, a special Spiritualist force.Each soldier heading for the front is conditioned to report to the mediums of the Spirit Corps when they die so the Corps can pass instant information about troop movements to military intelligence.Ginger and her fellow mediums contribute a great deal to the war efforts, so long as they pass the information through appropriate channels. While Ben is away at the front, Ginger discovers the presence of a traitor. Without the presence of her fiance to validate her findings, the top brass thinks she's just imagining things. Even worse, it is clear that the Spirit Corps is now being directly targeted by the German war effort. Left to her own devices, Ginger has to find out how the Germans are targeting the Spirit Corps and stop them. This is a difficult and dangerous task for a woman of that era, but this time both the spirit and the flesh are willingâ |

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received an e-ARC of this novel through NetGalley and Macmillan - Tor/Forge.Alternate history, ghosts, spies, and a sweetly wonderful romance; just the kind of novel tailor made for me. I have never read anything else written by Mary Robinette Kowal and I can't help but believe this will begin a trend in marking me as a fan. The idea for this novel being centered around spiritual mediums, mostly women, who were "doing their part" in The Great War is simply an abundant orchard with

fruit waiting to be harvested. There are so many directions Kowal can go with the second novel (what I'm actually saying is that I hope there will be a second novel). In this war women were allowed to be nurses but that was about as far as their gender could go toward the war effort short of growing more vegetables and knitting more scarves and socks. This story gives women a very special place to serve, in the Spirit Corps. To most of the world they appear as women who have volunteered to present a calm, friendly face to men who are going to the front or just returning. While some of the women are doing this another group is taking part in the secret missions of having mediums conduct interviews with the spirit of men killed in battle in order to gain almost instant battlefield reports. Then comes the news that the Central Powers have found out about the mediums and are going to try to eliminate them. Ginny Stuyvesant is an American, a medium, and the fiancÃ© of Captain Ben Harford, a British officer in the espionage service. Together they are doing their part to fight the war according to their own talents.

What a beautiful novel! Gorgeously vivid descriptive writing, a complex mystery, and a heartbreaking love story make Ghost Talkers one of my top picks for the year.What drew me to this book: I discovered this book at BEA 16. I recognized Mary Robinette Kowalâ ™s name as an audiobook narrator for the October Daye series. She is also an author with several books in print, but this is the first of hers that I have read. The book has a beautiful Chris McGrath cover that canâ ™t fail to catch the eyeWhat kept me reading: I found everything about this book to be beautiful: the world-building, the characters, the relationships, and the vividly descriptive writing.The premise of this book is unique to me. Ghost Talkers is set during World War II. The British army has a secret weaponâ "the Spirit Corps. Concealed among the WAC, the Spirit Core is made up of mediums and their support â œcirclesâ • who take reports from the ghosts of soldiers who have died on the front. The soldiers are conditioned to report to the Corps before their spirit can cross over. This gives the British Army a great advantage in intelligence gathering.This book is part mystery and part love story. Kowal creates a relationship between the two principles that is absolutely heartbreaking. Thereâ ™s also a beautiful relationship among the members of the protagonistâ ™s circle. The mystery is satisfyingly complex and the stakes are high, which kept me totally engaged.Mediums and sensitives can see auras, and auras communicate emotions. The way Kowal describes emotions in auras is fascinating. She describes protective anger as red plate armor and fury as sweeping red wings. Fear can either be smokey black tendrils or a tight, controlled ball of dark energy.

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