

**“The Girl in the Green Raincoat” by Laura Lippman.  
William Morrow Paperbacks, 2011. \$11.99 176 pages.**

Confined to bed rest in the third trimester of her pregnancy, private investigator Tess Monaghan is more than a bit stir-crazy. The highlight of her day is often her ten foot waddle to the bathroom, and although she is used to staying in one place for long periods of time for surveillance jobs, this forced inactivity is unbearable.

Needing a distraction from the tedium, Tess begins to watch the world pass by. Sitting on her sun porch, armed with her binoculars, Tess watches the daily dog walkers, longing to be outside with them. As she settles into a people-watching routine, her attention is caught by a particular pair – a small greyhound and its owner, both in matching green raincoats. The girl in the green raincoat doesn’t socialize with the other dog owners, preferring to stay occupied with the cell phone she keeps pressed to her ear.

Every afternoon, Tess watches as the girl and the greyhound in their green raincoats walk through the park, but one day the only thing she sees is the dog, running loose, with the girl nowhere in sight.

As a private investigator, Tess is naturally curious, and when the girl fails to turn up in the park again, she watches for any sign of a missing person report or some indication of what might have happened.

Tess enlists the help of her boyfriend Crow, her best friend Whitney and her employee Mrs. Blossom to see if she can discover what happened to the girl. As she eventually finds the dog, and learns the girl’s identity, Tess uncovers a dangerous history between the girl’s husband and his previous wives, all of whom had tragic accidents.

Determined to learn the truth, but trapped in her home, Tess must use all of her ingenuity and her resources to expose what really happened to the girl in green raincoat.

Originally serialized in the New York Times, “The Girl in the Green Raincoat” is a thriller worthy of the description “Hitchcockian.” Evoking the feeling of the classic film “Rear Window,” “The Girl” is a fast paced, exciting read sure to satisfy any mystery fan.

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