



The Watcher in the Shadows

By Carlos Ruiz Zafon

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It was an unforgettable summer....

When fourteen-year-old Irene Sauvelle moves with her family to Cape House on the coast of Normandy, she's immediately taken by the beauty of the place--its expansive cliffs, coasts, and harbors. There, she meets a local boy named Ishmael, and the two soon fall in love. But a dark mystery is about to unfold, involving a reclusive toymaker who lives in a gigantic mansion filled with mechanical beings and shadows of the past.

As strange lights shine through the fog surrounding a small, barren island, Irene's younger brother dreams of a dark creature hidden deep in the forest. And when a young girl is found murdered, her body at the end of a path torn through the woods by a monstrous, inhuman force, Irene and Ishmael wonder--has a demonic presence been unleashed on the inhabitants of Cape House? Together, they'll have to survive the most terrifying summer of their lives, as they try to piece together the many mysteries and secrets hidden in a town torn apart by tragedy, amidst a labyrinth of lights and shadows.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

First published in Spain in 1995, this early work from Zafón hits all the gothic horror bases: creepy castles, foreboding caves, haunted lighthouses, murky woods, masked balls, and just about everything else you might hope for. Mostly, though, this is a cunning twist on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—with a little bit of ventriloquist-dummy horror thrown in for good measure. Fourteen-year-old Irene's penniless mother has just won the jackpot: she's been hired to keep house at Cravenmoore, the estate of reclusive toymaker Lazarus Jann. He's a kindly eccentric, but the grinning automatons populating his castle carry an air of menace. Just as frightening is the personless shadow giving chase to Irene and her little brother. And what of the legend of the woman who drowned in the lagoon? Though there is probably one mystery too many here, Zafón cuts between his various characters with cinematic skill, and his habit of telling stories within the narrative is put to spine-tingling use, just as it was with *The Midnight Palace* (2011). Good, solid scares. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Zafón is still cruising off the might of the international best-sellers *The Shadow of the Wind* (2004) and *The Angel's Game* (2009). Anything he does for quite a while will garner a good deal of interest. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus

Review

Praise for *The Watcher in the Shadows*:

"Zafón cuts between his various characters with cinematic skill, and his habit of telling stories within the narrative is put to spine-tingling use...Good, solid scares."

?*Booklist*

"Exciting...Plenty of thrills and chills."? *Publishers Weekly*

"...A clever plot, sympathetic characters, and a richly detailed 1930s setting; a haunted, melancholy tone with an air of nostalgia and an atmosphere of menace; and a beautiful translation that provides the evocative language that serves as the glue holding it all together."

?*Horn Book*

"...A well-written, well-crafted tale full of unique characters with full personalities. In a world of YA fiction where characters are either Edward and Bella or Harry Potter and Katniss Everdeen, Irene and Ismael are a much-needed breath of fresh air."

?*Tor.com*

Praise for *The Prince of Mist*:

* "Awesome."

?*School Library Journal* (starred review)

Praise for *The Midnight Palace*:

"With shades of modern horror classics....Zafón has crafted a highly original plot set within an exotic setting."

?*Booklist*

About the Author

Carlos Ruiz Zafón is the author of seven novels, including the *New York Times* bestseller *The Prince of Mist* and the international phenomena *The Shadow of the Wind* and *The Angel's Game*. His newest novel, *Marina*, publishes in July 2014. His work has been published in more than fifty countries and honored with numerous awards. He divides his time between Barcelona, Spain, and Los Angeles, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Manzo:

This *The Watcher in the Shadows* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This *The Watcher in the Shadows* without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't end up being worry *The Watcher in the Shadows* can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *The Watcher in the Shadows* having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Steve Diaz:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the guide untitled *The Watcher in the Shadows* can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Deanna Nance:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book *The Watcher in the Shadows* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book features high quality.

Ruth Jones:

Exactly why? Because this *The Watcher in the Shadows* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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