



The Watcher in the Shadows

By Carlos Ruiz Zafon



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It was an unforgettable summer....



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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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The Watcher in the Shadows By Carlos Ruiz Zafon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #172801 in Books
- Published on: 2014-07-01
- Released on: 2014-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .75" w x 5.50" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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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:

Angela Taylor:

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Brian Scheele:

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