



The Shadow of the Wind (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 1)

By Carlos Ruiz Zafon

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"Gabriel García Márquez meets Umberto Eco meets Jorge Luis Borges for a sprawling magic show." --*The New York Times Book Review*

A New York Times Bestseller

Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled *The Shadow of the Wind*, by one Julián Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence. Soon Daniel's seemingly innocent quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets--an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love.

"Anyone who enjoys novels that are scary, erotic, touching, tragic and thrilling should rush right out to the nearest bookstore and pick up *The Shadow of the Wind*. Really, you should." --Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*

"Wonderous... masterful... *The Shadow of the Wind* is ultimately a love letter to literature, intended for readers as passionate about storytelling as its young hero." --*Entertainment Weekly* (Editor's Choice)

"One gorgeous read." --Stephen King

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ruiz Zafón's novel, a bestseller in his native Spain, takes the satanic touches from *Angel Heart* and stirs them into a bookish intrigue à la Foucault's *Pendulum*. The time is the 1950s; the place, Barcelona. Daniel Sempere, the son of a widowed bookstore owner, is 10 when he discovers a novel, *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julián Carax. The novel is rare, the author obscure, and rumors tell of a horribly disfigured man who has been burning every copy he can find of Carax's novels. The man calls himself Laín Coubert—the name of the devil in one of Carax's novels. As he grows up, Daniel's fascination with the mysterious Carax links him to a blind femme fatale with a "porcelain gaze," Clara Barceló; another fan, a leftist jack-of-all-trades, Fermín Romero de Torres; his best friend's sister, the delectable Beatriz Aguilar; and, as he begins investigating the life and death of Carax, a cast of characters with secrets to hide. Officially, Carax's dead body was dumped in an alley in 1936. But discrepancies in this story surface. Meanwhile, Daniel and Fermín are being harried by a sadistic policeman, Carax's childhood friend. As Daniel's quest continues, frightening parallels between his own life and Carax's begin to emerge. Ruiz Zafón strives for a literary tone, and no scene goes by without its complement of florid, cute and inexact similes and metaphors (snow is "God's dandruff"; servants obey orders with "the efficiency and submissiveness of a body of well-trained insects"). Yet the colorful cast of characters, the gothic turns and the straining for effect only give the book the feel of para-literature or the Hollywood version of a great 19th-century novel.

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From [Booklist](#)

Call it the "book book" genre: this international sensation (it has sold in more than 20 countries and been number one on the Spanish best-seller list), newly translated into English, has books and storytelling--and a single, physical book--at its heart. In post-World War II Barcelona, young Daniel is taken by his bookseller father to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, a massive sanctuary where books are guarded from oblivion. Told to choose one book to protect, he selects *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julian Carax. He reads it, loves it, and soon learns it is both very valuable and very much in danger because someone is determinedly burning every copy of every book written by the obscure Carax. To call this book--Zafon's *Shadow of the Wind*--old-fashioned is to mean it in the best way. It's big, chock-full of unusual characters, and strong in its sense of place. Daniel's initiation into the mysteries of adulthood is given the same weight as the mystery of the book-burner. And the setting--Spain under Franco--injects an air of sobriety into some plot elements that might otherwise seem soap operatic. Part detective story, part boy's adventure, part romance, fantasy, and gothic horror, the intricate plot is urged on by extravagant foreshadowing and nail-nibbling tension. This is rich, lavish storytelling, very much in the tradition of Ross King's *Ex Libris* (2001). *Keir Graff*

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Review

A sensation across Europe... a page-turning mystery... a coming of age tale... And it's a hymn of praise to all the joys of reading, stylishly caught in Lucia Graves's entrancing translation. -- Boyd Tonkin
INDEPENDENT crowd-pleaser in the mode of *The Da Vinci Code*... Intertwining playful detective caper, compelling political thriller and sweeping historical romance, the narrative coils back beyond the savagery of the civil war to the world of the tainted Spanish aristocracy, before slowly unravelling the dark secrets born of Franco's tyranny. Zafon's novel... leave the reader with a palpable sense of enchantment. SUNDAY TIMES This week's book barely needs an introduction. Almost every book group I know about had read *The Shadow of the Wind*... the book is about a boy who becomes obsessed with an author. It is set in Barcelona

during a bloody time in Spain's history and there is, as you would expect from a bestseller, plenty of death, murder, love and heroism. THE TIMES BOOK CLUB It was only The Da Vinci Code that stopped The Shadow of the Wind from hogging the top of the bestseller charts last year... an astounding critical success. There's an intricate plot, a gothic atmosphere and an elusive quest, as well as murders, intrigue and star-crossed lovers. THE GUARDIAN a wonderful portrait of Barcelona - not the sunny, culture rich and fun loving city break destination that most visitors know - but a shadowy, at times dark and atmospheric picture of the city centre streets in the years following the Spanish Civil War. LIVING SPAIN This bewitching novel has all the hallmarks of a classic Holy Grail story complete with mystery, mayhem, romance and labyrinthine plotting. What elevates it above all others in the genre is its emotional energy, making it a richly rewarding read. DAILY MAIL one of the most engaging, funny, moving, lyrical books IRISH EXAMINER The best book I've ever read -- AMANDA LAMB WOMAN AND HOME a magical tale of romance -- CECELIA AHERN SUNDAY EXPRESS I couldn't put it down but didn't want to rush is as every sentence is beautifully crafted and every character unique. -- SANTA MONTEFIORE EVENING STANDARD A page turning exploration of obsession in literature and love SUNDAY EXPRESS a great thriller -- CECELIA AHERN MARIE CLAIRE the main character's deep love for books and their respective, secret libraries -- CECELIA AHERN IRISH TIMES A real page-turner of a mystery that will have you hooked from beginning to end SPAINSH MAGAZINE

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Bennington:

This book untitled The Shadow of the Wind (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 1) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it through online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this publication from your list.

Vivian Nava:

The particular book The Shadow of the Wind (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 1) has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this book.

Christine Hughes:

The Shadow of the Wind (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 1) can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Shadow of the Wind (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 1) nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

Edward Suniga:

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