



The Angel's Game (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 2)

By Carlos Ruiz Zafon

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From the author of the international phenomenon *The Shadow of the Wind*, comes a riveting new masterpiece about love, literature, and betrayal.

In this powerful, labyrinthian thriller, David Martín is a pulp fiction writer struggling to stay afloat. Holed up in a haunting abandoned mansion in the heart of Barcelona, he furiously taps out story after story, becoming increasingly desperate and frustrated. Thus, when he is approached by a mysterious publisher offering a book deal that seems almost too good to be real, David leaps at the chance. But as he begins the work, and after a visit to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, he realizes that there is a connection between his book and the shadows that surround his dilapidated home and that the publisher may be hiding a few troubling secrets of his own. Once again, Ruiz Zafón takes us into a dark, gothic Barcelona and creates a breathtaking tale of intrigue, romance, and tragedy

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Book Description

From master storyteller Carlos Ruiz Zafón, author of the international phenomenon *The Shadow of the Wind*, comes *The Angel's Game*--a dazzling new page-turner about the perilous nature of obsession, in literature and in love.

"The whole of Barcelona stretched out at my feet and I wanted to believe that, when I opened those windows, its streets would whisper stories to me, secrets I could capture on paper and narrate to whomever cared to listen..."

In an abandoned mansion at the heart of Barcelona, a young man, David Martín, makes his living by writing sensationalist novels under a pseudonym. The survivor of a troubled childhood, he has taken refuge in the world of books and spends his nights spinning baroque tales about the city's underworld. But perhaps his dark imaginings are not as strange as they seem, for in a locked room deep within the house lie photographs and letters hinting at the mysterious death of the previous owner.

Like a slow poison, the history of the place seeps into his bones as he struggles with an impossible love. Close to despair, David receives a letter from a reclusive French editor, Andreas Corelli, who makes him the offer of a lifetime. He is to write a book unlike anything that has ever existed--a book with the power to change hearts and minds. In return, he will receive a fortune, and perhaps more. But as David begins the work, he realizes that there is a connection between his haunting book and the shadows that surround his home.

Once again, Zafón takes us into a dark, gothic universe first seen in *The Shadow of the Wind* and creates a breathtaking adventure of intrigue, romance, and tragedy. Through a dizzyingly constructed labyrinth of secrets, the magic of books, passion, and friendship blend into a masterful story.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón on *The Angel's Game*

Years ago, when I began working on my fifth novel, *The Shadow of the Wind*, I started toying around with the idea of creating a fictional universe that would be articulated through four interconnected stories in which we would meet some of the same characters at different times in their lives, and see them from different perspectives where many plots and subplots would tie around in knots for the reader to untie. It sounds somewhat pretentious, but my idea was to add a twist to the story and provide the reader with what I hoped would be a stimulating and playful reading experience. Since these books were, in part, about the world of literature, books, reading and language, I thought it would be interesting to use the different novels to explore those themes through different angles and to add new layers to the meaning of the stories.



At first I thought this could be done in one book, but soon I realized it would make *Shadow of the Wind* a monster novel, and in many ways, destroy the structure I was trying to design for it. I realized I would have to write four different novels. They would be stand-alone stories that could be read in any order. I saw them as a Chinese box of stories with four doors of entry, a labyrinth of fictions that could be explored in many directions, entirely or in parts, and that could provide the reader with an additional layer of enjoyment and play. These novels would have a central axis, the idea of the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, set against the backdrop of a highly stylized, gothic and mysterious Barcelona. Since each novel was going to be complex and difficult to write, I decided to take one at a time and see how the experiment evolved on its own in an organic way.

It all sounds very complicated, but it is not. At the end of the day, these are just stories that share a universe, a tone and some central themes and characters. You don't need to care or know about any of this stuff to enjoy them. One of the fun things about this process was it allowed me to give each book a different personality. Thus, if *Shadow of the Wind* is the nice, good girl in the family, *The Angel's Game* would be the wicked gothic stepsister. Some readers often ask me if *The Angel's Game* is a prequel or a sequel. The answer is: none of these things, and all of the above. Essentially *The Angel's Game* is a new book, a stand-alone story that you can fully enjoy and understand on its own. But if you have already read *The Shadow of the Wind*, or you decide to read it afterwards, you'll find new meanings and connections that I hope will enhance your experience with these characters and their adventures.

The Angel's Game has many games inside, one of them with the reader. It is a book designed to make you step into the storytelling process and become a part of it. In other words, the wicked, gothic chick wants your blood. Beware. Maybe, without realizing, I ended up writing a monster book after all... Don't say I didn't warn you, courageous reader. I'll see you on the other side. --Carlos Ruiz Zafón

(Photo © Isolde Ohlbaum)

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Fans of Zafón's *The Shadow of the Wind* and new readers alike will be delighted with this gothic semiprequel. In 1920s Barcelona, David Martin is born into poverty, but, aided by patron and friend Pedro Vidal, he rises to become a crime reporter and then a beloved pulp novelist. David's creative pace is frenetic; holed up in his dream house—a decrepit mansion with a sinister history—he produces two great novels, one for Vidal to claim as his own, and one for himself. But Vidal's book is celebrated while David's is buried, and when Vidal marries David's great love, David accepts a commission to write a story that leads him into danger. As he explores the past and his mysterious publisher, David becomes a suspect in a string of murders, and his race to uncover the truth is a delicious puzzle: is he beset by demons or a demon himself? Zafón's novel is detailed and vivid, and David's narration is charming and funny, but suspect. Villain or victim, he is the hero of and the guide to this dark labyrinth that, by masterful design, remains thrilling and bewildering. (June)

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Readers worldwide loved *Shadow of the Wind*; critics are more skeptical about *The Angel's Game*. Certainly, Zafón knows how to tell a story: the novel meshes forbidden love, magical realism, religion and ideas, literature, and gothic horror in a compelling tale. He also knows how to set a scene: here, the architecture, slums, and modernist leanings of Barcelona become a character in their own right. Still, complaints marred the reviews. A few critics commented that the story, despite its far-fetched subplots, takes itself too seriously; its philosophical musings don't quite work. Others complained of the dark, labyrinthine plot, purple prose, and predictability. Still, fans of *The Shadow of the Wind* will relish this prequel; after all,

storytelling -- the heart of the novel -- is "the master [Zafon] serves, and the devil he knows" (*New York Times Book Review*).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Adam Jones:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will require this The Angel's Game (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 2).

Sarah Alexander:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book The Angel's Game (The Cemetery of Forgotten Book 2) it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

Mary Wing:

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