

Chapter 1 : The Shadow of the Wind - Wikipedia

The Shadow of the Wind (Spanish: *La sombra del viento*) is a novel by Spanish writer Carlos Ruiz Zafón and a worldwide bestseller. The book was translated into English in by Lucia Graves and sold over a million copies in the UK after already achieving success on mainland Europe, topping the Spanish bestseller lists for weeks.

According to tradition, everyone initiated to this secret place is allowed to take one book from it and must protect it for life. That morning he takes the book home and reads it, completely engrossed. Daniel then attempts to look for other books by this unknown author but can find none. The novel is actually a story within a story. His friend Fermin Romero de Torres, who was imprisoned and tortured in Montjuic Castle for having been involved in an espionage against the Anarchists during the war—himself being a government intelligence agent—helps Daniel in a number of ways, but their probing into the murky past of a number of people who have been either long dead or long forgotten unleashes the dark forces of the murderous Inspector Fumero. He begins to burn all of his novels and calls himself Lain Coubert. After finishing reading the book, Daniel marries Beatriz "Bea" Aguilar, whom he has loved for a long time, in . Soon after, Bea gives birth to a son. Characters[edit] Daniel Sempere — The main character of the story. Son of a bookshop owner. After reading the book, Daniel becomes obsessed with its elusive author. Tough and strong, very protective of his sister Bea, and also a rather intelligent inventor. Bea, who is a very pretty young woman, is still in school. After the blood dried, they became the best of friends. An older man who is a book lover and buyer. He originally offers to buy "The Shadow of the Wind" from Daniel, who declines his offer. He is also a father figure to his niece Clara. He develops a schoolboy crush on her even though she is ten years his senior, but tries to forget her once he discovers her in a compromising position with her piano instructor. Daniel desperately seeks to find out the truth about this mysterious man: Their love affair, however, has been doomed since the beginning, because, unknown to them, they are half-brother and sister. Francisco Javier Fumero — The main antagonist. He dies in Paris in . It is as if destiny had planned their doomed love, as it is revealed they are half-brother and sister. She helps Daniel in his quest. She is also the daughter of Mr.

Chapter 2 : The Shadow of the Wind : Carlos Ruiz Zafon :

This is my first Carlos Ruiz Zafon novel, but I can promise it won't be my last. I truly enjoyed this novel. It is very well written and plotted, and totally without any wasted words.

Jul 29, Annalisa rated it it was amazing Recommends it for: I was going to love this book. I needed a whole pad of post-its to mark quotes. I wanted to read this in Spanish for the rich poetry the language would add. A young boy Daniel is taken by his father to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books and told to salvage a book which he must take stewardship over. He chooses a novel that touches him, stirs his desire for literature, and forever entangles him with the fate of the book and its author. The strange author died in poverty but now someone is seeking out all remaining copies of his unsuccessful novels to burn. Wrapped up in the mystery is a message of death: The Shadow of the Wind is an allegory for death in a fictitious novel by the same title. Shadow is a perfect symbol for death evoking images of how death can be metaphorical instead of literal living shadows of lives, chasing shadows of dreams, being shadows of others, letting memories shadow life. Every character had shadows which could engulf them or they could overcome. In this sense death becomes a fate we chose ourselves. For death is not always the worst thing that can happen "words are not always the worst prison". Every time the word shadow was used I considered its illusion of death. It was with much thought that the word was scattered throughout the book. Both grew up poor without an ideal family life, fell in love with a rich girl who was the adoration of her father and whose brother was a best friend, evoked murderous anger from her father after impregnating her, and when they have a brush with death, extremes of hate and love anchored their fight to survive. Once Daniel is aware of the correlation, the comparison stops. Is it because Daniel consciously chooses to chance his path or has fate dealt him a better hand? Julian wrote "There are no coincidences. We are the puppets of our subconscious desires. Clara is a physical angel who is blind while Fumero an emotional devil blinded by hate. While women tended to be described as angel and men devil, most characters held both in different shades. Take Julian the angel child bringing life love, novels who turned into the devil Lain Coubert bringing death destruction, fear. But the characters pick whether to accept the destiny allotted them. Fermin was living death in the shadows of the street who had to get over his demons to find life worth living. The book reminded me of The 13th Tale thematically, linguistically, and in delivery, although I loved this book so much more. The way the mystery unfolds finding tidbits from different perspectives enhanced the mystery and aided the depth of characterization. When I can see the vicious wife beater, deceived husband, and regretful father all in Antonio Fortuny I get a more well rounded sense of his motives. I enjoyed how the characters played different roles for each other. I love Barcelona as the setting. The Spanish have a way of making all things metaphorically beautiful. The vivid romantic passages had me smiling and at times laughing out loud. Julian was my initial guess and while the story kept me questioning, it was the best solution and I was happy with the conclusion. But no novel is perfect; my issues are these: The readymade quotes are extreme. Zafon salvages this by calling himself out on the commentary. He sets the comments up in dialogue and then uses another character to mock the snippets. How could she know what Miquel looked at when dying? The chapters of her letters change from direct commentary to Daniel to third-party narrative. I always hope historical fiction will showcase a more accurate moral setting, but it rarely happens. I was also disappointed that all marriages were displayed as wrong and wives disregarded. I guess it added to the Spanish flavor of the book. American authors tend to impose unrealistic happy endings while Europeans favor poignant sad ones. At one point it seemed bad things happened to Julian for nothing else than this love of tragedies. It seemed Zafon was going to ruin the characters lives to make a point. But he makes his point with Julian and leaves Daniel to gives us a satisfied ending. A story about the living dead cannot be all bliss but we still find redemption as the characters step out of the shadows and live their lives. Few things leave a deeper mark on a reader than the first book that finds its way into his heart. I believed, with the innocence of those who can still count their age on their fingers, that if

I closed my eyes and spoke to her, she would be able to hear me wherever I was. Women have an infallible instinct for knowing when a man has fallen madly in love with them, especially when the male in question is both a complete dunce and a minor. Death was like a nameless and incomprehensible hand. The eternal stupidity of pursuing those who hurt us the most. Paris is the only city in the world where starving to death is still considered an art. Arrogant as only idiots can be. I felt myself surrounded by millions of abandoned pages, by worlds and souls without an owner sinking in an ocean of darkness, while the world that throbbed outside the library seemed to be losing its memory. Presents are made for the pleasure of who gives them, not for the merits of who receives them. People talk too much. They come for parrots. God, in His infinite wisdom, and perhaps overwhelmed by the avalanche of requests from so many tormented souls, did not answer. Silencing their hearts and their souls to the point where Evil presupposes a moral decision. Marriage and family are only what we make of them. Destiny is usually just around the corner. But what destiny does not do home visits. You have to go for it. You never know when you might need them. Fools talk, cowards are silent, wise men listen. Waiting is the rust of the soul. Most of us have the good or bad fortune of seeing our lives fall apart so slowly we barely notice. Time goes faster the more hollow it is. I learned to confuse routine with normality. The world war, which had polluted the entire globe with a stench of corpses that would never go away. The clear, unequivocal lucidity of madmen who have escaped the hypocrisy of having to abide by a reality that makes no sense. A story is a letter the author writes to himself to tell himself things he would be unable to discover otherwise.

Chapter 3 : Carlos Ruiz Zafón - Wikipedia

About Carlos Carlos Ruiz Zafón is the author of six novels, including the international phenomenon *The Shadow of the Wind*, and *The Angel's Game*. His work has been published in more than forty different languages, and honoured with numerous international awards.

It has a cool, mysterious sounding title so it must be good, right? Read on and find out. Daniel, the son of a Barcelona book dealer, discovers a little known book called *The Shadow of the Wind*. Daniel may possess one of the last copies remaining. A story is a letter the author writes to himself, to tell himself things that he would be unable to discover otherwise. *The Shadow of the Wind* is a fascinating story wrapped around a love letter to great literature. Along the way he praises classic books, the joy of reading and the value that books offer us. The book is a tragic stew of love, obsession, pride, revenge, religion, friendship and remorse. As a dad and husband, it was impossible for me to read some of the scenes without shaking my head and thinking, "how could someone ever treat their own family like that? Is it a man made conspiracy? Something paranormal or supernatural? Or simply a tragic coincidence of events? Another similarity is the labyrinth of sub plots and old connections between characters. This city is a sorceress, you know, Daniel? It gets under your skin and steals your soul without you knowing it. Writing Style Most of the book is a narrative told by Daniel. Insight into a city and a part of history Spanish Civil War that I knew little about before reading this book. Rich and descriptive story telling. There are no second chances in life, except to feel remorse. The story telling was rich and dark with layers of sub plots and mystery.

Chapter 4 : The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

The Shadow of the Wind is a coming-of-age tale of a young boy who, through the magic of a single book, finds a purpose greater than himself and a hero in a man he's never met. With the passion of García Márquez, the irony of Dickens, and the necromancy of Poe, Carlos Ruiz Zafón spins a web of intrigue so thick that it ensnares the reader from the very first line.

No consensus From the Reviews: It is also a quasi-Freudian biblio-adventure, looping and twisting through the streets of post-war Barcelona and in among the pages of books, in search of lost fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. He swathes his story in atmospherics: Barcelona becomes a place of doors opening into dark interiors of the mind. A trivial yet revealing mannerism is the frequency with which a character reads some book or other deep into the night, enthralled, only for the sun to come up on cue as the last page is reached: We are taken on a wild ride -- for a ride, we may occasionally feel -- that executes its hairpin bends with breathtaking lurches. But there is more to say. The language purrs along, while the plot twists and unravels with languid grace Yet despite these strengths it still feels that there is something missing from this book. The medley of genres mildly supernatural thriller, against-the-odds love story and period coming-of-age saga never quite fuses into a satisfying whole. The combined effect of the foggy setting and soggy writing is of being lost in a swamp. This is highly sophisticated, fun reading that keeps you gripped and tests the brain cells all at the same time. What more could you ask for? There are well-composed set pieces featuring deserted mansions, alluring women and night-time pursuits through the alleys of the Spanish city. We read also on the jacket that the author is living in Los Angeles and working as a scriptwriter. But for all the skill, there is, for this reader at least, an air of fakery. Call it postmodern allusion if you like, but the characters seem hand-me-downs For the more hard-hearted, it remains a piece of hokum. Zafon was formerly a screenwriter in Los Angeles and the novel reads like a screenplay but think Hollywood, not San Sebastian: Es geht ihm stets darum, Spannung zu steigern. Carlos Ruiz Zafon hat ein spannendes Buch geschrieben. Similarly the illustrative quotes chosen here are merely those the complete review subjectively believes represent the tenor and judgment of the review as a whole. We acknowledge and remind and warn you that they may, in fact, be entirely unrepresentative of the actual reviews by any other measure. The narrator, Daniel, is the son of a Barcelona bookseller, and the novel opens with a marvelous invention: It is this world that Daniel is initiated into in , when he is just ten years old: As it turns out and how could it be otherwise? As soon as it becomes known that Daniel has a copy he gets several very generous offers for it -- but he knows his duty to the book. Daniel slowly learns the story of the author, who wrote and published several other works in the s and 30s that were published in Paris and then in Barcelona. Daniel only slowly comes to learn the whole story -- and only eventually becomes drawn into it completely. Daniel does get drawn into the Carax-story, which is more mysterious and complex than he could have imagined. The pieces fall into place -- childhood friendships and humiliations, disappointed and discouraged love, deepest-rooted and long-lingering hatred and anger --, and conflict and confrontation are unavoidable. Several of the characters are unwilling to leave the past dead and buried literally, in some cases , and Daniel finds himself in the middle of it all. Others are stock characters straight out of Victorian schlock, the purely evil Fumero especially. The heated writing works well in part. There are moments when it achieves its desired effect, as when one arrives at a scene finding: Ruiz Zafon even has to resort to a long section that is the a manuscript left behind by one of the characters, one of several awkward shifts in his presentation of the complicated Carax-backstory. Only once more is a character initiated, brought to this fantastic repository to select a book: What is the chosen volume? If this were meant as satire one might understand the choice, but Ruiz Zafon is almost relentlessly serious throughout the book. The complex story twists and turns all about -- and shifts frequently from present to filling in the blanks from the past --, and the focus is not always precise enough. Uneven, but a fairly engrossing read.

Chapter 5 : The Shadow of the Wind (Audiobook) by Carlos Ruiz Zafon | blog.quintoapp.com

The Shadow of the Wind is an unpopular opinion to follow! (Making this review a bit more personal than usual, because I can't slam a one-star review on this highly popular title without giving some explanation for my disappointment).

Chapter 6 : THE SHADOW OF THE WIND by Carlos Ruiz Zafón , Lucia Graves | Kirkus Reviews

The Shadow of the Wind is a dark and thrilling novel set in the Gothic heart of Barcelona, Spain.. The book's story has many elements: it's part mystery, part tragedy, and part love letter to great literature.

Chapter 7 : The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Carlos Ruiz Zafon is one of the world's most read and best-loved writers. His work has been translated into more than forty languages and published around the world, garnering numerous international prizes and reaching millions of readers.

Chapter 8 : Characters by The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

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Chapter 9 : Review: The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón | Owlcation

THE SHADOW OF THE WIND by Carlos Ruiz Zafon is a multi-layered tale about a ten-year-old boy named Daniel Sempere, who picks up a copy of a book by an author who seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth.