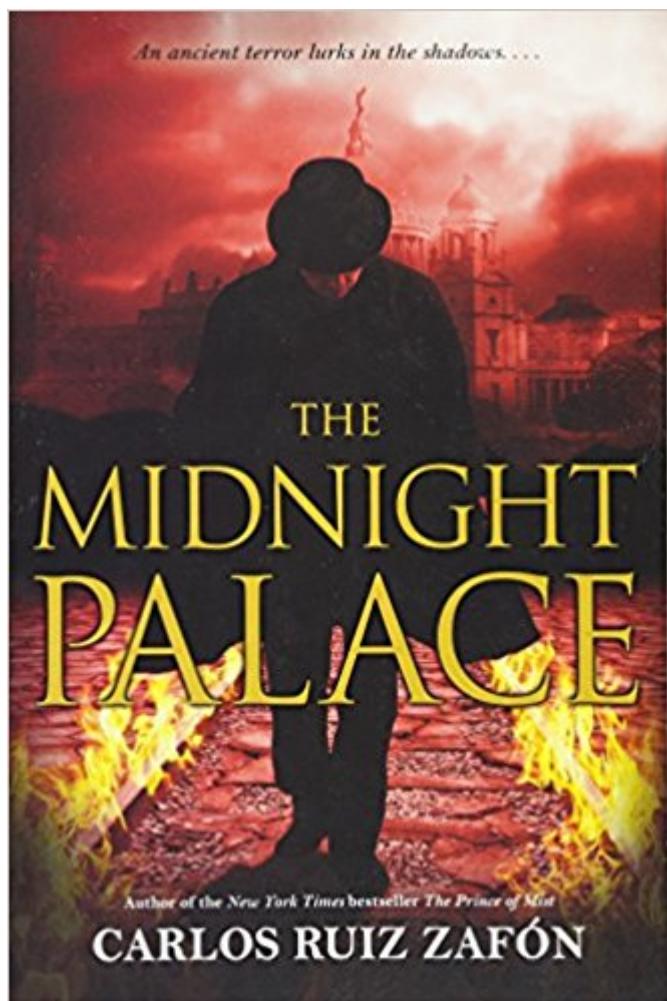


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# The Midnight Palace



## **Synopsis**

In the heart of Calcutta lurks a dark mystery....Set in Calcutta in the 1930s, The Midnight Palace begins on a dark night when an English lieutenant fights to save newborn twins Ben and Sheere from an unthinkable threat. Despite monsoon-force rains and terrible danger lurking around every street corner, the young lieutenant manages to get them to safety, but not without losing his own life. . . . Years later, on the eve of Ben and Sheere's sixteenth birthday, the mysterious threat reenters their lives. This time, it may be impossible to escape. With the help of their brave friends, the twins will have to take a stand against the terror that watches them in the shadows of the night--and face the most frightening creature in the history of the City of Palaces.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 10, 2012)

Language: English

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ASIN: 0316044741

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #160,058 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #706 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Horror #876 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Murders most foul, chilling crimes and dark deeds... Carlos Ruiz Zafon, author of The Shadow of the Wind, locates his ghost story in The Midnight Palace VOGUE - May 2011 'Set in 1930s Calcutta, this supernatural thriller is gripping and at times scary, but makes for a compelling read.' Four Stars WOMAN'S OWN - 30 May 2011 Zafon's young adult fiction was published in Spain long before he became an international sensation, and its fascinating to see, in his second book, premonitory glimpses of The Shadow of the Wind. ..Zafon makes it look so easy but he's in a class of his own. --

Suzi Feay FINANCIAL TIMES - 12 May 2011 Magical mystery about a pair of orphaned twins separated at birth... Why read it? Because you loved the imagination, magic and fantasy of Zafon's blockbuster debut, *The Shadow of the Wind*. -- 15 Books You Must Read This Summer!

ESSENTIALS - July 2011 In a tale of a secret society, a labyrinthine railway station and a shadowy figure from the past, their story and denouement has the hallmarks of the fine writing in the author's best-selling *Shadow of the Wind*. Choice - July 2011 a cracking mystery... A thoroughly ripping yarn. -- Kate Saunders THE TIMES - 26 June 2011 A beach must-have PRIDE magazine - July 2011 'this is one book that knows how to keep a reader hooked... Exotic terror tale from a master story-teller.'

Four stars FLIPSIDE - July 2011 A tremendously atmospheric supernatural thriller and will particularly appeal to those who like a good ghost story told in nineteenth century style by a protagonist narrator looking back years later. THE BOOKBAG.CO.UK His Calcutta has many of the mystical elements that many writers associate with the city but it also shows the political strain of a city subject to years of hostile colonization and ready to break free. Just as importantly Zafon delivers moments of genuine horrors as well as expert plot twists that move the story along.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY This novel's plot is as dark and threatening as the Calcutta night that envelops the opening scenes... The Midnight Palace should not be overlooked by adults in search of literary excellence. USA TODAY - 18 May 2011 ...if you have a taste for mystery, for the supernatural, for characters of mythic strength, loyalty and heroism... then pick this book up and revel in it. ARMADILLO It's fast-moving and never hesitates, and it quickly sketches the eight young people who inhabit its pages as quirky and likeable individuals, from the taciturn artist, Michael, to the fiery and intelligent Isobel. It's also a story about stories: tales from the past are woven into the narrative in an elegant way, with the whole book framed by the narrative of the last surviving member of the group. THE GUARDIAN This dark book is not for the easily scared, but great for thrill-seekers! WOMAN'S WAY --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Carlos Ruiz ZafÃ³n is the author of six 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 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.

I've worked my way through all of the Zafon books and this is one of the last ones. It is captivating, but yes, is written more for the young adult audience and has less of the adult material that his Cemetery of Forgotten Books series have. It is, however, one of my least favorites out of all of his

books. It is a step up from Prince of Mist as in age-wise language and content, but not as deep as The Watcher in the Shadows. As for his books for young adults, I prefer Marina the most, followed by Watcher in the Shadows. This one and the Prince of Mist are almost equals in likability.

The second book in the Niebla (Mist) series takes the story to India in the 1930's. A group of orphans is about to age out and move into the world. One of there number has a hidden past. Ben was brought to the orphanage by his grandmother in order to protect him from a malevolent force, separating him from his twin sister. Their mother died trying to protect them, and they were rescued by a British officer who was a friend of the family who died in the attempt to distract their pursuers. The evil has come back intent on finding the twins, in a blaze of fire.. The two, not knowing either exists, find out the truth and work together with Ben's friends to figure out their past and why they are being pursued. The journey takes them across Bombay, from the former family home, to the train station that was the site of a great tragedy involving a train full of orphans that was engulfed in fire. The friends find peril in their task and when the truth is revealed, it is particularly horrifying for Ben and his sister, Sheere. How far will they go to save their friends and themselves. There is a definite magical/mystical element to the story, which helps to explain away some of the more puzzling aspects of the story. While not a true sequel to the Prince of Mist, it follows a similar theme.

This story held me from the start. I am not a young reader but I would recommend it to the young readers from anywhere. If you like to be terrified then this is it. Blood and guts, ghosts and supernatural elements, this book has it all plus an angle I had not considered; that the British were not always welcome in their paternal benevolence of the countries they deigned to bring into world trade or to modernise. Carlos Ruiz Zafon know how to draw in his readers and his other books bring in perspectives Western readers may well want to investigate.

Another wonderful book from Carlos Ruiz Zafon. As with his other books, wonderful characters, beautiful descriptions, and an evil presents from the afterlife, that set on destruction. The location is India - and very different.

This is the third book I have read by Zafon. While my favorite is Shadow of the Wind, this book is excellent.Others have provided a description of the story, so I won't repeat that here. The author, though, does a great job of balancing past and present; a delicate task for most writers. The characters and story are well-developed, and the book flows in ways that aren't predictable.This

book held my attention throughout and I'm glad I took the time to read it.

A book by Carlos Ruiz Zafon is always a good buy. I recommend it highly. Like his other books, it's a little dark, but there is so much vividly imaginative detail that it is like living in a moving painting.

I was introduced to this author by a book left at my Bed and Breakfast by a guest. "Shadow of the Wind" was one of the best books I have read in a long time, and I LOVE to read. Anything Zafon writes will be read and added to my permanent library. He is a master.

Great book-

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