

The Shadow of the Wind Study Guide

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

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Plot Summary

Summer of 1945, Barcelona, Daniel Sempere, a young boy of 10, is taken to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books by his father, a secondhand book merchant. The Cemetery of Forgotten Books is a secret place, where a huge collection of books that have been forgotten or have fallen into oblivion is kept. Here under the watchful eyes of his father and Sr. Isaac, the guardian of the Cemetery, Daniel chooses a book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by an unknown author, Julian Carax. From that day, Daniel embarks on a search to find out more about the book, its mysterious author and his life story. This book threads its way into Daniel's life deeply, and the lives of the author and the reader begin to intertwine.

All that is known of the author is that he is a young Spaniard who lived in Paris. He apparently disappeared after a duel. Someone has been destroying all of Julian Carax's work, and is after the last copy of *The Shadow of the Wind*. A deeper tone of suspense and mystery begins to surround this fascinating book and its author. Strange coincidences occur as more people become involved in the pursuit Julián Carax's life story.

Daniel befriends a street dweller named Fermín, a political dissident, and takes him in to work with his father. Fermín too gets caught up in Daniel's search for the truth about Julian Carax. With Fermín's sleuth-like help, they encounter the various characters that participated in Julián's fate and slowly this story begins to be unraveled. The deeper they delve into Julian's story, the more danger begins to surround them.

Daniel and Fermín finally come across Nuria Monfort, who had worked with Julián's publisher. Nuria was in love with the young author. With the shared mission of saving Julián's work, Nuria meets and eventually marries author's best friend Miquel Moliner. It is Nuria who tells the full story to Daniel.

Julian Carax, the son of a humble hatter and a French piano teacher, was befriended by a rich Barcelonan businessman, Don Ricardo Aldaya, who took Julián under his wing and sponsored his education at an expensive school. Julián is a welcome guest at the Aldaya's home, a large mansion called the Angel of the Mist.

At school, Julián made a group of friends which included Jorge Aldaya, Miquel Moliner, and a strange boy, Francisco Javier Fumero. Little did they know that Fumero, riven by envy, humiliation and unrequited love, develops a wild hatred for the other three.

Julián fell in love with Ricardo Aldaya's daughter, Penelope. Neither knew that young Fumero also lusted over Penelope. When their love affair is discovered, the young couple plans to run away to Paris with the help of their good friend Miquel Moliner. Penélope however does not manage to make it to the station, as her parents lock her in her room. Julián believes that Penelope had changed her mind. Unknown to Julián, Penelope is imprisoned in that room until she gives birth to a stillborn baby and consequently dies as a result of a hemorrhage.



Meanwhile, in Paris, Julián is taken under the wing of the owner of a brothel where he made his living by playing the piano. Julián writes and publishes a few novels, including *The Shadow of the Wind*. During this time he has a love affair with Nuria Monfort, who works with his publisher in Spain. Julián lives a simple and uneventful life until he is involved in a duel with Jorge Aldaya, Penelope's brother, who is killed. Carax flees to Barcelona, to find out the whole story. In his despair, he attempts self destruction through a mad obsession to destroy every last copy of his books. He once again receives the help and support of his friend, Miquel Moliner, who tries to protect his friend from Fumero. Moliner by this time is very ill and married to Nuria Monfort. Carax uses the Angel of the Mist as his hideout. Miquel, who is moribund, lends his identity to Carax, and is killed by Fumero's men. Fumero, on his path of destruction, murders Nuria who leaves a letter to Daniel telling him the whole story.

Fumero, realizing that he has had the wrong man killed, continues desperately to seek Carax and uses Daniel to lead him to his detested foe. Daniel, now eighteen is deeply in love with his best friend's sister, Bea. Their secret love encounters are held at the Angel of the Mist, where they inadvertently lead Fumero to Carax. A final deadly battle takes place between Fumero and Carax, during which Daniel and Bea's lives are endangered. The final outcome of the battle between good and evil is Fumero's demise.

Daniel's story has a happy ending, marrying his love, Bea, and with the support of his loving father and good friend Fermín, he eventually takes over his father's book store. Carax survives, rebuilds his life and begins to write again.



The Cemetery of Forgotten Books

The Cemetery of Forgotten Books Summary

Summer of 1945, Barcelona, Daniel Sempere, a young boy of 10, is taken to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books by his father, a second hand book merchant. The Cemetery of Forgotten books is a secret place, where there is a huge collection of books that have been forgotten or have fallen into oblivion. Isaac, the guardian of the book cemetery, explains that it was customary that those who go to the Cemetery for the first time adopt a book, which they will protect and care for. Daniel chooses a book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, written by an unknown author, Julian Carax. Mr. Sempere and Isaac swear Daniel to secrecy; not even his best friend Tomás could be told about the book cemetery.

On the same afternoon, Daniel reads his adopted book, being caught up in its spell. The book that entranced and enthralled him makes a deep impression on him, and he is determined to find out more about it and its author.

Young Daniel, whose mother died when he was only four, lives with his father in an apartment over their bookshop. Both boy and father miss the mother very much. On the morning they went to the Cemetery of Lost Books, Daniel had woken up in a panic because after six years, he suddenly could no longer remember his mother's face.

The Cemetery of Forgotten Books Analysis

Daniel is a young and impressionable boy, with an inherited love and respect for books. It is very evident from the very beginning that he and his father have a special relationship enhanced by the mutual sorrow for the loss of his mother and their special connection with the world of written words. The Cemetery of Forgotten books is a mysterious and secretive place, and the ritual involved in the finding of the book makes it even more impressive to this young bibliophile.



Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 1 - 3

Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

Having fallen into the book's spell, Daniel is determined to find the complete works of author, Julian Carax. He is surprised to find that he finds no mention of the author's name in any of his father's book catalogues and the publishing house had been closed down years ago. Therefore he seeks out Gustavo Barceló, a colleague of his father's who is renowned for his expertise on rare book editions. He meets Barceló at a popular café, a well-known haunt of book lovers. The businessman offers to buy the book off Daniel at a huge price, which the boy turns down. The other book enthusiasts present in the café view the exchange with interest and curiosity. On seeing that Daniel will not part from his precious book, he offers to tell Daniel what he knows about the book and its author the next day.

The next day Daniel goes to meet Barceló at the Ateneo library. The rare book dealer informs Daniel that his is the only copy left of the *Shadow of the Wind*, all the rest having been burnt. Barceló is accompanied by his blind niece, Clara, who he introduces as an expert on Julian Carax. While he goes to examine the book, he leaves Daniel in Clara's company. The blind girl is double Daniel's age, yet he is totally enchanted by her.

Clara tells Daniel the story of how she too fell in love with Julian Carax's works. Her father was a lawyer and a political dissident, who was imprisoned and died in a Spanish political jail. Before imprisonment, he sent his wife and two daughters to Paris for protection.

In Paris, the girls' education was carried out by a tutor, Monsieur Roquefort, who had come across one of Julian Carax's books, *The Red House*. This book had the same effect on the tutor as *The Shadow of the Wind* had on Daniel. It was through Carax's book that Monsieur Roquefort was able to impart a love of literature to his two pupils.

The tutor contacted the publisher to find out more about the author and his works. He is informed that this book had sold only seventy seven copies. Apparently Carax had published at least two more books. All that was known about the author was that he was impoverished and used to play piano at a brothel. He simply disappeared just when his luck seemed to have improved; having received a favorable book review, and being about to marry an older woman with secure financial standing. On his wedding day, however, it was said he was involved in a mysterious duel, after which all track of him was lost. The story had it that there was a body buried in an unmarked grave.

Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

Young Daniel shows his interest and determination to read more of Julian Carax's books. This interest seems sharpened by the fact that there seems to be no records of



the book or its author. Why then does Barceló show such an interest and offer such a high price for this book? This is where the reader begins to feel that a certain mystery surrounds the book and its author.

The mystery surrounding the book and its author increases as it is discovered that Daniel's is the only existing copy of the book. Whilst Barceló shows a keen interest in the book, Daniel's attention is totally turned to Clara, with whom he is fascinated as only a young 10 year old can be. Not only is she beautiful to him, but the fact that she is blind, considerably older, yet kind and speaks to him as an equal, is of irresistible charm to him. Clara and Daniel share an enthusiasm for Julian Carax's books and curiosity to find out more about the author. This enthusiasm creates a bond between them.



Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 4 - 6

Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 4 - 6 Summary

Clara continues to tell the story of Julian Carax's books. Apparently there was a rumor out that someone was trying to get his hands on all Carax's books to burn them. Clara also told Daniel a bit more about her own story and how a man called Javier Fumero had tortured and killed her father in a political prison, Montjuic Castle. Fumero was a hired gunman and had worked for the anarchists, communists, and fascists. He had no ideals and played up to the winning side. Clara's mother died of heartache after hearing of her husband's fate, and Clara went to live with her Uncle Barceló, who always treated her well and read to her. Daniel offers to read the book he had found, *The Shadow of the Wind*, to Clara. Proposition which is accepted by Clara and permission is given by her uncle.

Daniel, as a young boy had the ambition to be a famous writer. In his mind, a beautifully worked and very expensive black fountain pen which was said to have been Victor Hugo's would be the object which would transform his dream into reality.

Daniel told his father about his meeting with Barceló and the reading to Clara. He also asked more questions about the war, a very sensitive and painful subject.

That night, at midnight, Daniel goes out on to the balcony and sees a strange man in the street looking at him. The scene was just like one from his book and in his book the man was the devil.

Daniel begins to visit the Barceló house to read to Clara, and these visits become almost daily over the next few years. The maid, Bernarda, almost becomes a surrogate mother to the boy. The friendship with Clara deepens and she confides in Daniel that she had often been accosted in the street by a stranger with a hoarse voice and leathery skin. This man would ask her about herself, Barceló and about Daniel.

Despite all hints from Barceló, the maid Bernarda and Clara herself, that she will never correspond to Daniel's feelings, the boy falls deeper and deeper in love. At the age of fourteen, Daniel is totally devoted to the girl and has misguided fantasies that these feelings are mutual. Even his father notices that Daniel is beginning to lose interest in the things he loved, and sees less and less of his best friend, Tomás Aguilar.

Days of Ashes 1945 -1949: Chapters 4 - 6 Analysis

Daniel fell in love with Clara from the start and is totally under her spell. Their shared enthusiasm for books is partly responsible for the link that binds their friendship. It is only natural that a young boy falls in love with a beautiful older girl, especially if she befriends him. The first schoolboy crush always leaves deep marks.



The author exposes the deep relationship which existed between Daniel and his father. But with this love there was a reserve born from pains in his father's life, not the least of which was his wife's passing away. Zafón also shows the deep scars which the Spanish Civil War left on people like Sempere's father. On the son's part one can feel the growing reserve and secrecy due to embarrassment and confusion with new feelings so common to young boys of eleven. At the same time, the author creates a bit more suspense with the mention of the stranger.

As Daniel enters his adolescent years his school boy crush takes on a larger than life proportion. He begins to abandon his friends. His infatuation becomes even painful to him. It causes a break down in communication between him and his father. At the same time, he is very attached to Bernarda, the maid. She gives him the mother coddling that he misses so much.



An Empty Plate 1950: Chapters 7 - 10

An Empty Plate 1950: Chapters 7 - 10 Summary

On Daniel's sixteenth birthday, he decided to have a birthday party to which he invited only Clara, Barceló and Bernarda. Daniel's father tenderly bought him a cake and laid the table with the best cutlery. They sat and waited painfully, but Clara did not show up, and Bernarda came later carrying a small gift and apologies. Daniel goes out, heading for the Barceló residence. On the way a strange man approaches him, asking about the book. The man offered to pay any price for the book. The man is smoking, has a limp and his face is totally burnt and disfigured. Daniel is very scared and recognizes this man as being the one who had approached Clara. When Daniel denies still having the book, the stranger makes what appears to be a veiled threat against Daniel and Clara. He is admittedly the one who has been burning the book.

After the encounter with the mysterious stranger, Daniel rushes over to Clara's house in the pouring rain. He wants to see if she is safe. His fear increases, when apparently there was no one home, so he used his own key to get in. His anxiety increases, as he hears noises coming from Clara's room.

When Daniel invades the house, he is shocked to come across Clara in her bedroom making love to her piano teacher. The teacher, seeing Daniel, grabs him, throws him a few hard punches and literally throws him out of the house. A bleeding Daniel with hurt pride and broken heart finds himself sitting on the steps beside a drunken beggar. The beggar said his name was Fermin Romero de Torres and claimed that he was a secret service spy.

After talking to the beggar, Daniel made his way to the Cemetery of Forgotten books, where the keeper, Isaac let him in. Daniel wanted to hide his copy of Julian Carax's book. While in the Cemetery of Forgotten books, Isaac offers Daniel blankets and a hot drink and they get to chatting about the book and Julian Carax.

Isaac knew his Barcelonan publisher, Cabestany, who was his daughter, Nuria Monfort's boss. Isaac tells Daniel what he knows. Nuria went to Paris in the early 1930's to talk to Carax and they became very good friends, and maybe even lovers. Carax's mother was French and Carax was her surname, his father was a hatter called Fortuny. Carax returned to Barcelona in 1936, and no one knew what became of him. After Cabestany passed away his son took over the business. A man called Laín Coubert went to the publishing house quite a few years later and made an offer buy all the left over editions of Carax's books, so he could burn them. Laín Coubert was the name of the character of the devil in the Shadow of the Wind. As Cabestany placed his price too high, his warehouse was burnt down anyway. Nuria however had gotten hold of copies of all Carax's books and placed them in the Cemetery. Nuria had married a journalist named Miquel, though Isaac believed she was still in love with the mysterious author. Isaac



gave Daniel his daughter's address and the young teenager hid his copy of Carax's work.

When Daniel arrived home very late that night, he found his father waiting for him to proudly give him his birthday present - the Victor Hugo Montblank pen, engraved with Daniel's name and the year, 1950.

An Empty Plate 1950: Chapters 7 - 10 Analysis

The plot thickens and the reader begins to get the impression that Daniel is in serious danger from the stranger who wants the book. There is no hint of whom this mysterious stranger is. Daniel, who is also going through typical adolescent moodiness and surliness, enhanced by unrequited love, put up certain bravado with this scary situation.

Daniel is in a much heightened emotional state due to disappointment that Clara didn't show up for his birthday and to the threatening encounter with the mysterious stranger. His anxiety leads him to react in a very impulsive manner, practically invading someone else's house. His devotion to Clara is shattered. He has gone through quite an upheaval on the night of his birthday, much disappointment and heartache. But with all this, he seems to make a very strong decision to protect the book.



True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 11 - 12

True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 11 - 12 Summary

For a while life returns to normal for Daniel. His boyhood crush on Clara recedes and his obsession about the book and Julian Carax seems to dwindle. Business at the bookshop picked up and soon Daniel's father needs an assistant. Daniel remembers the beggar who helped him that fateful night of his birthday. Daniel and his father take Fermin Romero Torres in, clean him up and hire him as a helper in the bookshop. As he had claimed knowledge of espionage, they make him responsible for digging out old books that their clients request. They soon discover that Fermin has been a victim of torture and still is traumatized by this suffering. Another aspect is Fermin's love of women and a new found love for cinema. It was during an afternoon film session that Daniel suddenly saw the stranger who had accosted him in the street on his birthday.

With the return to normality, Daniel picks up his friendship with Tomás Aguilar, a big hefty strong lad, who was very shy and had a bit of a stammer. His friendship with Tomás had started when they were very young at school. Daniel had made some comment about Tomás' sister, and Tomás in a rage had given Daniel a beating. As so happens at that age, the two boys after the fight, became best of friends. Tomás loved inventing things and had flair for engineering. He was a great disappointment to his father, who treated him as some kind of an imbecile. On the other hand, he got on very well with Daniel's father. Tomás had a beautiful sister names Beatriz who was engaged to an army officer. From the beginning Daniel felt a mixture of admiration and fear of this girl.

True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 11 - 12 Analysis

Here the reader is introduced to Fermin, a character that invokes a mixture of sentiments. On the one hand he is almost comical, on the other, a man who has endured political persecution and suffering. In this chapter, Zafón once again uses his characters to elucidate the political and historical ambience of the time. Just as life returns to a normal rhythm, the intriguing vision of the threatening stranger brings a certain element of uncertainty and mystery back into the novel.

Zafón also introduces Tomás and his sister Be, who will play important roles in Daniel's life and the drama which is about to unfold.



True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 13 - 14

True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 13 - 14 Summary

One day, while Fermin and Daniel are in the bookshop, Bernarda who worked with Barceló comes in. Fermin is immediately attracted to her and invites her out. When they leave the bookstore, Daniel is left alone. While looking for a book at the back of the shop, he hears someone come in. By the time he gets to the front of the shop, the visitor has already left. Daniel finds an old photo of a young couple in front of a hat shop. The name of the hat shop was Sons of Antonio Fortuny, which Daniel recognized was the name of Julian Carax's father.

On delivering a book that had been ordered by a professor at the university, Daniel sees, Bea, Tomás' sister talking to the professor. Bea and Daniel strike up a conversation where their mixed feelings towards each other are very evident. Daniel is surprisingly antagonistic, until suddenly realizes that what he actually feels is jealousy towards Bea's fiancé. Bea and Daniel end up marking meeting for the following Friday, when Daniel promises to the girl parts of the native Barcelona that she never knew before.

True to Character 1951 -1953: Chapters 13 - 14 Analysis

Zafón introduces the new budding romance between Fermin and Bernarda. Once again, amidst ordinary everyday happenings, suspense surrounds the book and Julian Carax.

Zafón manages to capture here how feelings can catch us by surprise. Many times underlying antagonism are deeper feelings of attraction. Daniel was surprised to suddenly discover that what he actually felt for Bea was in fact a deep attraction and jealousy.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 15 - 16

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 15 - 16 Summary

Daniel goes to the Fortuny hat shop that was the background of the photo he found. The shop had been closed for twelve years since the death of the old hatter, but Daniel is able to speak to the caretaker. The caretaker, Dona Aurora confirmed that the young man in the photo was Julian Carax. She also informed that Julian had left Barcelona in 1918 for Paris as his father wanted to put him into the army. Old man Fortuny had told Aurora that his son had died in Paris in 1919. Daniel tells the lady that the old man had lied and that Julian was alive at least until 1935, when he returned to Barcelona. The woman is very happy to hear that Julian might still be alive and tells Daniel about how the hatter used to beat his wife and son. His wife confided to the caretaker that Fortuny was not really Julian's father, but did not say who was. Aurora has fond memories of Julian and tells how he had befriended a very rich boy named Aldaya and that he also had a friend named Miquel. Fortney's wife had gone to live in South America. Everything was left in the hands of a lawyer who had the keys to the shop and apartment and would visit the apartment for hours at a time at night. Apparently one day the inspector, Fumero, had come around asking questions.

Daniel manages to convince the caretaker to let him in to the apartment. Daniel goes through the apartment with Dona Aurora, looking at the old furniture and pictures. What must be Julian's room is locked, but Daniel finds the key.

Once inside the locked room, Daniel was surprised to see that it was full of crucifixes. There was a bed and a desk. Daniel found a notebook with drawings; one frequent drawing was of a man made of flames. In the desk, he also found a photo of a girl, the same girl who had been next to Julian in the other photo. There was an inscription from someone named Penelope on the back the photo. He also found a letter in an envelope. Daniel put both photo and envelope in his pocket.

That same afternoon, Daniel goes to visit the administrator of the block of apartments where the Fortuny's had lived, Mr. Molins. The administrator gave Daniel the name and address of the lawyer who supposedly took care of Fortuny's affairs. On a second look, it was evident that the address simply did not exist. But Daniel managed to get the number of the Post office box where correspondence was sent. The administrator told Daniel the story of how Julian's parents met and lived. Sophie was a young piano teacher who lived in a boarding house. After only four months of courting the couple got married. It was after they were married that Sophie told the hatter she was pregnant by another man. The hatter was disgusted and after that began to treat Sophie badly. The hatter though did try to develop fatherly love for the boy who was born.

When he returns to the bookshop that afternoon, movement was slow. His father was out and Daniel gave Fermin the afternoon off, asking him at the same time to check the P.O. Box number to find out who it belonged to.



Daniel was taken aback when a police officer showed up at the shop. It was Chief Inspector Javier Fumero who came to warn Daniel that there will be trouble if keeps up his friendship with Fermin, who he called a thief and undesirable character. Fumero also warned that unpleasant things might happen to their neighbor, Don Frederico, the watchmaker who was gay. Naturally this visit troubled Daniel, but he decided not to comment it to his father or to Fermin.

Later that evening, Daniel opens the envelope he had taken from the Fortuny apartment. Inside was a letter from Penelope Aldaya to Julian. In the letter she confirms her love for Julian. It seems as if they had had some sort of plan to flee to Paris together, but for some reason she was not able to go. She wrote the letter in secret as she was a prisoner in her own home. She mentioned that there were things she was not able to say, but also warned that her brother, Jorge, had sworn he would kill Julian

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 15 - 16 Analysis

We find out more about Julian as a young boy. We also get a glimpse of Daniel's obstinacy to find about more about Julian Carax. The plot thickens. The story about Julian Carax comes begins to be unraveled. Fumero, who up to now seemed to be a shadowy character, suddenly comes alive and is a real threat.

Daniel has become more mature and maybe more foolhardy. He is taking risks to find out about Julian. He also stands up to Fumero's and requests him to leave.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 17 - 19

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 17 - 19 Summary

At dawn the next day, Daniel gets on a tram to go to the Aldaya's home. He found the return address on the envelope of the letter Penelope wrote to Julian. The house was empty, but he spoke to the caretaker. The caretaker had been there since 1920, he knew them well, however he did not remember the Aldaya's having a daughter. Apparently the Aldayas had lost everything in Spain and went to Argentina, where they had factories and the house had been closed for over twenty years now. The caretaker believed the house was haunted, as he would often hear noises at night, and someone had once gone in at night and thought there was something in the house.

Back at the bookshop, with everyone back at normal business, Daniel finds the paper with Isaac's daughter, Nutria's address on it. He is distracted from his thoughts about Julian Carax, as a neighbor comes in with the terrible news that the watchmaker had been arrested by Fumero. The man had been caught dressed as a woman. In jail Don Frederico had been beaten and raped by the other inmates. He was set loose in the morning and was in a deplorable state. Everyone was shocked at this news.

Daniel's father sends Fermin off to Dom Frederico's house to see if he needs help. Daniel now tells his father about Fumero's threats. The older Sempere is quite understandably very concerned, but they decide not to tell Fermin about this.

Due to the upset, Daniel's father decides to let him off work earlier than usual. Daniel is quite happy about this, as he had a date later on with Bea Aguilar.

Daniel takes advantage of his free time to go and find Nuria Monfort. When he arrives at the address, he sees the name tag on the door of Miquel Moliner/Nuria Monfort. Nuria is shocked and taken aback by Daniel's visit, but agrees to talk to him.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 17 - 19 Analysis

The reader is suddenly surprised with the description of violence that had not before been explicitly present in the book. There had been mentions of torture and political oppression at the hands of the police, but never explicit violence. Fumero seems to be good to his threats.

The question of intolerance and persecution is addressed, yet at the same time it shows how people care for each other and are kind and concerned. The community stood up for and helped Dom Frederico in his pain. The neighbors had always turned a blind eye on his sexual preferences and had respected him for the good man and efficient professional he was. That he should be subject to such violence was a shock.



City of Shadows -1954: Chapter 20

City of Shadows -1954: Chapter 20 Summary

Nuria Monfort lived in a very simple and modest apartment, and is obviously undergoing financial difficulties. She explained that her husband, Miquel was in prison and that she was living off translations. Nuria answers Daniel's questions about Julian Carax, explaining that she had met him in Paris while she was working with his publisher. She had stayed in Julian's apartment for a week in 1933 when she was in Paris for business. Nuria claimed that their relationship was purely business and that she really didn't know him well. Julian had told her that Fortuny was not his real father; his mother had had a previous affair. The latter had beaten his mother and treated Julian badly. Julian had run away to Paris, to escape being sent to the army by his mother's husband.

When asked whether she had ever heard of someone named Penelope, Nuria answered that Julian had never mentioned the name. Nuria did say though, that Julian felt that he was unworthy of love. Nuria said she had heard a rumor of Julian's planned marriage to a woman twenty years his senior. Apparently his future bride had been a widow who was terminally ill and was marrying Julian so that he could inherit from her. Nuria however did not believe this story. She did not know why he returned to Barcelona. All she did know was that in 1936, someone from the municipal morgue in Barcelona had phoned the publisher claiming they had received Julian's body a few days earlier. They had found him dead with a bullet through his heart. On him, they had found his book, *The Shadow of the Wind* and his passport. The police had advised Fortuny, but the latter refused to take responsibility over the body. Nuria had tried to check into the story, but she had received the visit of a police officer named Fumero, who warned her to leave the case alone.

The next she heard of Julian was when someone claiming to be called Laín Coubert was looking to acquire all Julian's books. Nuria had received a call from a man called Jorge, asking about Julian. She was under the impression that this was the same person who was trying to buy the books. Daniel immediately matched the name to Jorge Aldaya, Penelope's brother. Nuria believed that whoever was burning the books was trying to destroy Julian, as he lived through his stories.

When Daniel was leaving Nuria's she told him that he reminded her of Julian. The incident was full of emotional charge.

City of Shadows -1954: Chapter 20 Analysis

Though Nuria claimed she had no emotional relationship with Julian, her emotional response when speaking about him contradicted this claim. The story gets more confusing rather than clearer. Once again the threatening figure of Fumero is involved in the case. Suspense is mounting.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 21 - 23

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 21 - 23 Summary

Upon leaving Nuria, Daniel went straight to meet Bea at the university. They were both nervous and the attraction between them was obvious. Bea made Daniel promise not to tell anyone, especially not her brother Tomás that they were meeting. They went a small café and there Daniel told Bea the whole story about Julian Carax and the book. Bea is entranced and asks to be taken to the Cemetery of lost books. There, Daniel showed Bea the famous book. Daniel however, did not allow Bea to take the Shadow of the Wind with her and insisted that she pick another book.

Daniel kisses Bea much to his surprise and pleasure. Daniel drops Bea off at her house at midnight, a very late hour for a young girl and boy to be out without a chaperone in those days. They are both a bit confused about their sentiments but one thing they do know is that they want to see each other again.

On arriving home that night, the light of the bookstore was still on and Fermin was still there. Fermin immediately noticed a change in Daniel and rightly guessed he was successfully in love. They speak about love for a while. Fermin confesses that he is in love with Bernarda and wants to marry her and have a family with her. They speak about fatherhood a while.

Fermin then casually mentions that he checked out the P.O. Box and that the mail in it was collected by a Nuria Monfort. Daniel, naturally, is very surprised at this. He cannot understand why Nuria would have lied to him. He ends up telling Fermin the whole story about Julian Carax and asking his advice. Fermin suggests that they go to the priests' school where Julian had studied together with Jorge Aldaya, to see if they could find anything else out about Julian.

The next day Daniel's friend Tomás comes to visit. He just wanted to get away from his house where his father was in a terrible mood. When asked why, Tomás explained that his sister had stayed out very late last night and would not tell her father where she had been or who she was with. He threatened to put her into a nunnery and expel her from home if she got pregnant. Tomás was very upset at all this, as he was very fond of his sister. Daniel gained up the courage and told Tomás that he was the one who had been with Bea. Naturally, Tomás was shocked at this and warned Daniel not to hurt his sister. Daniel is devastated as he feels he has lost a friend, but will not give Bea up.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 21 - 23 Analysis

This time around, Daniel really falls in love with Bea. A more adult love than his boyhood devotion for Clara. The feeling takes him by surprise, as he always thought that he didn't even like his best friend's sister. He seems to have found on that day a complete different girl. One who shared his love for books, who understood his secret and was

interested in his quest for Julian Carax. Daniel had always been attracted to Bea, but had never realized it.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 24 - 25

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 24 - 25 Summary

Daniel and Fermin begin their investigations by going to the school. Before going though, Fermin outlines what they know of Carax. They know that Julian and Jorge Aldaya were childhood friends and went to school together. A conflict arises that ruins the friendship. The obvious problem would be Julian's relationship with Penelope, Jorge's sister. In 1919 Julian escapes to Paris. Julian never receives Penelope's letter where she tells him she is a prisoner in her home and that Jorge is after Julian to kill him. In the years in Paris Julian plays piano at a brothel and writes a few books. When he Julian decides to marry a rich widow, he is involved in a duel with an unknown person and disappears. It was also about this time that Jorge Aldaya reappears, calling the publisher to find out about Julian. Supposedly, Carax returns to Barcelona in 1936 and is found dead, having been shot by some unknown person. After this, a strange character with a disfigured face who calls himself Laín Coubert begins destroying all of Carax's books. The question still arises of why Nuria lied to Daniel about not having had any contact with Julian, when she was the one handling his mail.

With all the facts summarized Julian and Fermin set out to San Gabriel's School. This was a very traditional and expensive school for the sons of very wealthy people. This school offered a few scholarships to less privileged children and this is how Fernando Ramos had been enrolled.

The duo speaks to a Father Fernando Ramos, who had been at school with Julian. At first the priest is reluctant to give them information, but Fermin lies and implies to the priest that Daniel is actually Julian's son. As the priest had already commented that Daniel reminded him of Julian for some reason, he was taken in by the lie and decides to tell them the part of the story he knows. In fact they were four close friends, the priest, Julian, Miquel Moliner and Jorge Aldaya. Julian and Miquel were the closest friends.

Julian had met the Aldaya's one day at the hat shop where the boy was helping his father, Fortuny. Aldaya had driven up in a fancy car and ordered some hats. Julian was the one who measured Aldaya for the hats, and Aldaya was very impressed by the young boy who did not seem to fear him. Aldaya commented that the boy Daniel had a future and offered to take charge of Julian's education and enroll him in the same school that his son Jorge frequented, San Gabriel's. Aldaya invited Julian to his house to see his huge library. And to meet his son Jorge. It was also on that day that Julian first saw and was captivated by Penelope, who, according to Jorge, was only interested in books.

At the school, Julian and Jorge became good friends with Miquel Moliner and Fernando. Julian also befriended the shy and unfriendly son of the caretaker, Javier. Javier was a strange boy who tortured little animals with his penknife. His father was a hardworking man, but his mother was perverted and had delusions of grandeur. He was ostracized



by the students of the school and Julian took pity on him and invited him to play chess with him and his friends. The other three did not particularly like Javier, but accepted having him tag along. Javier was obsessed by Julian though, and sought his approval. He was also obsessed by Penelope. Having caught a glimpse of Penelope one day when she went to pick Jorge up from school, Javier had fallen hopelessly in love with her. In the last year of school Javier tried to shoot and kill Julian, out of jealousy of having seen him kiss Penelope. Years later, Javier shot his mother in the face, which the police on scene took as an accident. The boy told the police that when he grew up he wanted to be a soldier. Eventually he became known as the most feared officer, Javier Fumero.

The priest mentioned that he had read and kept Julian's books, but that someone had come into his room and destroyed them. He suspected Fumero. Father Fernando does not know much about Penelope. He only knows her governess, Jacinta, who was now an old lady. As the governess had been kind to him when he was young, Father Fernando still visited her at the Santa Lucia hospice. The priest did say though that after Julian went to Paris in 1919, no one had seen or heard anything else about Penelope. Apparently the Aldaya family had afterwards lost all their fortune and moved to Argentina.

After telling the priest the truth that he was not Julian's son and promising not to contact the governess Jacinta, Daniel and Fermin left the school.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 24 - 25 Analysis

Daniel is identifying more and more with Julian. The story about how Julian is in love with his best friend's sister, hits very close to home. Julian's friendship with Jorge was ruined and turned into enmity due to his love for his friend's sister. Daniel compares this with his love for Bea and his relationship with Tomás Aguilar.

In this chapter we also learn more about Fumero. His character is growing and it is obvious he is someone to be feared. The apparently innocent childhood friendship between the four friends, Julian, Jorge, Miquel and Fernando and their relationship with the caretaker's son, Fumero is explored in this chapter. Jorge and Miquel come from very wealthy families, while Julian and Fernando come from simple homes. The latter two are made to feel the difference by the rest of the school, if not by Jorge and Miquel. This is probably why he befriended Javier in the first place, out of pity. This pity is one of the causes of Javier's resentment. It is also made evident in this chapter that Fumero is enchanted by Penelope, much in the same way as Daniel had been by Clara. Someone unreachable. Fumero's resentment of Julian grows, when he realizes that Julian has conquered Penelope's love.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 26 - 27

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 26 - 27 Summary

On their way home, Daniel and Fermin discuss their meeting with the priest. Fermin is much shaken with the mention of Fumero, his torturer. They are also perplexed as to why Nuria Monfort lied to Daniel. What possible reason she could have for lying was beyond them. But they are determined to get to the bottom of this.

Conversation turns to personal matters. Fermin teases Daniel about his new love and warns him that he had better take a stand before she is lost to her old boyfriend, the soldier. Arriving home, Daniel is pleasantly surprised to find Bea waiting outside the bookstore. She had given the excuse that she was going to church to get out of the house. She tells Daniel that they must meet in secret, as her father is very annoyed. He has threatened that he will find out who was with Bea that night. She suggests that they meet later on in a secret place, the address of which she hands him on a piece of paper. Much to Daniel's surprise the address is Avenida del Tibidabo, 32, the Aldaya's old home.

There is a very bad storm at four o'clock when Daniel has marked to meet Bea. He arrives again by tram, and is soaking wet when he walks into the open house. Bea is waiting for him in candle light. Anxious to make Daniel warm and comfortable, Bea lit a fire in the fireplace, which appeared to have been used recently. Bea mentions that it is the first time she has been in the house. Apparently she got the key from her father's office. Coincidentally her father's company had ended up being responsible for its sale.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 26 - 27 Analysis

Fermin once again shows how well he knows Daniel and once again shows how his comic character can be very philosophical and is a lot deeper than one is led to believe.

The relationship between Bea and Daniel is on the verge of reaching a new level. All the romantic signs are there. They are meeting secretly in an abandoned house. The candlelight, the fire, the whole atmosphere is propitious for a budding love affair. The fact that Bea's father had the key to the Aldaya's old home is a very strange coincidence, and is on the limit of being a bit farfetched.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 28 - 29

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 28 - 29 Summary

Bea tells Daniel the story of the house they are in. The house had a name: The Angel of the Mist. It was built in 1899 by a tycoon who had made his fortune in Cuba. This millionaire had come back to Spain with a young American bride. He also had a beautiful mulatto maid, who was said to be his lover. Less than a year after having moved in, the tycoon was found dazed and handcuffed to his armchair. Both his wife and maid were dead. There was blood all over the house. It was believed that both the tycoon and his wife had been poisoned by the maid, who had subsequently committed suicide. The tycoon was paralyzed for life as a result of the poisoning. The tycoon was convinced the house was haunted, and had had the place filmed with special film in order to see if he could find any signs of spirits. He invited Aldaya to his home one night; Ricardo Aldaya encouraged the deranged man in his pursuits and in this way managed to gain his trust. Soon enough the millionaire had transferred powers and passed the control of his financial reserves to Aldaya. Strangely enough, the tycoon suddenly disappeared.

Ricardo Aldaya and his family moved into the mansion. The new family was never happy in the house, as noises, smells and freezing drafts would suddenly occur. Things would move and disappear. Little Jorge Aldaya told stories about a black woman who appeared to him and prophesied that all the Aldaya women would die to atone for the men's sins. She told him the date his mother would pass away, April 12, 1921. This last prophecy came true. By the time Ricardo Aldaya decided to sell the house, his financial situation was already very bad. In 1922 the house was put up for sale but there were no buyers. The house deeds were passed over to one of Aldaya's creditors, a real estate company. This company went bankrupt in 1939 and was taken over by the company of which Mr. Aguilar, Tomas and Bea's father, was the executive director. They could find no buyers for the house, and the property had been empty ever since.

Bea had borrowed the keys to the house to surprise Daniel and help him in his pursuit of Penelope's story. Bea told Daniel that she had written a letter to her army boyfriend, suggesting that they marry as soon as possible. She asks Daniel what she should do with the letter, send it or not. Daniel burns the letter in the fire. This is when Daniel and Bea first make love in the Angel of the Mist. This is not the same as the school boy crush Daniel had on Clara. This is the real thing. Daniel and Bea part company and plan to meet again at the house on Tuesday at six o'clock.

The next morning Fermin wakes Daniel up early. Fermin has been acting the detective again. He tells Daniel that he has found out that there is no Miquel Moliner in prison, nor has there ever been. Once again Nuria Monfort is caught in a lie. She had told Daniel that her husband was a political prisoner.



Fermin and Daniel plan to go to Santa Lucia hospice to find Jacinta, Penelope's governess that afternoon. This hospice was in very bad state and was the home of old people who were demented, destitute, abandoned or dying. It is run by nuns, who are secretive and not anxious to receive visitors.

Naturally, Fermin senses that there is something different in Daniel and Daniel ends up telling him about the whole incident with Bea.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 28 - 29 Analysis

Two young people nervous and in love, from the very beginning of their encounter, the reader realizes that the outcome will be them making love. The mystery and atmosphere of the house has heightened their emotions. The secretive nature of their meeting, the candlelight, and fire make their coming together a heightened experience. Zafón describes this experience in a very tender and loving way, with the delicacy due to a beautiful and innocent first love affair.

Fermin is becoming more and more Daniel's confidant. He seems to sense everything that goes on in the young boy's heart. Fermin is also Daniel's accomplice in the Carax issue. Daniel knows that he should be confiding in his father, but cannot bring himself to do so.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 30 - 31

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 30 - 31 Summary

When Daniel and Fermin arrive at the hospice, the nun in charge confuses them with coffin bearers. They allow this misidentity to continue and use it as a ruse to get into the institution. The place is very somber and the conditions terrible. Once in, they now have to find old Jacinta. Most of the old people are unable to help at all. However Daniel manages to find one old man who will tell him where Jacinta is if he promises to bring him in a woman of "easy virtue". Daniel promises to do so, though he has no idea whatsoever how he will.

Daniel and Fermin find old Jacinta, who tells them the story as she knew it. Jacinta adored little Penelope, who was in her care. She herself had had a hard life until she was taken into the Aldaya household to care for Ricardo Aldaya's wife. Both Jorge and Penelope were born and taken care of by Jacinta. Jacinta's love was for Penelope, who she grew to love as a daughter. On the first day that Penelope saw Julian in the house, she confessed to Jacinta that she recognized him from her dreams, and believed that he would come to be her husband. When Julian began to go to the house more frequently, he came more and more into contact with Penelope and they recognized their attraction for each other. Julian would sit up for hours writing stories for Penelope, and Jacinta became the go between, carrying notes from one to another.

In order to get close to Penelope, Julian lied to Ricardo Aldaya, telling him he was interested in finance and not revealing his real ambition, which was to become a writer. Julian's mother noticed and worried about Julian's distance from his old friends from the neighborhood and his increased presence in the Aldaya household. The latter, Fortuny, even went to Ricardo Aldaya to warn him that Julian was not the smart boy, Don Ricardo thought he was. As a consequence Don Ricardo took his clientele away from Fortuny. Fortuny soon lost all his rich clients who were Aldaya's friends. At the same time, Julian noticed that Aldaya and his mother seemed to be meeting and talking to each other quite often. They explained they were talking about Julian's future.

Jacinta met all Jorge's friends when she went to the school to pick Jorge up. She was very fond not only of Julian but also of Fernando, the future priest and Miquel. She did not like the strange boy Javier, who once robbed a photograph of Penelope and Julian that was in her bag. Jacinta remembered the incident of Jorge Aldaya's eighteenth birthday party. Ricardo Aldaya planned a huge party for his son. At Julian's suggestion, Jorge invited Javier Fumero, even though Miquel warned them that Javier would feel out of place. Javier's mother made a point of having a sailor suit made for Javier, a costume which was much too young for the boy and was humiliating. Javier's mother took him to the party, but as Javier had forgotten his invitation, they were barred from entering and humiliated by the Aldaya staff. To make matters worse, Javier saw Julian secretly kissing Penelope through the library window. The next day at school, Javier was laughed at by the other boys. Later during the day, he took a rifle and aimed it at Julian,



but Miquel Moliner threw himself on Javier, wrestling the gun from him and saving Julian's life.

Julian's supposed father, Fortuny decided to send Julian to the army. Julian and Penelope think about eloping. Things come to a sudden head when Penelope's mother suddenly comes across the two passionate youngsters making love in Jacinta's bedroom. Upon this discovery, Miquel tries to help Julian and Penelope elope, making the plans and buying train tickets for Paris. Julian went to the station, but Penelope never showed up. He went to Paris alone. When Ricardo Aldaya found out about Julian and Penelope, he went wild. He locked Penelope in her room and fired Jacinta on the spot. Jacinta never saw Penelope again; Aldaya managed to have Jacinta committed to a lunatic asylum.

On leaving the old people's hospice, Daniel and Fermin are accosted by Fumero, accompanied by two policemen. They have been followed. Fumero wants to know what they were doing at the hospice, question which they refuse to answer. Fermin taunts Fumero about his sailor suit. This infuriates Fumero who attacks and beats Fermin while the other two officers hold Daniel down. After beating Fermin badly, Fumero urinates on him, and taunts Daniel by calling him a coward. Fumero leaves warning them not to dig up the past. Fermin, who is badly hurt, begs Daniel to take him to Bernarda's.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 30 - 31 Analysis

Zafón explores the terrible conditions which old people were subjected to. The abandonment is shocking. This is Daniel's first exposure to such lack of love. He himself does not know whether to feel pity or disgust for the old people he encounters. Once again Zafón inserts complicated social issues into his story.

Now the reader understands a bit more what the root of Fumero's hate for Julian is. Not only does Julian mix with the rich and popular boys, but he also conquers Penelope's love. Julian was everything Fumero wanted to be. However, Fumero was humiliated in front of all and he blamed Julian for this. Now Fumero is after Daniel and Fermin, the question is why. As the reader learns a bit more about Julian's past, the plot thickens. The book seems to be increasing its pace.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 32 - 33

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 32 - 33 Summary

Daniel gets Fermin into a taxi and takes him to the Barceló residence. Daniel had already phoned Bernarda from a tavern to warn her, and a doctor was in waiting. Daniel's clothes are soaked in Forman's blood. While the doctor is examining Fermin, Barceló suggests Daniel get take a shower and put on clean clothes. Daniel is stunned and a bit zombie from the occurrence.

While Daniel is bathing, Clara comes into the bathroom with a fresh set of clothes. The meeting between the two, Clara and Daniel is uncomfortable, but they are able to forgive each other and become friends again.

After examining Fermin, the doctor explained that he had suffered a broken left arm, two broken ribs, and lost a few teeth, but he would recuperate. The doctor wants Daniel to give a report to the police, but Daniel with the help of Barceló avoids the issue. With the doctor gone and Bernarda taking care of Fermin, Barceló and Daniel sit down over a cup of coffee. The older man asks Daniel why he can't go to the police and whether the incident had anything to do with the Julian Carax's book.

Daniel, under emotional stress gets things off his chest by telling Barceló the whole story about his search for the truth surrounding Julian Carax. When the doctor leaves after having seen to Fermin's wounds, Daniel and Barceló go to see how the patient is faring. They continue discussing the whole business. The question is why is Nuria Monfort lying and why did Julian's father refuse to recognize his body. Gustavo Barceló proposes that when Fermin is better, Daniel visit Nuria and confront her with the facts. Once Daniel leaves her, Fermin is to follow Nuria to see where she goes.

When Daniel arrives home that night, his father is asleep in the chair. Daniel tenderly covers him with a blanket and kisses him good night. He suddenly feels very protective of his father.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 32 - 33 Analysis

The pace of the books is steadily increasing. The mystery increases as more and more people are involved in the story. Fumero is taking on a much more frightening dimension as one realizes that he is ready to carry out his threats. He is a nasty and very dangerous character. As Daniel is powerless against Fumero and his men, the young boy begins to feel even cowardly. He feels that in some way he should have intervened to save his friend Fermin from the beating.

Daniel is feeling fragile. He has gone through a tremendous ordeal. This might be the reason he suddenly sees his father as a frail man who needs protection. Daniel feels he did not manage to protect Fermin, could he protect his father?



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapter 34

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapter 34 Summary

Despite all that had happened, the next morning all Daniel could think of was Bea and seeing her later on in the day. Much to his surprise, Fermin, who should still be recuperating, walks into the bookstore. He seems to be better, but is still very weak. Daniel and his father beg Fermin to take things easy.

Later that afternoon, Daniel runs to meet Bea at the old deserted Aldaya house, the Angel of the Mist. He gets there early, before Be. The house is cold, so he goes of in search of a way to warm it up. He finds an old boiler, which amazingly lights on first try. Most of the radiators in the house were no longer working, but Daniel found one is a small room that actually does heat. This is where Bea finds him,

When Bea arrives, they are anxious to see each other and their passion takes hold immediately, and in candlelight they make love in the small heated room. Suddenly they heard a noise, a draft and felt the presence of someone else in the house. Dressing quickly, they leave their hideout and search the house. Daniel comes across an ajar door that had been firmly closed while he was searching the house earlier. Leaving Bea outside, he entered the room and found that he was in a crypt. There were two closed tombs, one of an infant and the other engraved with the name Penelope Aldaya and the date 1902 -1919. Daniel suddenly felt the presence of someone else in the crypt with him, who tells him to get out. Daniel and Bea flee the house.

Daniel drops Bea off at her house and she promises to call him the next couple of days. While leaving her, Daniel looks up to see Bea's brother, Tomas watching them from his window.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapter 34 Analysis

The love affair between Bea and Daniel is getting deeper. Their love tryst is the Angel of the mist house, which they thought was safe and isolated. It was very frightening to find that someone else was in the house with them. Also very surprising was the finding of Penelope's tomb. Daniel finally discovers that Penelope actually died in 1919 and was buried in the old mansion.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 35 - 36

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 35 - 36 Summary

When Daniel arrives home that night, he finds Fermin asleep in his bed. Fermin had gone to have dinner with Daniel's father and had got drowsy due to the medicines he was taking. Daniel sleeps on his father's arm chair. The next day it pours with rain and Daniel waits by the phone all day for Bea to call him. The following days increase Daniel's anxiety. A whole week goes by and no call from Bea.

Still no news from Bea, Daniel is desperate. He goes to the university, where he is told by her friends that they think she is ill. Though Beatriz had told Daniel not to phone her, he does call her. The call is answered by Bea's father, who by the silence on the other side realizes that it is the boy who his daughter has been seeing. He does not know that the boy is actually Daniel. Mr. Aguilar is furious, and tells Daniel that Bea will suffer due to his actions. Daniel is devastated.

Fermin as usual tries to cheer Daniel up. He decides that the next day they should to carry out their plans concerning Nuria Monfort. Daniel would confront the woman with her lies, after which Fermin would follow her.

It is at this point in the story that Fermin tells Daniel the truth about himself. Before the Spanish Civil War, Fermin had works in the intelligence department of the Spanish government. In this capacity he had kept his eye on Fumero and his likes, who had changed sides from anarchism to communism to fascism, in order to advance their own designs. When the fascist came into power, Fermin had been picked up and very cruelly tortured by Fumero and German officers. Fermin withstood as much as he could, but under constant beatings, burns and drugs, ended up by giving the names of his superiors. When let loose, Fermin had no where to go so made the streets his home. He felt ashamed of having betrayed his friends and turned to drink. Fermin Romero de Torres was a name he picked up from a bullfighters poster. Fermin begs Daniel not to tell Bernarda his story.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 35 - 36 Analysis

Carlos Ruiz Zafon the amazing ability of after very dramatic happenings, fall back into the normal humdrum and routine of life. This is a very true reflection of reality. After shattering and highly emotional events, the normal routine and humdrum seems to take over, creating an anxiety for more excitement.

The author, touches on the very sore subject of the Spanish Civil War. All through the book, Zafon referred to this painful subject with remarks and veiled references to people disappearing, as an example Clara's father. But until this part of the book, there had not been any explicit description of the experience. Daniel's father always refused to talk about this subject. The author does not necessarily take a political stand, but he lets the

reader know how difficult and painful this terrible time in Spanish history was, the devastating effects it had on families and friendships.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 37 - 39

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 37 - 39 Summary

Daniel is anxious and cannot sleep. He is in doubt whether to present himself to Mr. Aguilar or not. He is also anxious about the outcome of his confrontation with Nuria.

He tells his father he is going out for a walk and leaves to find Nuria Monfort. He is riddled with guilt about once again lying to his father, but Fermin convinces him it will be all right.

Daniel arrives at Nuria Monfort's apartment and with great bravado confronts her. He tells her that he knows that she has been the one receiving Julian's mail. When asked he admits that he has told lots of people about the story. He also says that he has been in the Aldaya mansion and thinks that Jorge Aldaya is hiding out there and that he thinks it is Jorge who killed Julian. When Daniel mentions to Nuria that Fumero has been following him, Nuria's alarm grows. Nuria is furious at Daniel and tells him that he does not know anything. She warns him that he is unaware of the terrible trouble he has caused and sends him away. She is terribly distraught.

On leaving Nuria's, Daniel notices familiar figure dressed as priest blessing him as he passes by. Daniel goes back to the book shop where he encounters his father annoyed at his son's tardiness. Old man Sempere hands Daniel a letter from the military and goes out. Daniel had been called up to do his military service.

Daniel is just getting over the surprise of being drafted, when Barceló walks in looking for him. Barceló has been doing some checking about the story of Fortuny not wanting to recognize the body that was supposedly Julian Carax's. Barceló spoke to the morgue employee from that time, Don Manuel. Don Manuel explained that they had found the body of a man who had been shot through the heart at point blank range in an alley. On the body was a book and a passport in the name of Julian Carax. He called Mr. Fortuny who was upset and saying that the body could not be his son's. Fortuny looked at the body and left in a hurry without identifying it. However, Inspector Fumero was in the room at the same time. He looked at the body, spat on it in disgust and told the morgue employee to have the body buried in an unmarked grave. When the employee mentioned that they had not yet positively identified the body, Fumero threatened him and told him that the body was whoever he said it was. Fumero then proceeded to sign the death certificate. After that the employee had seen Fumero's signature on many death certificates of unidentified bodies. What had puzzled the morgue employee also was that when he phoned up the publishing house to advise that he had received the body, it was Nuria Monfort who answered, and it appeared that she had already known about the corpse.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 37 - 39 Analysis

Daniel is getting into deeper and deeper emotional upheaval. He feels guilty that he is lying and being deceitful, yet cannot bring himself to tell his father the truth. He feels cowardly as he does not present himself to Mr. Aguilar.

Daniel with all his bravado cannot understand Nuria's reaction. He begins to worry whether in fact he has gone too deeply into waters that he doesn't know. He feels the pain of doubt and shame, though he cannot explain why.

Don Barceló's story is worrying. Many questions are unanswered. Had Daniel and his friends been jumping to the wrong conclusions? Whose body was it that appeared at the morgue, Carax's or someone else's? Why was Nuria not surprised? The author is once again building up new suspense. Just when Daniel had thought he was getting to the bottom of the mystery, new clues appear.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 40 - 42

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 40 - 42 Summary

Daniel is getting more and more worried, Fermin has still not come back from his task of following Nuria. Daniel's father's worries are that his son is being called up to the military. Moods are not very jubilant at the Sempere household. The father and son sit down for a gloomy meal when they are suddenly interrupted by the police banging on their door. It is Fumero looking for Fermin. The police search the apartment and to Fumero's disgust do not find any sign of Fermin. They leave with threats to Daniel and his father.

Shortly after the police left, the neighbor brings them the newspaper fresh from press. The headline is that a woman is murdered by a tramp in broad daylight. The woman is Nuria Monfort. The tramp who had by police reports stabbed the woman repeatedly, was disguised as a priest, and was someone known to the police. The supposed murderer's name is Antonio José Gutierrez Alcayete and the police are searching for him.

The news that Fermín may be a murderer is very upsetting. Daniel is very worried and does not believe Fermín killed Nuria Monfort. Daniel's father confronts the boy, questioning him as to whether he knew Nuria or not. Daniel explains that he did know Nuria, she was Isaac's daughter. But Daniel denies that Fermín would have murdered her and denies that he himself was responsible for the tragedy.

Sick with worry both about Fermín and Bea, Daniel heads off to Bea's house to try to speak to her or her father. He is received by the maid who informs him that Bea has been taken to the doctor by her parents. Daniel asks to see Tomas, but Tomas refuses to see him.

On the Daniel's way home from Bea's, Don Federico, the neighboring watchmaker, calls out to him claiming that he has a repair ready. Daniel is surprised as he had no repair to pick up, but when he approaches, Don Federico hands him a the missal that Fermín had been holding. In the missal there was a note from Fermín advising that he was safe and that he had not murdered Nuria.

Daniel swallows the note, as the police are following him.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 40 - 42 Analysis

The sudden murder of Nuria Monfort takes the reader by total surprise. The tempo of the novel has been increasing and becoming more dramatic. The last thing one expects though, is for Nuria Monfort to be murdered. The author is increasing the suspense in a very surprising manner.



This part of the book is a bit confusing, as the newspaper report mentions Fermín's real name. At no point in the story until now had Fermín's name been revealed. One doesn't understand how old man Sempere and his neighbors know that the alleged criminal is Fermín.

The novel is taking on a mixture of detective and spy story tone. There has always been a mystery involved, but the pace of this mystery has increased and the whole tone of the novel has changed.



City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 43 - 45

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 43 - 45 Summary

Daniel goes to Nuria's burial at the Montjuic cemetery. There were only a couple of people there to say their last farewell to Nuria. On the way home, one of the police who always accompany Fumero offers Daniel a ride. This policeman also seemed more sympathetic than the others. His name is Enrique Palacios and he has always seemed to be a better man than his companions. Palacios tells Daniel that Nuria died in his arms. Palacios gives Daniel a message from Nuria. Nuria says that there is a worse prison than words. She tells him to let Penélope go. Daniel realizes that the message is not for him but for Julián Carax.

Daniel build up courage and goes to talk to old man Isaac, Nuria's father. The man is broken hearted. Isaac gives Daniel a letter that Nuria had entrusted to him. Nuria had asked her father to give the letter to Daniel if anything were to happen to her. Isaac had read the letter and tells Daniel it was the story he had been looking for.

When Daniel gets home, his father is waiting for him and very relieved he embraces his son.

City of Shadows - 1954: Chapters 43 - 45 Analysis

The author seems to be playing with the reader. This story keeps on coming up with totally unexpected events. The plot seems to be changing direction all the time. In this chapter, Nuria's dying words are a message for Julián, who has supposedly been dead for years. The reader wonders if this means that Julián is alive; maybe there is more to this than one suspects.

Nuria's murder seems senseless. The reader had been left with a sense of perplexity as to where this story is leading to. Once again Zafon is full of surprises. Nuria has left a letter. Nuria will tell the story. It finally seems that the reader will discover the root of the whole mystery.



Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 1 - 3

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 1 - 3 Summary

Nuria begins her letter by explaining that she met Julián Carax in 1933 when she was working for the publishing house Cabestany. Though Carax produced a book every two years, these were complete flops and very few copies sold. Nuria read all the books and was fascinated by them. Every so often someone would call the publishing house asking for Carax's address. Nuria soon met Miquel Moliner who financed the publications. Miquel and Nuria soon became very good friends, brought together by their love of books. Moliner fell in love with Nuria, but she not with him. Moliner told Nuria never to give Carax's address out. Miquel confided in Nuria, telling her about his childhood and all about his friend Julián.

In 1933, Nuria went to Paris to speak to Julian about his new novel. Julián insisted she stay with him. He lives alone with a cat in an apartment over a brothel. The brothel owner, Irene Marceau had found Julián drunk and on the streets in 1921. She took him off the streets, settled him and gave him a job as a piano player at her establishment. Julián managed to make a meager living between his books and piano playing.

They become lovers and Julián tells Nuria that Penélope was the only woman he had ever loved. He had been waiting for her ever since he had arrived in Paris 14 years before. Nuria, who is in love with Julián, realizes that she will never have him. Before returning to Barcelona, Nuria gives Daniel a present; a Montblanc pen which was supposed to have belonged to Victor Hugo. Daniel had been eyeing this pen at the pawnshop for years.

Nuria returned to Barcelona, still infatuated with Julián. She is jealous of Penélope, and wants to know more about her. When she meets Miquel Moliner again, he is in a sad state, ill and being evicted from his home. Miquel is still in love with Nuria and soon the two lonely people became lovers. Nuria asks Miquel about Penélope. Miquel tells her the story.

Miquel had helped Julian and Penelope plan their elopement. It was a few days before they were about to run away that the couple was found out. Ricardo Aldaya was furious and violent when he found out. The Aldaya parents took Penélope to the doctors and found out that she was pregnant. Ricardo in disgust locked his daughter in her room. Ricardo and his son, Jorge, swear vengeance on Julián. Miquel, realizing the danger Julián is in, hides the truth from him so that he escape to Paris. Julián goes thinking that Penélope will follow later.



Jorge finds Miquel and gives him a letter addressed to Julián from Penelope. In it Penelope denies she had ever loved Julián and tells him to forget her. Miquel can't understand why Penélope would write such a letter. He shows the letter to Sophie, Julián's mother. Sophie immediately understands. Penelope must know that Julián is her brother.

Julián's mother, Sophie Carax had been sent to Barcelona by her father to work in the service of a wealthy family. She lasted in this job just a short while. On leaving, she began to give private piano lessons. During this time, she met the hatter Antoni Fortuny, who began to court her. While courting Fortuny, she met Ricardo Aldaya. He was recently married, but soon enough set out to seduce Sophie. After a three month affair, Sophie found out she was pregnant. Aldaya was a cruel and ruthless man. He told her to rid herself of the child, but she refused to. He beat her and threatened her. At his point she accepted Fortuny's proposal and married him.

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 1 - 3 Analysis

Nuria was in love with Julián from the very beginning. Even before she met him, she was fascinated by the way he wrote and the stories that Miquel would tell about him. Nuria was also jealous of Penélope, though the latter was long dead. Nuria realized that Julián would never love anyone as he had loved Penélope.

Now the reader is beginning to find out what is behind the story of Julián Carax; why he left Barcelona for Paris and why he always had hopes that Penélope would go to find him in France. The reader also begins to understand about Julián's childhood. The whole relationship between him and his supposed father, Fortuny, is also understood. Fortuny is a bitter man. He has a hard time in reconciling his strong religious beliefs and mores with the reality that his wife not only was not a virgin when she married him, but was also expecting another man's child. .



Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 4 - 7

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 4 - 7 Summary

Years later, Ricardo, disappointed in his own son Jorge, who he thought was weak, sought out Julián with the intention of giving the boy opportunities. He puts Julián into a top school and welcomes him into his house. Aldaya is terribly shocked to find that Daniel and Penélope have fallen in love and worse yet, a child is conceived from this incestuous relationship. Aldaya in despair, imprisons his own daughter in her room. Even when Penélope enters into labor, her father does not free her. She dies upon delivering a stillborn baby in September 1919. Jorge told Miquel of these tragic happenings and Miquel then sends the letter in which Penelope denies ever having loved him to Julián.

Penélope's mother dies of heartache, two years later and soon after Ricardo Aldaya's business that had begun failing years before, collapsed. Ricardo Aldaya and his son Jorge part for Argentina by ship in 1926. On the journey there, Ricardo Aldaya makes Jorge promise him that he will kill Julián. Jorge arrived in Argentina alone, his father committed suicide by jumping overboard.

Ten years later, Jorge returns to Barcelona a broken and defeated man. He could not find Carax, but he did find Javier Fumero. When asked for help, Fumero took Jorge in. Fumero still had a deep resentment for Aldaya because of the birthday party incident. Fumero planned to kill Jorge, but on discovering that Jorge was after Julián, he postponed his plans. Fumero had decided to kill Julián as soon as he saw him kissing Penélope. Fumero knew that Carax was in Paris and had often tried to find out where. He also knew that Nuria knew the address. He had often followed Nuria, who never noticed him. Javier Fumero decides to use Jorge in order to avenge himself on Julián, Nuria and Aldaya himself.

Miquel Moliner began weakening and soon he found out that he had tuberculosis and had not long to live. He and Nuria married in 1934. A few months after their secret marriage, Jorge Aldaya went to see them, asking after Julián Carax. Miquel and Nuria tell him that they know nothing of Julián. Aldaya is annoyed and warns them that they will regret not telling him.

Shortly after, Fumero visits Miquel and tells him of Julián's upcoming marriage to Irene Marceau, the brothel owner, a woman thirty years his senior. Miquel imagines that the marriage is of convenience so that Julián could inherit from her. Fumero also told Aldaya about this wedding.



Aldaya decides to confront Julián and finally carry out his revenge. With Fumero's help, Aldaya challenged Julián to a duel on the wedding day. Fumero even gave Aldaya the gun. Fumero realized that Carax would not confront Jorge. His plan was for Jorge to tell Carax the whole truth, sending him into a murdering rage. This would force Julián to come back to Barcelona, where Fumero would be waiting for him.

Julián returned to Barcelona just when the Civil War broke out. However Julián did not get in touch. Nuria and Miquel are very anxious as to where their friend is. One morning Nuria wakes up, Miquel had left her a note explaining that he was going to find Julián. Miquel had cleared out his desk, Nuria felt she would never see him again.

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 4 - 7 Analysis

Although Ricardo Aldaya had rejected his child initially, after years he feels compelled to go to find his unknown son. He actually becomes very fond of the boy. The tragedy which unfolds is just too much for Ricardo. However he blames it all on Julián, not accepting his own responsibility for the outcome, and especially with respect to his daughter's death. Jorge who always tried to please his father, is devastated by the family tragedy and takes it upon himself to bring avenge onto Julián. This becomes a complete obsession with him. Fumero takes advantage of this obsession for his own devious objectives.

At this point in the novel, we finally understand the full story and the depths of feeling which are guiding the lives of those involved.



Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933 -1955: Chapters 8 - 10

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933 -1955: Chapters 8 - 10 Summary

Miquel guesses that Julián has gone to look for Penélope at the Aldaya old residence. When he finds his friend there, Miquel warns Julián that Fumero is looking for him to kill him. Julián thanks Miquel for everything he has done for him over the years. They then go to a restaurant for a meal.

Julián explains that he had been home to his father, the hatter's house. Fortuny was very emotional and happy to see his son. He warned Julián that Fumero had been by asking after him. Fortuny welcomes the man he considers his son, telling him that his old room is untouched waiting for him. Julián explains that he is looking for Penélope, and Fortuny promises to help him.

Miquel and Julián do not realize that they had been followed. When they suddenly see the police at the restaurant door, Miquel quickly exchanges documents with Julián. Miquel kept Julián's passport and the book, *The Shadow of the Wind*. When the police come in, Julián escapes and Miquel stands up to them pretending that he is Julián. Miquel gets shot and is killed. He sends a message to Fumero through the policeman that kills him, that he remembers Fumero's sailor suit.

Fumero realized that his policeman had killed the wrong man when he went to the morgue. He recognized Moliner in place of Julián, however he kept quiet about it. He was still determined to kill Julián. Nuria spent some time without knowing what had happened, until the day she went home and found Julián waiting for her. He told her what had happened. That night, they resumed their love affair.

Even though Nuria knew of Penélope's fate, she did not have the courage to tell Julián. Julián is still desperately looking for his lost love. Nuria goes with Julián to the Angel of the Mist. The house is filled with his memories. Julián finds the small room where he and Penélope used to make love, but there was no sign of her. Suddenly Julián notices a bricked up door off the kitchen area. Julián breaks the wall down and enters. Inside he found two tombs, Penélope Aldaya's and a small one in the name of David Aldaya.

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933 -1955: Chapters 8 - 10 Analysis

Miquel, once again proves himself as a very good and loyal friend. He goes so far as to give up his own life for Julián. Mixed with this friendship, one cannot help wondering if his love for Nuria might not also be the reason he is ready to die in Julián's place. As he



is aware that Nuria still has very strong feelings for Julián, maybe Nuria can find happiness with Carax if Miquel is out of the way.

Julian's supposed death comes in very handy to Fumero. He is now free to kill the man who is already officially dead.

Nuria feels guilty about her renewed love affair with Julián, just after Miquel's death, but she has had this passion for too long to let it go. Both she and Julián are sad about Miquel, but they know he was a sick man and that his sacrifice was for them.

The truth is Nuria wanted Julián to forget about Penélope. Nuria was very jealous of the love between Julián and Penélope.

Julián is understandably very shocked at finding out that not only was his loved one dead, but that she had died while giving birth to his child. Julián feels responsible and hates himself even more. It's just too much loss for a man to bear.



Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 11 - 13

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 11 - 13 Summary

The discovery of the tombs is devastating. Julián blames himself and hates himself. Julián disappears. Nuria finds the Victor Hugo fountain pen she had given him on her desk. At the publishing house Nuria is told that someone called Laín Coubert had been by and offered to buy all of Julián's books in order to burn them. When the publisher's warehouse was burnt down, the firemen found an unidentified who had suffered terrible burns all over his body. Nuria went to the hospital and found this man was Julián. He was hospitalized for several months and Nuria visited him every day. When Julián was allowed to leave the hospital, Nuria took him back to her house. The story they gave the neighbors was that he was Nuria's husband, Miquel Moliner, and he had been wounded in the war. His face was totally disfigured.

Meanwhile the publishing house went bankrupt and Nuria was left without a job. She sold all the jewelry and valuables she had, and finally sold the Victor Hugo pen. Julián began going out every night and bringing back money and jewelry to Nuria to help them survive. Nuria also heard that all Julián's books were being destroyed. Julián told Nuria that he had turned into Laín Coubert, the devil in his book. At this time, Nuria obtained copies of his book and hid them in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books.

One day Nuria came across old man Fortuny. Fortuny told Nuria he knew Julián was alive and that wanted to find his son. He was sorry for the way he had treated Julián when he was a child. Fortuny is worried that Fumero is after Julián wanting to kill him. At this point, Fortuny also gives Nuria Sophie's address. Sophie had abandoned Fortuny and gone to South America just after Julián had left for Paris. She still wrote to the hatter though. Soon after, Fortuny passed away and Nuria wrote to Sophie. Nuria and Julián managed to make a small living off Fortuny's estate and money sent by Sophie. As Fumero was still looking for Julián and watching Nuria. Julián began to hide out in his father's old apartment.

In 1945 Nuria finally was able to find a job again at a publishing company owned by a man called Sanmarti. Sanmarti was a horrible man, who was constantly making advances on Nuria.

Soon Fumero began visiting the office looking for Nuria and her "husband". Sanmarti realizing that Fumero had something over Nuria, Sanmarti tried to use this information to seduce Nuria. Nuria told Julián of this and the next day, Sanmarti was found dead with his neck broken.



On the pretext of questioning her about Sanmarti's death, Nuria was taken into the police station by Fumero. When she returned home, her apartment had been trashed. She went to look for Julián at his father's apartment, but he was no longer there. Julián was hiding in the old Aldaya mansion. Some time later, Julián seeks Nuria out to tell her that there was one last copy of his books in Barcelona. Barceló had boasted to his friends about Daniel having the copy and refusing to sell it. As Daniel was only a young boy, Julián did him no harm, but observed him from afar. The years went by and Julián continued closely following Daniel's life. Julián and Nuria realize that Fumero is also following Daniel and that therefore his life was also at risk.

At the end of the letter Nuria, begs Daniel to stay safe but to take care of Julián and ensure that he is safe.

Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost - 1933-1955: Chapters 11 - 13 Analysis

Even with all the tragic happenings and pain, one must go on living. Nuria, very practically is concerned about making and everyday living and solving pending problems. Julián, on the other hand begins his trail of self destruction.

While, on the one hand, Fumero does not give up his mad obsession, the darker side of Julián's character is becoming more apparent. He is becoming a dangerous man.

The novel shows how evil can arise from the pursuit of obsessive personal objectives. Human nastiness and cowardice are ever present, as seen in Fumero and Sanmarti.

Finally, the whole story is told. There is much human drama involved in Julian and Nuria's story. Daniel has innocently uncovered this and brought to surface a world of drama. Julián had been observing Daniel for years, and in a certain sense began to re-live his own love for Penelope through Daniel's love for Bea. A very strong bond had been formed between Julián and Daniel.



The Shadow of the Wind - 1955: Chapters 1 - 4

The Shadow of the Wind - 1955: Chapters 1 - 4 Summary

On reading Nuria's letter, Daniel is confronted with the similarities between Julián and Penelope's story and his and Bea's. He rushes over to the Aguilar house, to see Bea. He is met at the door by a furious Tomas. Bea had run away, she was pregnant and no one had heard from her for two days. Her parents and the police were looking all over for her. Tomás had hoped Daniel knew where she was. Tomás is very upset at his old friend and what he had done to Bea. In a rage, he physically attacks Daniel.

Daniel, stunned and beaten makes his way to the street, where he is picked up by two men in a car. At first Daniel thinks it is Fumero, but is relieved to find that it is in fact Fermín. Fermín takes him to a safe place and after hearing the boy's story puts him to bed with a tranquilizer. Daniel wakes in middle of the night, suddenly aware of where Bea has gone; to the Angel of the Mist. Daniel leaves a note and goes off to find his love.

Daniel arrives at the house at Tibidabo 32, and rushes in. He follows a procession of candles to find Bea in the little room where they made love. Bea tells Daniel that Julián is also in the house. She had met him and he had told her the whole story. Julián also told her that he was waiting for someone that would follow Daniel to the house. Just when Bea says that, Daniel hears noises and sees Fumero's shadow on the wall.

Fumero finds Daniel and Bea, and at gunpoint makes them lead him to Carax. Fumero is just telling Daniel that he was the one who killed Nuria, when Julián appears on scene. The policeman Enrique Palacios also appears on the scene and tells Daniel and Bea to flee. Julián is trapped in a corner and when Fumero shoots at him, Daniel jumps in the way of the bullet. Julián worried that the young boy has been killed, pursues Fumero and after a violent fight, killed Fumero. Daniel has collapsed with a bullet in his chest, and is sure he is about to die. His last memory before blanking out is his mother's face.

The Shadow of the Wind - 1955: Chapters 1 - 4 Analysis

Tomás is hurt at his best friend. He feels betrayed. How could Daniel, his best friend treat his sister so? Brotherly love and protection is very strong. Tomás is reacting very much in the same way as Jorge Aldaya did. Both feared that their friends had brought pain upon their sisters and disaster upon their families. On the other hand, Daniel



discovers that Bea is pregnant with his child. For a young boy of eighteen, this is a huge awakening and responsibility. He suddenly has to grow up and be responsible for his actions.

Suddenly Daniel forgets Julián's story and is concerned about solving his own problems with Bea. He does not want the outcome of his love to be as tragic as Julián's. He is also sure that Bea is waiting for him and trusting in him. He cannot betray that trust. He must find Bea immediately.

The tempo of the novel suddenly increases. The drama has reached breaking point. The reader is still not sure what the outcome will be. Drama and violence. It all comes to a head. The final battle between good and evil takes place. The small coincidences, all the love, hate, betrayal, hurt and loneliness that has been underlying this story, suddenly culminates in the final violent scene.

Postmortem - November 27, 1955

Postmortem - November 27, 1955 Summary

It was Palacios who took Daniel to the hospital, and the story told was that Fumero had been in the old house alone when he had been attacked and killed by a gang of thieves.

Daniel woke up in a hospital room surrounded by his father and friends. He had almost died and been unconscious for eight days. Everyone was relieved that Daniel had survived. Daniel's father took him a notebook and the Victor Hugo fountain pen in case he wanted to write. One evening, Daniel woke up and saw the figure of Julián Carax. Julián sat with Daniel a while and held his hand. Daniel asked Julián to take the pen, which the author did. When Daniel told Bea of Carax's visit, she was unbelieving as everyone thought that Julian had died that night at the Angel of the Mist.

Postmortem - November 27, 1955 Analysis

Daniel has survived. No harm has come Bea's way. Julián has also survived and having taken the pen, one assumes will find his life again. Everything has fallen back into place with renewed hope.

Once again Carlos Ruiz Zafon manages to take the reader from extreme drama back to normal everyday reality. Even though Daniel had almost lost his life and had been unconscious for so long, when he awakens he finds his family and friends around him. The drama is over.

Julián, who had been the protagonist of the drama, is now once again a shadowy figure. His visit to Daniel is dreamlike, what proves its truth is the taking of the pen. Julián leaves as quietly as he came and quickly fades back into his anonymous self.



The Waters of March - 1956

The Waters of March - 1956 Summary

Daniel and Bea were married three months later by Father Fernando. They had the blessing of Bea's parents and Daniel's father.

On the night before the wedding Fermín took Daniel to hire the services of a prostitute and smuggle her into the old people's home, to keep Daniel's promise to the old man who had helped them find Jacinta.

The Waters of March - 1956 Analysis

All pain and bad memories are washed away, as with rain after a long draught. The worst is over. Daniel and Bea can breathe happily again. Theirs is a happy fate, so different from Julian and Penélope's. Bad feelings are forgotten, debts are paid and peace reigns.



Dramatis Personae - 1966

Dramatis Personae - 1966 Summary

Daniel and Bea are now happily married and the parents of a little boy named Julián. They now run Daniel's father's bookstore. Old man Sempere is now retired. The store's business is dwindling, but Daniel and Bea hold onto it fiercely.

Fermín and Bernarda got married and Fermín took over from Nuria's father, Isaac as keeper of the Cemetery of Forgotten books. Bea's brother Tomás moved to Germany to pursue his engineering ambitions.

Fumero has been forgotten, and the old Aldaya home was finally sold and became an office. One day Daniel received a package with a book, called the Angel of the Mist, written by a Boris Laurent. In it the author wrote a dedication to Daniel for having given him back his voice and pen, and for Bea, for giving them both back their lives.

The last scene of the book is of Daniel taking his ten-year-old son to the Cemetery of Forgotten books.

Dramatis Personae - 1966 Analysis

After all the drama, life gets back to normal. This is the happy ending, and the humdrum of normal life and everyday difficulties is welcomed by those who have lived through such deep drama. Life goes on, each new generation will have its own battles to fight. The reader wonders what adventures will influence little Julián's life. With which books will he share souls? Will Daniel be able to continue as close to his son as he is now?

The years have gone by, and Julián Carax, who was so important to Daniel at one time, seems to be just a name again. One wonders if hereally did have an affect on Daniel's fate? Thereader gets the impression that with or without Julián, Daniel would be taking his ten year old son to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, just in the same way as his father took him. Life goes on, one day after another. Small and large dramas are just a part of the everyday.

Zafón ends his novel with the following thought: "... like figures made of steam , father and son disappear into the crowds of the Ramblas, their steps lost forever in the shadow of the wind."



Characters

Daniel Sempere

Daniel Sempere is a young boy, going through the ordinary growing pains of pre-adolescence and adolescence. He lost his mother when he was only four, and he feels this loss terribly. He is very close to his father, a second hand book merchant, who loves him, but as all young adolescent boys, he grows a bit distant. Books have a very strong impact on Daniel's life. Daniel has grown up among books, his father's livelihood comes from books, and from a very young age he helps his father in his shop.

Daniel doesn't have very many friends. As a boy, he is not a particularly lively character and is even a bit melancholy. His only true friends are Tomás Aguilar, who is also a quiet boy and Fermín, the street dweller who becomes his father's assistant. He has an extreme love and respect for books and an ambition to become a writer. He gets so deeply involved in the book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, that he wants to find out all about its author, Julián Carax. He feels a strong connection to the author, who ends up having more in common with him than the love of books.

Daniel is obsessive about this book. He lies, performs petty thefts and even puts his life and that of his girl friend in danger in pursuit of the author's story. Daniel sees himself as a sort of hero, or spy who is out to unfold a tremendous mystery. Actually he is a young boy, who is in far deeper waters than he imagined. His search ends up putting endangering others.

He is a passionate boy and feels things very deeply. His first devotion to Clara is evidence of this. Many times he doesn't understand his own feelings. At first he thinks he doesn't even like Bea, only to discover that in truth he is in love with her. Daniel's life seems to take a similar track to Julián's, but fortunately has a happy ending.

During the story, the reader follows Daniel's path from a quite and timid boy to an adult who has witnessed life and human drama.

Julian Carax

Julian Carax is an illusive and complex character. He is the son of a French music teacher Sophie, married to a Spanish hatter, Fortuny. Fortuny is a quiet and very religious man, who takes to beating his wife on discovering that Julian is not his son. In truth Julian is the son of Antonio Aldaya, a ruthless millionaire. Julián, who is unaware of his true heritage, is dreamer and a talented writer. In his early life, Julian is a passionate young boy, who falls deeply in love with Penelope Aldaya (who, unbeknownst to him is his sister).

As a young adult living in Paris, Julián devotes himself to writing his books. He is helped by the owner of a brothel, who takes a motherly interest in him. She ensures that he



make a living by playing piano at her establishment. During this period, Julián is a very melancholy man, who keeps to himself and does not involve himself emotionally with anyone. The closest he gets to involvement is his affair with Nuria Monfort. He loves her, but not enough to come out of himself. He lets her go and does not pursue her.

On returning to Barcelona, Julián becomes a bitter and self destructive man. His face is disfigured in a fire, and he sees himself as the devil. This somber man has a very low opinion of himself, which makes him very self centered in his own way. He is so involved in his misery and self destruction he sees nothing beyond. He is obsessed with wanting to destroy all that he stood for. He blames himself for Penélope's death and the deaths of his friends Jorge and Miquel.

Julián does not come across as being a strong person in any way. So much so, he is always being protected by his friends and lovers. However he becomes attached to Daniel in his own way, and sees himself in Daniel. In the end he reacts. He comes out of his world of self pity defend Daniel and Bea. By saving their lives, he gets his own life back.

Fermín Romero de Torres

Fermín is a semi comical character. He is ribald, enjoys his drink, always has a sugus sweet on him and loves women. Fermín also is a cinema aficionado He loves intrigue and has grand ideas of having been a spy. Fermín prides himself of his street savvy, which comes in very useful in uncovering the mystery surrounding Carax. In truth, Fermín is a sensitive man with an amazing philosophical attitude towards life. In his own comical way, he is very wise.

He was a street dweller when Daniel first met him. As a government official, he was arrested and badly tortured during the Spanish Revolution. After this period, he was not able to rebuild his life and took to the streets as a beggar. He manages to pull his life back together when Daniel's father takes him off the streets to work in the bookstore with him. Fermín is eternally grateful to Sempere and his son. The ex-beggar will do anything to help either one of them. He proves himself a truly good friend to Daniel. In truth Fermín is a man of noble sentiments.

Fermín has one great fear and nightmare. He hates and fears Javier Fumero, the man who so badly tortured him in prison. His memories of this awful time still traumatised him and often he would have awful nightmares of that time.

Fermín despite all the difficulties he had in life, still dreamed of having a wife and family. His great happiness is when he falls in love with Bernarda, a motherly woman who will care for him and hopefully give him a family.



Nuria Monfort

Nuria is a quiet woman with great inner strength. She is a cultured woman who speaks various languages. When Daniel finds her, she makes a meager living as a translator. When younger, she used to work at the publishing house that worked with Julián. Nuria inherits her love of books from her father who is the keeper of the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Nuria and her father do not get along very well, and though she sees him once a month, he knows little of her life. He disapproves of the way she lives and her love life.

She was in love with Julián Carax, but accepted the fact that he did not love her as much as she did him. Nuria's love is unselfish. She married Miquel, more out of pity than love. She had a close but not passionate relationship with him. Nuria and Miquel were complices in protecting Julián. In the end, both Nuria and Miquel give up their lives in this protection. Nuria's love for and protection of Julián puts her in extreme danger and as a consequence is murdered by Fumero.

Javier Fumero

Fumero is a cruel and bitter man. He was the son of the caretaker at San Gabriel's school. From a young age, Javier seemed to be mentally unstable and even as a child he showed his sadistic tendencies. Though his father was a good and hardworking man, his mother was a loose woman with perverted a relationship toward her son. Javier initiates his bloody career with the murder of his own mother, when he was a young man. Fumero is the epitome of evil.

Javier was resentful of the richer children who went to the school and who made fun of him because of his humble background and strange habits. The only one that befriended him was Julián. He emulated Julián and was obsessed by whatever the boy did. He was also deeply in love with Penélope. However, Julián became an enemy when Javier discovered that Julián and Penélope were in love. This discovery made Javier go overboard to the point that he attempted to kill Julián. Javier's hate and resentment of Julián becomes an obsession, and he spends his life trying to destroy his childhood friend.

Miquel Moliner

A true and sincere friend, who sacrifices his life for Julián.

Penélope Aldaya

Julián's love. She is Julián's friend's sister. Unknown to both, she is also Julián's sister. Penélope becomes a prisoner in her own home when her parents discover she is pregnant. She suffers terribly and ends up dying giving birth to a stillborn baby.



Bea

Bea is a strong willed young girl, who defies her family to carry out her love affair with Daniel. Her story was similar to Penélope's, but fortunately it had a happy ending.

Tomás Aguilar

Tomás is Daniel's best friend. He is also Bea's brother. He is an inventive boy, however not appreciated by his father.

Jorge Aldaya

Jorge is a boyhood friend of Julián's and also his brother, although neither of them are aware of this. He is Penélope's brother and as so, wishes revenge on Julián, who he considers responsible for her plight.

Sempere

Daniel's father is a quiet patient man, whose life is dedicated to his son.



Objects/Places

The Cemetery of Forgotten Books

This library for books which had been forgotten or with very limited editions, traditionally kept all written works for posterity. Here bibliophiles guarantee that no book published should be lost. The place is surrounded by secrecy and mystery. The author shows us here the immortality of books and stories. Books affect the lives of those who write them and those who read them. The idea of the Cemetery of Forgotten books is not to allow any written work be lost to humanity.

The Copy of the book *The Shadow of the Wind* by Julián Carax

This book is the central piece of Zafón's novel. The only known copy of the book was hidden in the Cemetery of Forgotten books. It is this edition that young Daniel Sempere chose as his responsibility, and as such leads him to pursue the story of its author, Julián Carax.

The Angel of the Mist

This mansion was the scene of dramatic events, love stories and tragedies. Supposedly haunted, this huge old house was the home of the Aldaya family. Of course during the lively days as the Aldaya home, it held a magnificent library, which was one of Julián's favorite haunts. The rooms of this residence served as Julián Carax and Penelope's love tryst. It also served as Penelope's prison and eventually held her tomb and that of her stillborn child. Years later it was used as Daniel and Bea's love tryst. It was here that Julián hid when he returned to Barcelona. The Angel of the Mist was also stage to the final dramatic scenes of the deadly fight between Carax and Fumero.

Victor Hugo Montblanc Pen

This supposedly historical pen was the object of Daniel's desire, as from a very young age. He would frequently go by the shop where it was being sold, just to gaze at it longingly. This was the special birthday gift that his father sacrificed to give him. As coincidence had it, it is later revealed that in fact this had been Julián Carax's pen, a gift from his good friend, Nuria Montfort. Julián had also for a long time passed by the pawnshop where it was exposed, and gaze longingly at it. This pen once again becomes a gift, when Daniel respectfully gives it back to Julián. The pen is an expression of love, by those who presented it. It represents a renewal of hope for those who received it.



Sempere & Sons Bookshop

The Sempere & Sons bookshop was originally founded by Daniel's grandfather and will eventually be passed on to Daniel and his son. This is where Daniel, his father and Fermín work and the apartment over it is Daniel's home.

San Gabriel's School

This is the school where Julián Carax and Jorge Aldaya studied and met Miquel Moliner, Fernando Ramos and Javier Fumero.

Santa Lúcia Hospice

The old peoples' home where Daniel and Fermín find Jacinta.

Montjuïc Castle

Infamous prison where political dissidents were taken and tortured, from where many disappeared.

Montjuïc Cemetery

Cemetery where the unknown body taken as Julián was buried in an unmarked grave. Also the cemetery where Nuria's funeral took place.

Anteneo Library

Traditional palatial library where Daniel meets with Barceló for the first time to speak about the book.



Themes

The World of Books

Carlos Ruiz Zafon manages in this novel to bring books to life by explaining their souls. The importance of a book to its author and the affect it has on its readers is very well portrayed. Whether or not the book is a best seller , it still carries the soul of its author and of each of its readers.

This is the story of a book. The book in the story carries the same name as the novel itself. This book takes on a certain character and is an important protagonist of Zafón's novel.

Books, in general, play a very essential part in the lives of this novel's main characters. Zafón shows how the love of books and literature can connect people. All who read a book are somehow connected to its magic and automatically are connected to its author.

In the case of Daniel, the book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, plays an active part in the happenings that shape his life. It entralls him and involves him in a different world. He shared this enthusiasm for the book with all those who were close to him; Clara, Fermín, Bea. The book connected him with the author, Julián Carax.

Julián was attracted to the wonderful library in the Aldaya home. It was his love of books that gave him the ambition to write. However due to his suffering, Julián's literary works become objects of hate to be destroyed. The remorse he feels at having lost Penelope, makes him wish to destroy all he has accomplished and in a way himself. His books are in fact himself. They are reflections of his thoughts, his pains, his experiences and doubts.

To Sempere and Barceló, books are their way of life. They make their living with books. Nuria and her father Isaac, have a devotion to books. They respect all work of literary art and devote themselves to protect and maintain them.

Forbidden Love

This book is replete with love stories. Many of which have a taste of the "forbidden" to them. Daniel's first school boy crush on Clara, is towards someone much older and therefore not acceptable. His hidden love affair with his best friend's sister is also not initially well accepted. Bea was practically engaged to an army soldier (a much more acceptable suitor), when their love story began. This love story is one of the few in the book that has a happy ending. (Bea and Daniel marry and have a child named Julián.)

Julián Carax and Penelope also had a forbidden and hidden love affair. Little did they know that they were actually brother and sister. This was a tragic love affair, leading to



unhappiness on all sides. Julián becomes a resentful and sad man, while Penélope suffers a tragic demise. Nuria's love for Julián was unrequited and Miquel's love for Nuria was also uncorresponded.

Ricardo Aldaya had an illicit love affair with Sophie, Julián's mother. Both Bernarda and Fermín had suffered from unhappy love affairs, but they manage to find each other and start anew. Sempere on the other hand never was able to forget his dear wife, who he lost after just a few years married.

The message that Zafón gives us, is that no matter how sad a love affair may be, no matter how much one suffers for love and the scars that it leaves, love is what life is about.

The Relationship between Father and Son

In *The Shadow of the Wind* various father-son relationships, be they legitimate, illegitimate can be analysed. The first is the relationship between Daniel and his father, where there is closeness and much love. Julián lost his mother when he was 4 years old, so his father had to play both roles. Whereas Daniel knows that he has his father's full support and love, as a typical teenager, he keeps secrets from and leaves his father out of certain aspects of his life. Old man Sempere seems to understand this and patiently accepts and waits for his son to find himself and return to normality.

The father son relationships between Ricardo Aldaya and his son Jorge and that of Tomas Aguilar and his father are quite similar. In these two relationships the fathers are never satisfied with their sons, who they feel are weak and not up to taking their place. In both cases, the fathers are successful businessmen, self centered and proud. This pride will never allow them to see the qualities in their own sons, who they don't seem to recognize as their own offspring. The reason for this seems to be that they are such overwhelming characters, that their sons dare not stand up to them, and live in constant fear and longing for approval.

Jorge Aldaya, on the other hand, seems to recognize himself in Julián Carax, his illegitimate son. As Julian will never know that Aldaya is his father, he is not in fear of him and stands up to him. This attitude is what attracts Aldaya to Julián and makes him take the boy under his wing. The latter, Fortuny, who brought Julián up as his son, was a cruel father, using many times physical violence against Julián and his mother. But in truth, Fortuny did really love his son and proves so in the end. The physical violence seems to have risen from the latter's own sense of inadequacy.

Fermin's relationship with his father was also very negative, and definitely not the relationship he wanted to have with his own children.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón at one point in *The Shadow of the Wind* defines a good father in the words of Fermin. "A man with a head, a heart, and a soul. A man capable of listening, of leading and respecting a child, and not of downing his own defects in him. Someone



whom the child will not only love because he's his father but will also admire the person he is. Someone he would want to grow up to resemble."

Friendship

The *Shadow of the Wind* is about the importance of friendship. True friendship is seen in Miquel Moliner, who would do anything for his friend, Julián. Miquel and Julián had in common their love for books and wish to become writers. Their different social conditions, which might have served as a separation point, actually unite them. Miquel saved Julián's life twice, the second time giving up his own life in order to do so. Zafón shows us here that true friendship is selfless. Another example of true friendship is Nuria. Though her love for Julian was not totally corresponded, she showed that she could still be his friend and made extreme efforts to protect him.

Daniel befriended homeless Fermín. The former beggar was ever grateful to and would do anything to help his young savior. This is a strange friendship. Fermín is quite a lot older than Daniel, of a different social class, less educated. The bond between the two is very strong though. Fermín talks to Daniel as an equal and Daniel feels that in Fermín, he has someone he can depend on. Fermín plays the multiple roles of confidant, accomplice, guide, protector and protectee.

Daniel and his best friend Tomás Aguilar are also of very different natures. Daniel is interested in books and everything to do with creative writing and fiction. Tomás, on the other hand is a very practical boy, who loves science and inventions. Daniel, the dreamer and Tomás, the realist have little in common. Their friendship started off with a fight. However they are very good friends and this friendship is only put to risk when Daniel begins his relationship with Tomás' sister. The friendship was strong, but the blood ties stronger. Tomás felt betrayed.

The friendship between Jorge Aldaya and Julián was ruined when Jorge found out about Julián and Penélope. In this case, Jorge's friendship was transformed into rage and a wish for revenge. In both situations, that of Jorge and Julián and that of Tomás and Daniel, blood ties were stronger than friendship. Another friendly relationship which turned into hate was that of Javier and Julián. Javier's inferiority feelings of a dysfunctional family turned into extreme resentment. His admiration for Julián turned into hate, when they, in his mind, disputed the love of the same woman.

Zafón demonstrates the very many different types of relationships that can shape friendship.



Style

Point of View

The *Shadow of the Wind* is a story within a story, and as such is told by two characters and written in the first person by both. The book itself has two main stories: that of Julian Carax and that of Daniel Sempere, who is looking for answers about Julian. The greater part of the book is seen from Daniel's point of view - It's Daniel's story about his search for the truth about Julián Carax. The emotions and growing pains that Daniel is going through during his adolescent years are very present in the book. There are parts of the book written in italics, where the narrative is in the third person. These are the stories about Julian Carax gathered from the other characters.

Daniel's point of view, as far as the story Julián Carax goes, begins as that of a third party. Soon enough though, he becomes embroiled in the events and it becomes his own personal story. The final story about Julian Carax, however, is told in a letter written by Nuriá Monfort, who is also a protagonist in the events that took place. Nuriá writes her story in a factual but also very emotional manner. There is an undercurrent of the very strong emotions in the dramatic story she tells.

Although the writing is not from Fermín's point of view, Fermín's philosophy and views on life are very well documented in his conversation and actions. Fermín's point of view has much more political and philosophical content.

Setting

This novel is set in Barcelona and takes place between 1919 and 1956. Part of Julián's story takes place in Paris, however this is a very small side-stage. In Barcelona, there is the very interesting backdrop of the Spanish revolution and its aftermath. Although this is not a political book, there are some political inuendos about this troubled period in Spanish history. The author writes about the political uncertainties of this time. Political persecution by the diverse parties and ideologies is also ever present in the novel. The author, however does not express his own political opinions. The intention is to show the turmoil lived at the time. The author also shows how many, like Fermín will sway according to those in power at the moment, in order to carry out their own personal ambitions.

It is interesting how the author manages to take us back and forth in time, as he switches from Daniel's reality to Julian's. A strong parallel is drawn between the two realities, bring forth the realization that human beings are basically the same, with the same sentiments, emotions and actions. no matter in what actual period of history their life occurs. Historical situations change, but personal dramas continue the same from generation to generation.



The author's love for Barcelona is evidenced by his emotional and romantic descriptions of the roads and buildings. Every setting has a special aura and flavour to it, from the cobblestone roads, the Ramblas, to the plaza's and the tram lines. At the end of this book's edition there is a map of the area of Barcelona in which the story took place. This map is meant to be the itinerary of a walk taken in the Shadow of the Wind's footsteps.

Language and Meaning

Carlos Ruiz Zafón wrote the book originally in Spanish. Lucia Graves translated it into English. The translation is of excellent quality and does not in the least take away from the author's writing style. The language is light and makes for easy and pleasant reading. The dialogues have a certain formality, adequate to the period in which the novel took place.

As is typical with Spanish authors, Zafón's novel is replete with side stories and much personal human drama. The huge web of intrigue involving secondary characters gives the novel an incredible depth of emotions and reflections.

The simplicity with which dramatic scenes are described, gives credibility to an incredible story. Zafón begins the novel in a slow pace, with a certain romanticism which is even nostalgic of childhood simplicity. Even the strongest scenes are written in a simple manner, which efficiently conveys the stark and many times brutal reality. The love scenes are tender, and what is left unsaid adds even more to the sensuous nature of the scenes.

The tempo goes increasing as the suspense and mystery grip the reader. Zafón manages to unite in one book an aura of romance, realism, fantasy, mystery, espionage, and adventure.

It is a very strong book written in a very simple manner. At no point in the story does the author make use of strong or vulgar language. Even in Fermín's comic vulgarity, there is no untoward language use.

Structure

The book is divided into 10 parts, each with a number of chapters. Each part goes under its own special title and dates. These titles are poetic to a certain extent and reflective of the themes and stories developed in that section. Every chapter holds specific scenes and sentiments. Every character in the book, small or big, has a very strong presence and a touching story.

The book is structured in such a way as to hold the reader's interest in the main plot, while the author adds his side plots to enhance the human, political and social dramas that serve as a backdrop. The book is a story within a story, and within these two stories there are a number of other captivating stories which are weaved together into the main plot.



Quotes

"Every book, every volume you see here has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it." The cemetery of Forgotten Books, page 5

"...few things leave a deeper mark on a reader than the first book that finds its way into his heart. Those first images, the echo of words we think have left behind, accompany us throughout our lives and sculpt a palace in our memory ..." The Cemetery of Forgotten Books, page 8

"Nobody knows much about women, not even Freud, not even women themselves. But it's like electricity: you don't have to know how it works to get a shock on the fingers." True to Character, Chapter 11, Page 90

"Like the good ape he is, man is a social animal, characterized by cronyism, nepotism, corruption and gossip." True to Character, Chapter 12, Page 96

"Julian lived in his books. ... His soul is in his stories. ... all his characters were himself." City of Shadows, Chapter 20, Page 171

"Someone once said that the moment you stop to think about whether you love someone, you've already stopped loving that person forever." City of Shadows, Chapter 21 Page 176

"About accursed books, about the man who wrote them, about a character who broke out of the pages of a novel so that he could burn it, about betrayal and lost friendship." City of Shadows, Chapter 21, Page 178

"... this was a story about lonely people, about absence of love and loss, and that was why I had taken refuge in it until it became confused with my own life, like someone who has escaped into the pages of a novel because those whom he needs to love seem nothing more than ghosts inhabiting the mind of a stranger." City of Shadows, Chapter 21, Page 179

"A good father ... A man with a head, a heart, and a soul. A man capable of listening, of leading and respecting a child, and not of downing his own defects in him." City of Shadows, Chapter 22, Page 185

"Love is a lot like pork: there's loin steak and there's bologna." City of Shadows, Chapter 24, page 195

"The most efficient way of rendering the poor harmless is to teach them to want to imitate the rich." City of Shadows, Chapter 24, Page 199

"Books are mirrors: you only see in them what you already have inside you." City of Shadows, Chapter 25, Page 209



"Destiny is usually just around the corner. Like a thief, a hooker, or a lottery vendor: its three most common personifications. But what destiny does not do is home visits. You have to go for it."

"He hadn't told me anything about that strange trembling of the hands that turned every button, every zip, into a superhuman challenge. Nor had he told me about the bewitchment of pale tremulous skin, that first brush of the lips, or about the mirage that seemed to shimmer in every pore of the skin." City of Shadows, Chapter 28, page 241

"Fools talk, cowards are silent, wise men listen." City of Shadows, Chapter 33, page 33

"Daniel, the father-son relationship is based on thousands of little white lies. Presents from the Three Kings, the tooth fairy, meritocracy, and many others." The City of Shadows, Chapter 37, page 324

"Julián once wrote that coincidences are the scars of fate." Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost, Chapter 13, Page 440

"Julian had once told me that a story is a letter the author writes to himself, to tell himself things he would be unable to discover otherwise." Nuria Monfort: Remembrance of the Lost, Chapter 13, Page 444



Topics for Discussion

One knows how close the relationship between Daniel and his father is ever since Daniel's mother's death. How did Daniel's father react to the boy's gradually growing distance during his adolescence?

Fumero is a very bitter and sadistic character. What made Fumero harbor so much hate for Carax, Moliner and Aldaya?

Daniel's infatuation with Clara lasted for quite a few years. What role did Clara play in Daniel's life?

Julián had always loved writing and being an author was his sole ambition. Why did Julián Carax wish to destroy his own work?

Daniel in his quest for Julián's history, inadvertently stumbled on a present day drama. How did Daniel's pursuit affect Julián's life?

Daniel had received many hints of danger while following his quest. Was he inadvertently responsible for Nuria Monfort's murder?

Despite all the difficulties and time lapse of almost ten years, Daniel continued to search for answers on a story which apparently didn't concern him. Why was Daniel so obsessive about Julián Carax and his story?

What were the similarities between Julián Carax's story and Daniel's life path?

There were many different father son relationships in the book. How do the relationships with their fathers affect the main characters of this novel?

How does the title, *The Shadow of the Wind*, relate to the story?