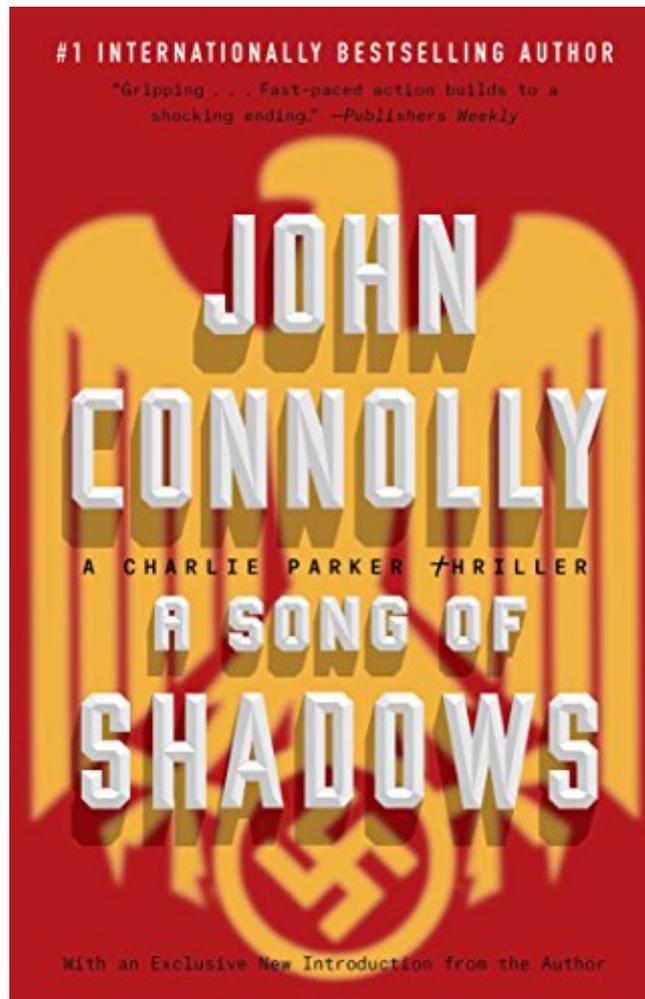


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A Song Of Shadows: A Charlie Parker Thriller



Synopsis

Still recovering from his life-threatening wounds, private detective Charlie Parker investigates a case that has its origins in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II in this all-out thrill ride • (Suspense Magazine). Parker has retreated to the small Maine town of Boreas to regain his strength. There he befriends a widow named Ruth Winter and her young daughter, Amanda. But Ruth has her secrets. Old atrocities are about to be unearthed, and old sinners will kill to hide their sins. Now Parker is about to risk his life to defend a woman he barely knows, one who fears him almost as much as she fears those who are coming for her. His enemies believe him to be vulnerable. Fearful. Solitary. But they are wrong. Parker is far from afraid, and far from alone. For something is emerging from the shadows |

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Customer Reviews

Charlie Parker comes across all kinds of horrors in his work as a Private Detective, particularly for one who is sensitive to or who tends to attract things of a somewhat supernatural character. The horror that comes up in A Song of Shadows however is one that is rather disturbingly entirely

man-made - or, depending on your view of evil, perhaps not - extending to those involved in the running of the Nazi death camps during WWII, and their victims. Parker got a bit too close to the after-life in his last case, and at the start of *A Song of Shadows* he's in recovery in the small coastal town of Boreas in Maine. Lucky to be alive at all, he's making his first tentative, painful steps to recovery, but - needless to say - it's not too long before trouble turns up on his doorstep, and needless to say, it's never anything minor either. A dead body washed up on the beach, a burnt house with a family murdered and their son missing, a young neighbouring girl who has unsettling dreams. It's all very sinister, but only the beginning of something much bigger and darker... What is great about *A Song of Shadows* - and it really is one of the best John Connolly's I've read - is how comfortable the author is with his leading character and the nature of the world he operates in. There's a complete mastery of all the elements here, a writer who has their own voice and is capable of doing anything with it. What's exciting about this is the nature of the world Connolly has created and how there's a greater sense of a bigger picture gradually forming in the Charlie Parker books, a wider consideration of all questions of Evil and how it operates in our world.

Finally the thirteenth installment in the Charlie Parker series has arrived!! And while I admit to cheating on the American release by ordering directly from the UK, the wait has still felt long especially since this past December I decided to re-read the first twelve books. The book opens not too long after the events of *The Wolf in Winter: A Charlie Parker Thriller* and Charlie still recovers from his grievous injuries. Like so many of the other books in the series, the past plays a large role in modern crimes. Two Nazi war criminals are being extradited from the US to be tried in Germany, which serves as the catalyst for drawing Charlie out of his recuperation and back to doing what he does best. The plot unfolds a bit slowly - it takes a surprising amount of time for Charlie's perspective to emerge, but this works well and lays a solid foundation for the plot and allows for this new areas of Maine to feel solidly real. It also seems to lend a sensitivity for Charlie's convalescence in a way. Charlie's daughter, Sam, plays a larger role here which hints at a new direction for the series to go... And as always, every aspect of the book feels meticulously researched. Connolly truly is my very favorite author!! But, of course, I would never recommend starting off in the series from here - you really need to read these in order - especially considering the appearances of so many series-regular characters like Epstein, Liat, the Fulcis, and of course Louis and Angel.

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