

Windhound Press, LINCOLNSHIRE

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ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE	<i>Echoes</i>
ISBN	978-0-9542292-1-4 (0-9542292-1-5)
PRICE:	£8.99
AUTHOR	Eva Maria Knabenbauer
PUBLISHER	Windhound Press, LINCOLNSHIRE
PUBLICATION DATE	February 2007
CATEGORY	Historical fiction — WW2
SPECIFICATIONS	Paperback, sewn, 216 x 138mm, 160pp
WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK?	Lovers of historical fiction or “social” novels; those with an interest in Germany and Cold War

The common thread running through all twelve stories of this collection is that they are based on subsidiary characters of Eva's novel *Silent Shadows*. Mostly, the stories are snapshots of life in the former GDR or they afford glimpses into the reunited Germany, and in this they are unashamedly political. But, above all, each story is about the trials and tribulations of the human condition, and readers will be as intrigued by the characters' challenges as the author was in the writing of it.

Despite the characters' previous inclusion in *Silent Shadows*, each of their stories is well able to stand alone. Reading *Silent Shadows* adds another dimension to the collection.

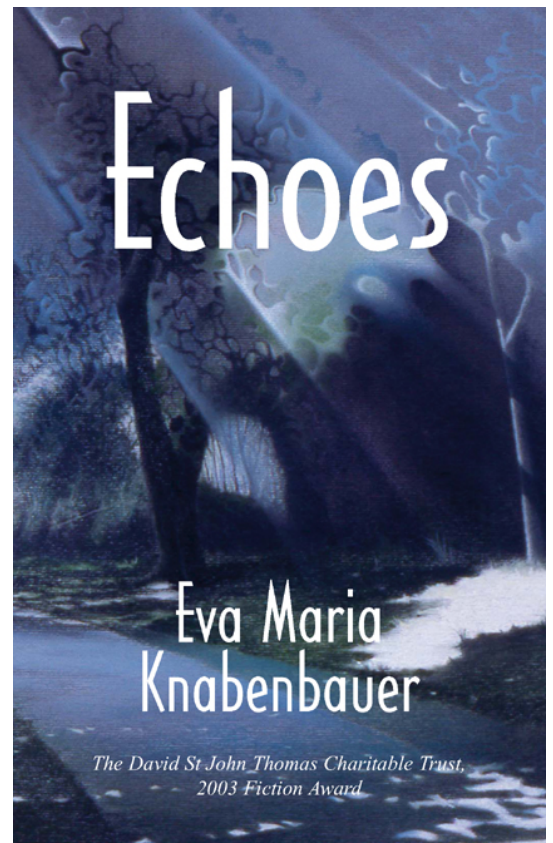
THE AUTHOR: Eva Maria Ghoshal, writing under her maiden name, Knabenbauer, knows about withstanding indoctrination, talking in whispers to trusted friends, feeling trapped behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany. She was there.

The author has been living in England since 1961. When her two children were of school age she studied and completed, part-time, a BA (Honours) degree in Philosophy. After a variety of jobs, she taught for many years in further education while at the same time pursuing postgraduate studies in Applied Linguistics, gaining a Diploma and MA. She has now retired and lives in Lincolnshire.

Acclaim for ECHOES/ THE LETTER

"There is a sad edge to this story but it remains a heart-warming one because of the reader's empathy for the two main characters, Joseph and Thekla. The author obviously knows a bit about life in a small rural German town ... hoping that the facts are not a complete fabrication in the mind of the author, the reader is fascinated with the details of day-to-day life somewhere near the time of the 'thousand-year Reich'. '... the flutter of unseen humming birds' wings...' A great line." *An Ink Short story competition, 2006*

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Acclaim for ECHOES/ NO GOING BACK

"On the face of it an oversimplistic story with Erika having a bath, letting her ex lover into her presence, kicking him out and having a drink. Some stories rely on a clever plot, while others are successful because of the sheer sweep of the writing. This story, with a minimal plot, is in the second category... 'Erika noted the oily, rainbow-coloured water ripple in the moonlight once he (vagrant) had crossed the jagged hollow'. Brilliant." *'an' Ink Short Story Competition, 2006*

Acclaim for ECHOES/ ROOM 137

"A powerful story. Engaging." Paul Sutherland, Editor of *Dream Catcher Magazine*.

Acclaim for *Silent Shadows*

This year's First Price for excellence and accomplishment was awarded by The David St John Thomas Charitable Trust: "Eva Maria Knabenbauer draws her central character skilfully, and we find ourselves identifying with this woman who goes on a journey into her past... and its (*Silent Shadows*) flashbacks to life under Russian occupation are particularly fascinating..." *Judges of The David St John Thomas Charitable Trust, 2003 Fiction Award.*

"You can't go home again. But Anni does, to confront all the fears of early life in the hateful repression of Communist East Germany. This is more than a sentimental journey. Ghosts from her past reappear and bitter sweet memories surface like old scars. The overall effect is cathartic and facing up to her former life allows Anni to abandon her reservations and embrace her new life in the West. At its heart Eva Maria Knabenbauer's novel *Silent Shadows* is a touching and compelling story about love." *Sir Trevor McDonald, OBE*

"*Silent Shadows* tells what some of them (escapees from the former GDR trying to reconnect with relatives, friends and acquaintances) found within the confines of the small town of Aschersleben. This is touchingly set out in this book with a love story woven in. It is a small volume which should really be read by anyone trying to understand how the DDR (GDR) worked out, how it enmeshed its population in a Russian-controlled society... an interesting and topical book." *British-German Review*