

Windhound Press, LINCOLNSHIRE

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INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE	<i>Silent Shadows</i>
ISBN	ISBN 0-9542292-0-7 PRICE: £12.95
AUTHOR	Eva Maria Knabenbauer
PUBLISHER	Windhound Press, LINCOLNSHIRE
CATEGORY	Historical fiction — WW2
SPECIFICATIONS	Hardback, sewn, 216 x 138mm, 272pp

WHO WILL BUY THIS BOOK? Lovers of historical fiction or “social” novels; those with an interest in Germany and Cold War

The division of Germany into two separate countries during the Cold War disrupted many lives, leaving many in the East to become the victims of a vicious system. In *Silent Shadows*, the Berlin Wall has fallen and an apprehensive Anni visits Aschersleben, the small East German town she escaped from when she was twenty. The visit awakens the past and she struggles to come to grips with memories of those who sought to oppress her and vivid recollections of a passionate love affair that ended with her escape to the West.

Anni is accompanied by her friend, Victor, and, as she allows him to learn of the extraordinary events that shaped her life, their relationship deepens. But she resists commitment and finds herself holding back from a desire to deepen her involvement while she endeavours to come to terms with her past.

Anni also tries to find Karin, her childhood school-friend, and when she does it is more painful than she had imagined it would be, revealing a number of bitter truths that they must both learn to live with. The fall of the Wall is not going to bring everything to a happy conclusion, for a new, invisible wall dividing East from West is fast bringing disharmony in an atmosphere where old grievances and suspicions die slowly as justice is sought.

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. *Silent Shadows* is the author's tribute to the many ordinary people who, faced with extreme conditions, nevertheless preserved their integrity. Her characters are not heroic but their questioning frame of mind comes at a price. Readers will judge for themselves the characters' frailties or otherwise.

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.

“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

