



The Watcher

By Monika Jephcott Thomas

PRESS RELEASE

Released from a POW camp, one father returns home to rebuild his life, and his family, against a backdrop of occupied Germany in this stunning historical fiction inspired by the author's family history.

In the aftermath of war, can a broken family survive?

It's 1949 when Netta's father Max is released from a Siberian POW camp and returns to his home in occupied Germany. But he is not the man the little girl is expecting —the brave, handsome doctor her mother Erika told her stories of. Erika too struggles to reconcile this withdrawn, volatile figure with the husband she knew and loved before, and, as she strives to break through the wall Max has built around himself, Netta is both frightened and jealous of this interloper in the previously cosy household she shared with her mother and

doting grandparents. Now, if family life isn't tough enough, it is about to get even tougher, when a murder sparks a police investigation, which begins to unearth dark secrets they all hoped had been forgotten.

Born and raised in West Germany in the 1950s, Monika Jephcott Thomas saw first-hand the brutal aftermath of WWII, for families and for German society. Her father returned from a Soviet prisoner of war camp - where only 400 out of 8,000 soldiers survived - when she was four years old; he was a stranger to her compared to the war hero her young imagination had designed. Themes of resilience and sacrifice pervade **The Watcher** and Jephcott Thomas hopes they will serve as a reminder to readers at a time of growing international instability.

A stunning and emotional portrayal of family life after the devastation of the Second World War, **The Watcher** is both a stand alone novel and a sequel to Monika Jephcott Thomas' debut novel, *Fifteen Words*, which was published in 2016, and is the perfect accompaniment this winter for historical and commercial fiction readers.

About the author: Monika Jephcott Thomas grew up in Dortmund Mengede, north-west Germany. She moved to the UK in 1966, enjoying a thirty year career in education before retraining as a therapist. Along with her partner Jeff she established the Academy of Play & Child Psychotherapy in order to support the twenty per cent of children who have emotional, behavioural, social and mental health problems by using play and the creative Arts. A founder member of Play Therapy UK, Jephcott Thomas was elected President of Play Therapy International in 2002. In 2016 her first book *Fifteen Words* was published. Her second novel **The Watcher** (published by Clink Street Publishing 10th October 2017 in paperback RRP £8.99 and ebook RRP £4.99) will be available to buy online from retailers including amazon.co.uk and can be ordered from all good bookstores. For more information please visit <http://monika-jephcott-thomas.com>

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