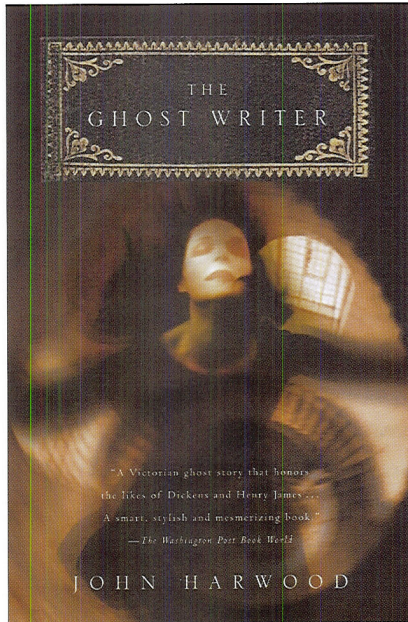


JOHN HARWOOD

*The Ghost Writer*



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FICTION



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Fiction

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In this tantalizing tale of Victorian ghost stories and family secrets, timid, solitary librarian Gerard Freeman lives for just two things: his elusive pen pal Alice and a story he found hidden in his mother's drawer years ago. Written by his great-grandmother Viola, it hints at his mother's role in a sinister crime. As he discovers more of Viola's chilling tales, he realizes that they might hold the key to finding Alice and unveiling his family's mystery—or will they bring him the untimely death they seem to foretell?

Harwood's astonishing, assured debut shows us just how dangerous family skeletons—and stories—can be.

**PRAISE FOR *THE GHOST WRITER***

*"[Harwood's] novel is an homage, a Victorian ghost story that honors the likes of Dickens and Henry James . . . A smart, stylish and mesmerizing book."*—THE WASHINGTON POST BOOK WORLD

*"Does [Alice] have some connection to Gerard's creepy, semi-insane mom? And to those Victorian horror tales that Gerard keeps stumbling across? What's she hiding, anyway? The answers are yes, yes, and wait and see . . . It's like A. S. Byatt's Possession. But without all that distracting poetry."*—TIME

JOHN HARWOOD divides his time between London and Victor Harbor, a small town on the coast of South Australia. He has published works of biography, political journalism, satire, and poetry. *The Ghost Writer* is his first novel.