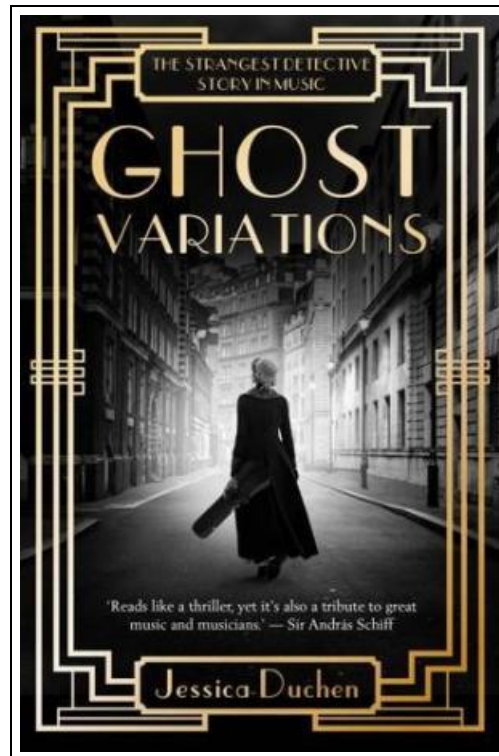


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GHOST VARIATIONS: THE STRANGEST DETECTIVE STORY IN THE HISTORY OF MUSIC (PAPERBACK)



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Unbound, United Kingdom, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The strangest detective story in the history of music - inspired by a true incident. A world spiralling towards war. A composer descending into madness. And a devoted woman struggling to keep her faith in art and love against all the odds. 1933. Dabbling in the fashionable Glass Game - a Ouija board - the famous Hungarian violinist Jelly d Aranyi, one-time muse to composers such as Bartok, Ravel and Elgar, encounters a startling dilemma. A message arrives ostensibly from the spirit of the composer Robert Schumann, begging her to find and perform his long-suppressed violin concerto. She tries to ignore it, wanting to concentrate instead on charity concerts. But against the background of the 1930s depression in London and the rise of the Nazis in Germany, a struggle ensues as the spirit messengers do not want her to forget. The concerto turns out to be real, embargoed by Schumann s family for fear that it betrayed his mental disintegration: it was his last full-scale work, written just before he suffered a nervous breakdown after which he spent the rest of his life in a mental hospital. It shares a theme with his Geistervariationen (Ghost Variations) for piano, a melody he believed had been dictated to him by the spirits of composers beyond the grave. As rumours of its existence spread from London to Berlin, where the manuscript is held, Jelly embarks on an increasingly complex quest to find the concerto. When the Third Reich s administration decides to unearth the work for reasons of its own, a race to perform it begins. Though aided and abetted by a team of larger-than-life personalities - including her sister Adila Fachiri, the pianist Myra Hess, and a young music...



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