

## The Watchers by Stephen Alford

A walk on the dark side of the Elizabethan era. This is a fascinating and very readable book on the Elizabethan secret service, set up by her ministers to protect the life of Queen Elizabeth. There are spymasters, secret agents, double agents, plotters, putative assassins, code breakers and in the background the imprisoned Mary, Queen of Scots. In a Europe riven by the split between Catholic and Protestant, can Elizabeth's regime survive? We know it did, but it could have turned out so differently.