



## The Visitor

*Jane R. Goodall*

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1974. Oxford.

Detective Briony Williams, starting a new job with the Thames Valley police in Oxford, is called to investigate the murder of a seventeen-year-old girl.

Convinced that the girl's murder is no ordinary domestic crime, Briony delves into the world of the supernatural when she finds a stone carved with an ancient cryptic message clutched in the victim's hand.

The police need solid scientific evidence that will stand up in court, but in order to solve the case Briony must ally herself with a psychic girl and a druid leader.

As Briony investigates, the danger deepens, setting her directly in the path of a killer bent on eliminating anyone getting close to the truth.

Undeterred, Briony must steer a course between the rational and the supernatural in her search for The Visitor.

The Visitor is an expertly plotted crime thriller from a master of the genre.

'A gripping, original, elegant fiction that wears a wealth of arcane knowledge lightly, never patronises the reader and leaves the door tantalisingly open for sequels.' - Weekend Australian

'real edge of the seat stuff, deadly and dramatic...' - Woman's Day

'This outstanding novel is everything a good psychological thriller should be — gruesome, unpredictable and un-put-downable.' - Australian Women's Weekly Book of the Month

**Jane R Goodall** is the author of three crime thrillers - *The Walker*, *The Visitor* and *The Calling*. She has also written books on theatre history and the history of science.

## The Visitor Details

Date : Published March 18th 2015 by Endeavour Media (first published 2005)

ISBN :

Author : Jane R. Goodall

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## From Reader Review The Visitor for online ebook

### **JudiJ says**

I quite like Briony as a character and parts of this book were chilling. I know Oxford and I have grandboy twins about the same age as Miles and Daniel, so the horror was a bit personalised. But about three quarters of the way in I just wanted it to finish as I was becoming bored and it was going on a bit.

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### **Sian Cheney says**

Great read! Even better than the first Briony Williams book but would still recommend reading that first. Am reading the third book in the series and loving it!

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### **Jacqueline Lepore says**

This was both an excellent, excellent English police procedural mystery PLUS a really amazing element of superstition incorporating the very landscape I use in DESCENT INTO DUST. I loved this book on so many levels. My only complaint was that there is only one--I want to "visit" these characters again. Is THE WALKER, Ms. Goodall's newest release, another with these characters? I hope so. Doesn't matter, I'm still reading it.

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### **Kate Chivers says**

#### **Turgid**

When this started the story had potential. As it progressed it became like a keen storyteller from grade 4s story. Very dense with not much direction. I'm not sure why I finished the book - perhaps it was to see if it improved, which it didn't.

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### **Martina says**

Na-ja...

Sehr solide geschrieben, vorhersehbare Handlung - bestimmt kein Literaturnobelpreis, aber Freunde des klassischen Krimis fernab moderner CSI-Methoden werden auf ihre Kosten kommen.

War ok, aber ich bin froh, es nicht gekauft zu haben, sondern von meiner Mama geborgt.

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### **Louise Avery says**

I enjoyed listening to this audio book (especially liked Bryony's accent) but the plot line seemed to get a little confusing/disjointed.

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### **A M says**

I tried with this book, I really did but it was boring. It was a great plot idea but there just wasn't any excitement or suspense in the book. Very disappointing.

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### **Jillian says**

Another good page- turner holiday read. I enjoyed the setting, the psychological and mystical elements along with the rationalism that struggles with instinct in the police procedure. I especially like the way relationships within the police team retain their ambiguity and shift as people learn to get along, accept their shortcomings and adjust behaviour. While a few corners were cut in the resolution it was a good story well told. If like to read more.

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### **Jane says**

Brilliant.

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### **Sidney says**

I grew quite enthused by this second adventure of Briony Williams as I listened. A visit to a mysterious historic landmark in the countryside leads to the death of an *au pair*, and Briony must unravel a tangled history of folklore and mysticism against the wishes of her superiors. It's a rocky road to the truth for the young police detective, and, for me, a satisfying novel. It's unfortunate that the print editions of the Briony books seem hard to come by.

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### **Kathleen Hagen says**

The Visitor, by Jane R. Goodall, b-plus, narrated by Nicki Paul, produced by Bolinda Publishing, downloaded from audible.com.

This is the second in the Briony Williams series. Briony is an inspector and is currently assigned to Oxford and surrounding villages. The narrator is wonderful with the different accents, in this case, Scottish, Welsh, and Australian. Briony and the police are called to the scene of a murder. A young girl's body is found in the professor's house where she was au pair to his twin boys. She has been struck in the back of the head with a

rock of flint covered with chalk. They find a similar round rock in her hand. In the first chapter we learn that the girl, Sylvie, had gone with the boys up into the Oxford woods where they had deliberately lost her. The twins ran home after seeing a man who appeared to be chopping wood, but the object on the ground was not a tree. Sylvie saw the same man and also ran home. She was killed a few weeks after that. As Briony investigates, she finds a group of Druids celebrating rituals. There are more murders, and Briony and the police must figure out why the murders are taking place. She feels an urgency to catch the killer before more children are put in danger. It's a somewhat confusing book with a lot of woo-woo, almost too much for me, and that's saying something. But the book definitely held my interest to the end and I will now read her debut book in the series, "The Walker" which is also available to me.

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### **Caroline Biesse says**

A terribly plotted and confused novel. Too much going on, particularly by the end, with the sensation that ideas were raised for their surprise or novelty value and never properly followed up. Written by an author who has no idea how to keep disparate elements clear for the reader.

The involvement of supernatural plot lines was boring and the resolution was unsatisfying.

And although the novel was set in the 1970s there was very little in the novel to indicate that except for some mild sexism along the way. After watching Life on Mars an audience expects a great deal to indicate the period, the clothes, the food, the smells, atmosphere. To convey the 1970s requires a stronger author than this.

I didn't like the first book in the series 'The Walker'. Additionally the first few chapters were familiar and I realised I'd begun this book a few years ago and never finished. I did this time. Wish I hadn't bothered.

She's no Val McDermid (although she tries to be), she doesn't come close to Minette Walters, Rendell or Elizabeth George.

Somebody get her an editor with precision or stop her from writing any more.

I only kept reading to find out 'who done it' and it really wasn't worth the journey.

No Stars!

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### **Kermit19 says**

review after book club meeting

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### **G says**

Apparently involves time travel, as one of the characters owns a Miss Piggy notebook. In 1974. A full two

years before Miss Piggy entered the cultural landscape. (It's called *\*research\**, Ms. Goodall...) Impressively devoid of atmosphere, which is no small feat considering the setting.

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### **Noemi Proietti says**

What started as an adventure on the hills of the Oxfordshire ends with a series of murders and kidnappings and Detective Briony Williams must find the killer before other innocents are killed. Set in the 1970s, the novel follows Detective Briony Williams, a brilliant detective who left glamorous London for the countryside, as she fights against time to find a killer and at the same time tries to gain the respect of her sexist colleagues.

It is a captivating and thrilling story with a little of mysticism and folklore in it that will keep the reader in suspense until the end.

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