



The Visitor

Christopher Pike

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Tom was not like a normal teenager. First off, he looked weird. He was too tall, too thin, and his hair was practically white. Also, he had incredible eyes. Some thought he was from outer space. Almost everyone believed he was a nice guy. But was Tom really nice? Was he even human?

The Visitor Details

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Author : Christopher Pike

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From Reader Review The Visitor for online ebook

Isabelle says

Re-reading my teenage obsession has so far been rewarding. Pike has teen angst down to a bloody T - pun intended, of course. However, it has always been the spirituality of his tales I was always captured by.

For some reason though, this one is just so precious - because reading it now after 20+ years... the only thing I can say about it is, it's freaking hilarious! It becomes even funnier when I look back and remember how much I enjoyed this story back then. It's a good thing this one is shorter than average - that meant the book was finished sooner. *pats past self condescendingly on the head*

Lena says

Preface to review:

FIRST OF ALL: The back of this book has very little to do with the story within. It says this book is about Tom. Tom only appears HALFWAY through the novel, and he's not even one of the main characters. This book is about a girl named Mary who's love for her dead boyfriend is, well, stronger than death. It is NOT about Tom, who may not be from this world.

I read a ton of Christopher Pike books in middle school. They were the link between Fear Street and Stephen King in my love of all things creepy.

Recently while talking to a friend, she mentioned that she also read these books and was scandalized by the sex and drug use in his novels. I didn't remember being at all scandalized, or even that the books contained these elements. I don't think sex and drugs were very scandalous to me as a child. I just thought all teenagers partied hard. My opinion hasn't changed much over the years!

However, as an adult reading these books, I could see why they would be scandalous to a ten-or-twelve year old! The girl in this book gets naked and asks a guy to massage her butt and 'other places.' Yes, that's what it said, lol. I didn't bat an eye when I was younger, but now I was a little shocked that I read this stuff as a kid! Anyway, the story of this book was pretty original, although the 'scary' scenes were just the kind of cheap corpse-laden horror I remember. Not at all scary to me then or now. I remember only one of his books that scared me. This one has a fairly cool story, though, so I'm glad I read it.

The writing is very choppy and I had a hard time getting into his writing style. I'm not sure if all his books are like this, but they seemed very elementary in the sentence structure. No major pet peeves or anything, just not the kind of flow I'm used to.

Overall, a good book about love and what we'd do for it. The epilogue thoroughly confused me, though, and I wish they'd left it off because it made no sense with the rest of the book. I think it's supposed to be clever, but I missed the relation to the book. In other words, I just didn't 'get' it.

I'd recommend this book to young horror readers who don't notice sex & partying as anything other than the norm.

Marie says

This is my first Christopher Pike book I've ever read. I just found it yesterday, lying on a bookcase in the

living room. I'm glad I was bored out of mind to actually go to the bookcase (that I don't ever bother looking at) and find a random book to read(it's my brother's book he never read).

The Visitor is a short and fast read . . I think it's a pretty good book, considering it's my first so I'm not familiar with his writing so I'm not sure if this is his best work. He reminds me of R.L. Stine's Fear Street stories.

Audrey says

One of my favorite authors. Some stuff is brilliant, some is just bizarre.

Kristina says

I liked this a lot better in early high school, which is admittedly when I was this book's target audience. I wouldn't go into this book as an adult and expect a masterpiece. With that said though, it is a fun and simple little thriller that I would give a 13-15 year old and expect them to enjoy it.

PurplyCookie says

A story of many lives told through the eyes of Mary/Clareesh, who's engulfed in her grief over her boyfriend's death. Mary and Jerry have decided to see who will win for homecoming queen when something goes strangely wrong. The plot from here, tells of what went on, and finally takes a strange twist into 'the afterlife' all brought on by a seance. A little confusing if you don't understand past lives or Pike's past books.

"Prayer of a False God"

All are doomed to love.

All are doomed to die.

Tonight bring the black tomb.

For even the most high.

Even those in this room.

Cannot pretend to fly

And I know.

Even you.

Even I.

Must die.

I found myself engulfed by Pike's words--caught up in the nightmares he describes, the strange lights, the odd occurrences, the scenes pertaining to the advanced civilization that was Ancient Egypt, the wrenching fight between keeping love alive or resigning yourself to moving on. Anybody who has ever entertained the notion of bringing someone they love back from the dead should read this one first. Sometimes it is indeed better to be left dead rather than suffer the ceaseless pain that the real world offers.

Everyone in this novel is trapped in their own never-ending tragedy. No matter how much they claw, and scream, and assure themselves they are doing the right thing, they ceaselessly end back in the storm of the madness.

Book Details:

Title The Visitor

Author Christopher Pike

Reviewed By Purplycookie

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

Again Pike takes what seems to be a simple story and makes it incredibly creative. The back blurb unfortunately makes it seem like the story is focused on some stranger to town, Tom, but that is definitely not true. In fact he only plays a small role in the story later on - what actually happens is the book opens where Mary is consumed with grief and guilt over the death of her boyfriend Jerry. She attends a party and seance, and from there it just gets weird. Twisted, but delightfully weird.

Hard to put down like most of his stuff, the writing style shines as brightly as the pacing does when it goes through the twisted and surreal plot. Not possible to guess everything that goes on here, but it's dark and demented in the end. The characters offer interesting contrasts to each other, with Mary being too beautiful to be true, the long-time friend who acts like a man after all, and the upset brother who still stands by his friends as long as the truth comes out. Tom is a minor role in a much larger story.

It's grim and a little depressing but it's definitely worth reading. Another winner from the Pike library.

Lori Kircher says

5/5 stars. This book had it all, great plot, amazing characters, a shocking plot twist, a "Egyptian goddess", aliens, Egypt, seances (never do those, they always end badly), the stereotype blond, head cheerleader bitchy rival to the main character, and reincarnation. I loved this book from cover to cover, I will read anything Christopher Pike writes. My two favorite characters were Savey, and Tom (klaxor). Savey was hilarious and always joking and making hints about wanting to sleep with the main character, Mary, and always being rejected. Tom is a loyal, fierce friend to Mary, he did everything to please her. Overall, I would highly recommend this book, and it is a definite reread and a favorite of mine.

Amanda says

This book is almost identical to another one I read many years ago, though off the top of my head I can't remember the title. And as Christopher Pike books go, this one is really pretty bad. The main character is completely unlikeable, and all the rest are pretty shallow and one-dimensional. The good-natured cheesy teen "horror" is almost non-existent, and cliché sci-fi is not a good fit for this author. I was pretty disappointed, since I've been a fan of his books since childhood and very seldom find one I don't like.

Heather says

The synopsis on the back of the book is irrelevant. It discusses a character that appears for about one chapter of the entire book. He has a purpose and he's incredibly likable, but this is not his story. He's a rarely-visible sidekick and it makes absolutely no sense to focus the synopsis of the entire book on him.

The pacing feels sporadic throughout the book. All told, I have no idea how many days went by. Maybe two? The book begins during the aftermath of a tragic event and it's quite a while before we get the whole story about what happened to cause this tragedy. Eventually it all did come together, but it took a while to get into the groove.

I despised the main character. Her behavior was erratic and her personality was obnoxious. She was an emotional void and so disgustingly selfish that her end-game turn-around did nothing to me but make me feel it was all somehow just a ploy to make her look good, that it was insincere, that it was one last cry for attention. The main character was also the villain in most respects...

God-modding was a huge flaw in this book. The main character was literally the homecoming queen, an alien commander, a self-proclaimed goddess, and a reincarnated queen of Egypt. There were also many instances throughout of her being in just the right place at just the right time and knowing more than was possible with no rational explanation.

The backstory of the reincarnated characters' previous lives made the book for me, and is the sole reason I am keeping my copy. It could have--should have--been a book in itself. The love story is super tragic and exciting. The actual plot of the book--which I guess was supposed to be a whodunnit?--is far less interesting.

Jaime says

The Visitor should have stayed home in this case

Dana says

So freaking good! I remember reading this when I was younger. It was great to read again. Short book but definitely pulls my heart strings. Love it .

Justin says

He almost has to have been parodying himself.

Sometimes Mr. Pike will use a simile or whatever that's just so ridiculous ("his eyes were as deep as European history"), I have to message Scott Crawford with it.

Me: "He looked terribly uncomfortable, like an ironing board crammed into a closet two sizes too small."

Scott: oh god.

Scott: has he ever written full-on porn?

Me: No, but if he did, I bet it would be awesome.

Scott: that'd be a fun literary exercise.

Scott: writing porn in the style of christopher pike.

Jeff Powers says

This book turned out rather different than expected. It was an entertaining if not cheesy ride. Exactly what I expect from an old Pike novel. It was a quick easy read filled with gruesomely twisted elements. Half the book makes no logical sense and I found myself just going with whatever happened, not questioning the ridiculous actions and motivations of the characters. These books could so easily be accepted as terrible works of YA fiction. Or they can be savored like a bad movie. I chose to zip through this book and enjoy every awkward moment of it. Strangely enough, after I was done, I found myself craving more of these quirky 90s teen horror books.

Kelly Jones says

Aliens. Reanimated boyfriends. Smoking reincarnated girls from other star systems. Akashic records and prayers to a false god. Drinking and seances and bad decisions. All in all, a pretty groovy YA novel.
