

The Visit

In debt and struggling to finish his new book, Best Selling Irish novelist, Ormonde Lalor takes his Agent's advice and abandons his literary career. Then he loses his mind – or so he believes. He sees an entity not of this world - a young girl quietly reading a book! A Ghost or stress related hallucinations? Fearful, Ormonde runs from the young girl. He hides in a bookshop owned by Madam O'Reilly, a practitioner of the paranormal where he discovers the Girl is his daughter. She never entered this world - she passed straight onto the next. The girl's mother is Charlotte Richards, a Publishing Executive with Ormonde's former American publisher in New York who, nine years earlier, turned down Ormonde's proposal of marriage. Charlotte and her partner Colman Breck fly to Europe on vacation. First stop Dublin. Ormonde's unfinished manuscript has come to the attention of Charlotte's employers and she is reluctantly dispatched to negotiate a publishing deal with Ormonde. Rejected for a 'Career Choice,' he avoids her with inimitable determination.

The plot of the book is a thinly disguised attempt at vicarious retribution, which casts a character closely resembling Charlotte as a heartless, Corporate Dragon. Ormonde returns to his writing with renewed enthusiasm, which now takes on a new twist, with his daughter now named Caitlin part of the narrative. Caitlin is curious why Ormonde keeps running away from some one he loves. When pressed on the subject, he asks her if Ghosts can swim. He eventually agrees to let Charlotte publish the novel when it is finished - if she likes it. Charlotte reads the manuscript. She sees through the veneer of fiction and realizes that Ormonde some how knows that she lost their child in a skiing accident. She is haunted by the painful memories the manuscript has elicited.

Reduced to selling Organic vegetables by the side of the road, Ormonde wishes he were invisible like Caitlin. Charlotte goes to the Ormonde's home and sees Caitlin for the first time. Ormonde tries to convince her of her identity, albeit in vein. Despite her unease, it just isn't rational. She tells Ormonde to go to New York to finalize the publishing contract and then leaves. When Charlotte arrives at her apartment in New York, Caitlin is waiting. Skepticism gives way to a tearful reunion between mother and daughter. But, Caitlin must now deal with Ormonde's denial and failure to realize his complicity in events nine years earlier. Ormonde and Charlotte profess their undying antipathy towards each other and spend the night together. The next morning they realize the significance of the date - what would have been Caitlin's 9th birthday. They didn't buy a present but have unwittingly given her the best birthday gift she could wish for - Heavily pregnant, Charlotte marries Ormonde in Dublin and Ormonde completes the final chapter of his book.