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### **The Visit**

A Romantic Comedy

Struggling to finish his new book, Irish novelist, Ormonde Lalor takes his Agent's advice and abandons his literary career. Then he loses his mind – or so he believes. The Ghost of a young girl moves into his flat. Ormonde runs. 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 but 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 his proposal of marriage to pursue her career.

Ormonde's unfinished manuscript comes 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.

He also avoids her because the plot of the book is a thinly disguised attempt at pay-back, which casts a character closely resembling Charlotte as a heartless, corporate drone. With his daughter now named Caitlin part of the narrative however, Ormonde returns to his writing with renewed enthusiasm.

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 somehow knows she lost their child in a skiing accident. She is haunted by the painful memories the manuscript has elicited.

When Charlotte actually 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. Scepticism 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 as only true lovers can. They 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.