



## **The Only Witness**

*Pamela Beason*

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A MISSING BABY Seventeen-year-old Brittany Morgan dashed into the store for just a minute, leaving her sleeping baby in the car. Now Ivy's gone and half the town believes Brittany murdered her daughter. A HAUNTED DETECTIVE Detective Matthew Finn, a big-city fish out of water in small-town Evansburg, Washington, struggles with his wife's betrayal as he investigates Ivy Morgan's disappearance. The clock is ticking and he can't find any witnesses. AN UNUSUAL RESEARCH SUBJECT Imaginative, manipulative, and volatile, with the intelligence of a five-year-old child, Neema knows enough sign language to invent jokes and insults. She can also hurl a grown man across the room. Neema is a gorilla. A DISTRESSED SCIENTIST After a psycho murdered one of her "talking" gorillas in Seattle, Dr. Grace McKenna relocated to the Evansburg area. Now with the economy on the rocks and her funding cut, her beloved gorillas Neema and Gumu are in jeopardy. When Neema repeats a story of a crying baby, a cucumber car, and a snake, Grace realizes her gorilla is the only witness to whatever happened to baby Ivy. Does Grace dare go public with Neema's sketchy clues? Can she afford not to?

## **The Only Witness Details**

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Author : Pamela Beason

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## **From Reader Review The Only Witness for online ebook**

### **Lynn Demsky says**

This was really a GREAT read, the apes totally amazed and entertained me ---- in the beginning I was a tad confused but once you knew who Neema was, I was on their side all the time. Liked their antics, personalities and everything ..... a really good different read!

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### **C.J. Prince says**

I was delighted to meet Pamela Beason after a reading one night. Later, we sat at the same table in a crowded Mexican restaurant in Fairhaven. I went home and downloaded her book "The Only Witness." That was months ago. I have been trudging through books, uninspired, reading by obligation for a book group or because it was on top of my to-read pile. But I wanted something that would wake up my eyeballs and excite my mind. I didn't know where to look. When I added Kindle to my new Samsung tablet, I considered what to transfer. There it was: "The Only Witness."

I cannot put this book down. Even telling you about the first page will be a spoiler. The characters are immediately defined in detail and I am captivated. Rush out and get a copy today or download now. Really, Pamela Beason is a name we'll all be talking about for years!! More when I have completed this book.

NOTE: if you download, be sure and check the charge on your Kindle or tablet. In the middle of a very tense sentence, my tablet took a blackout nap. Hours to recharge before I could get back to it. This is not a story you want that to happen!!!

The spoiler is already told in the book promo, Brittany Morgan, a teen mother leaves her infant to run into the store for Huggies. When she returns Ivy, two months old, is gone.

Detective Matt Finn has his own problems but Brittany's case will be the focus of his life as he tries to solve the disappearing evidence of Ivy's disappearance and obvious kidnapping. No one knows anything, has seen anything. Or have they?

I'm a big fan of Nevada Barr but Pamela Beason just moved to the top of my list as must-read writers. Don't miss this book. It will wake you up, ask you to think about opposing points of view, of teenage pregnancy, of animal cruelty and research and funding of small town police departments, to name a few. It made me remember the pain of milk filling swollen breasts before a baby wants to nurse. A constant reminder for Brittany as she is accused of the demise of her own child.

Like I said, read it. You'll thank me.

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### **Irene says**

Great well-written book . Loved how this book kept me wanting to get to the end to find out what happened to Ivy . I was so sympathetic to her mother, Brittany going through all the stages of grief and despair in

having her baby stolen from her . How the baby was found by Detective Finn was unreal but I think is feasible . Read the book

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### **Paula Phillips says**

When I saw the cover of this book, I didn't know exactly what to expect and to be honest, I wasn't sure if the story would be me as I'm not really an Animal person but as I got into the book and past the first chapter I was intrigued and hooked as The Only Witness turned out to be a kidnapping novel of a 2 month old baby named Ivy Rose. As the story goes along, it seems that the main suspects is seventeen-year old Brittany Morgan ( Ivy's mother) and Charlie Wakefield (Ivy's Dad) but Brittany can't believe that anyone would believe that she kidnapped her own baby and so begins an Amber Alert for her daughter. Enter Detective Finn, he is in charge of the search for Ivy Rose and after a week , he is not having much hope in ever finding her until he receives an anonymous tip of what happened that day. The tip though leads him to the Talking Hands Ranch which is in fact a facility in which two gorillas have been raised to learn to sign and the witness is a 12yr old Gorilla named Neema who has the IQ of a 5yr old.

Will Detective Finn accept Neema and her trainer Grace's help in finding Ivy Rose or will he laugh at the mere thought of a gorilla being "The Only witness".

The Only Witness is an easy to read and interesting novel as it also delves into the side of Animal research and intellect. In a way The Only Witness character Grace reminded me of the Monkey lady "Jane Goodall".

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### **Marti says**

This was a great book! It pulled me in from the first word and never let up. As the cover art clearly implies, the only witness to a kidnapping was a gorilla. Neema was kept by Dr. Grace McKenna, who was studying language acquisition and use in gorillas. Of course Neema did not speak. Rather, she used a somewhat modified version of American Sign Language. Brittany Morgan, a high school student and single mom had left her sleeping two month old infant, Ivy, in her car while she went in for a few groceries. To her horror, when she returned to her car, Ivy was nowhere to be found. Of course, an investigation ensued and before long, the police and many of the conservative town's folk were convinced that Brittany had taken or even likely had killed baby Ivy. When Grace finally realized that Neema was telling her basically that she had witnessed Ivy's kidnapping, she left an anonymous tip for the police. Detective Matt Finn, who had initially blamed Brittany, was becoming more and more convinced of her innocence and was determined to find baby Ivy. To call this a page turner is an understatement. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and highly recommend it.

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### **Erika Mathews says**

Fascinating premise and plot, but the profanity ruined it for me. Unfortunately I won't be continuing this series.

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## **Sandra says**

This well-written mystery featuring a female gorilla named Neema proved to be a light and entertaining read. The race to find a teenager's kidnapped baby girl was no easy task, but Detective Finn managed to follow the clues and surmount all obstacles. Though the elements of the story fit together well and the plot kept me interested till the end, I would have liked to know more about the perpetrator and the motive behind the kidnapping.

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## **Jo says**

I loved Neema. She is super smart and sweet. I look forward to sharing another adventure with her.

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## **Kandice says**

This was a good read. The characters were well fleshed and you could tell that Beason was hoping to continue with them because she set them up for growth.

We have Matt Finn, a detective who has recently moved from the "Big City" to the quieter suburbs at the request of his wife, who, by the way, left him soon after their relocation. To rub salt in his wounds she also acquired a large dog and two cats before her departure. Pets Finn thinks he doesn't want. Little does he know how they grow on us.

Next we have Dr. Grace McKenna. She is a researcher working with gorillas and communication, including American Sign Language. She recently suffered a horrible tragedy involving animal rights activists. As a result, she too, has relocated to this less public location. She is currently studying and working with two lowland gorillas, Neema and Genu. Neema is a sweetheart and you can tell by the loving way Beason describes these animals that they will be important characters in the stories to come. Fine with me. I adore gorillas and read anything about them I can get my hands on. Good, realistic, gorilla fiction is hard to come by!

In the opening pages of the novel Ivy, an 8 week old infant, is kidnapped when her 17 year old mother, Brittany Morgan, leaves her in a locked car as she runs into the grocery store for diapers. Neema witnesses the kidnapping, but is unable to really tell anyone in a way that makes it clear what she is "saying". Finn is given the case. The rest of what follows is straight procedural with quite a bit of characterization thrown in. There is the added drama of discovering his only witness is a gorilla and then trying to use her information while protecting her and her "keeper" at the same time.

What I liked most about this novel was the way Beason treated the character Brittany. The girl is 17, raising a baby whose father refuses to acknowledge her, continuing her high school education and doing the best she can. Her best includes leaving her sleeping baby, unattended, in a locked car as she runs in for diapers, but really, how much more can you expect? By the way, Brittany remembers Doritos but forgets the Huggies. I respect the way Beason plainly lays out Brittany's mistakes, but also shows us just how much she loves her baby. It can't be easy to be a child raising a child and there are bound to be mistakes, but thank the good Lord, most of those mistakes won't result in the loss of your baby. It's clear that Brittany will become a better

mother given time. I appreciated that approach, because it was realistic. It was fair. It was the right way to tell the story.

I am really looking forward to more of this series. Gorillas? I am all in!

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### **Kae Cheatham says**

I purchased the electronic edition of this book after reading an online interview by the author.

When the opening was told from Neema's point of view, I was concerned there would be too much animal "thought," but that wasn't the case. The action picked up and I was totally caught in the agony of the grieving, beleaguered mother. McKenna's interaction with her sign-language-speaking animals was believable. By the time McKenna decided to tell Detective Finn what she knew, the well-crafted story had me reading straight through to the end.

The end was the only place I felt let down, and I know this is because of my personal preferences. Nearly everything was wrapped up with neat solutions. I won't give spoilers, but for those who like rosy endings where you say, "aww" with a smile; you won't be disappointed.

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### **Rae Lee says**

I could not put this book down. The plot is highly imaginative. The characters are sketched with enough details that I cared about them, even the two gorillas--especially the gorillas. And I cared deeply for the teen mother, whose baby was stolen. The story has a huge heart. The writing flows along and the sentences have what I'd call musicality. Also, some books are padded with extraneous description, but not this one. Who wants to get bogged down in unnecessary words when you've stolen time in the middle of the night to read a book? Subtle clues lead to an ending that is surprising yet satisfying. Then, at the end of the book, the author cleverly planted the first two chapters of another of her novels, SHAKEN, so now I'm hooked on that one as well. This woman can write.

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### **Una Tiers says**

While the writing is okay, the pace is painfully slow, covering a short period of time. The idea is fascinating but the too too perfect wrap up was over the top.

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### **Benjamin Jones says**

Time for another book review, this one for a wonderful little book entitled *The Only Witness* by Pamela Beason.

First thoughts, I ran through this book in two days and didn't want to put it down. The story - a seventeen

year old girl leaves her infant child in a car while she runs into the store, only to find that the baby has been kidnapped. Turns out there is one witness to the event but that witness happens to be a gorilla that knows sign language. Very unique story/plot and the book is perfectly placed with characters that you end up caring about (human and animal alike).

This book would be perfect as a movie, especially the scenes where the investigator, Finn, is trying to "interview" the witness.

All in all, a highly recommended book that is a must read for anyone who likes a well told mystery.

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### **Terri says**

This was an excellent book. It was a very quick read, I finished it in a day and had a really hard time putting it down. The characters were well developed. At first I didn't think I would enjoy this book, but the story pulled me in and I was hooked. I cannot wait to read another book by Pamela Beason.

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### **Jen Blood says**

Well written and gripping, this novel had me from start to finish. All of Beason's characters are three-dimensional, flawed, and completely engaging - and that even extends to the non-humans in the novel, of which there are many! Excellent pacing, fabulously twisted plot, and just enough romance in there to sweeten the deal. Beason is absolutely an author I will be reading more of.

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