



The Unannounced Christmas Visitor

Patrick Higgins

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What if angels really did come from the most unlikely of places? That's exactly what happens in this heartwarming story set in Anywhere USA. Sent to Planet Earth by his Maker, disguised as a homeless person, Enoch was on a mission: to rescue a man whose life was slowly but steadily spiraling out of control.

Up until seven months ago, John Jensen was a responsible, churchgoing, happily married man and father of two. Then the slow fade began and John went from living life passionately to questioning everything he once thought important, deeming much of it utterly meaningless.

The only place his wife, Lydia, could go to escape her ongoing marital struggles was the church she attended the past seventeen years. But even there it seemed her desperate cries to God for help always went unanswered. That is, until Enoch appeared one Sunday morning, hair unkempt, wearing ragged clothing.

To Lydia's great dismay, the old man was mocked and ridiculed by so many of her fellow believers, ultimately banished to the last row of the sanctuary simply because of his untidy appearance. One week later, after church service, Lydia and her two children, Matthew and Grace, spotted the old man walking to the city park where he lived among many other homeless people.

Later that night, Lydia felt God's strong urging to introduce herself to the man she still did not know had been sent as her Christmas miracle. In the days following her first visit to the homeless community in which the old man served as spiritual mentor, Lydia and her two children learned more about what it means to be true servants of God than she did in seventeen years at her church.

But with John Jensen being Enoch's chief reason for coming to Planet Earth, would the severely depressed, apathetic man submit to the pulling of God's Holy Spirit, or was he already too far gone to be rescued?

This story will greatly challenge all who read it...

The Unannounced Christmas Visitor Details

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Author : Patrick Higgins

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From Reader Review The Unannounced Christmas Visitor for online ebook

Laura says

THE UNANNOUNCED CHRISTMAS VISITOR is a story about an angel coming to earth as a homeless man, to rescue a man who was in spiritual danger.

Okay, first the writing. The print (in the print copy) is very small and hard to read. The author was in everyone's point of view and it switched without warning, making it hard to read. The book was not well edited and there are spelling errors. And it is very preachy which is skim-inducing.

That said the message is very good and all Christians need to read it. Especially the main underlying message in the first part of the book. All who come to Christ are accepted. Even if they are not rich and showy. Even if they are raggy and not so well off. With so many churches shunning those who are not like them (my husband served as pastor in one!) they are doing more harm than good and need to accept all people as being loved by God -- even those who the important people would shun.

Theologically I am not going to argue any points. Some could be debated both ways with scripture. I have my opinions, but you may disagree, and we both could use scripture to prove our stance.

The writing is not good, the message is. Read this book. And welcome that next visitor to your church who doesn't quite seem to fit.

I was given a copy free. All opinions are my own.

Joan says

I liked this short novel containing several powerful messages. Through the actions of the characters and their dialogue, we gain insight into the world of the homeless. It tugs at our heart to hear their stories and to find how they appreciate simple gifts or help. We see examples of people who go to church for motives other than to worship and serve their Lord. We are taken into the heart of a family transformed by a mysterious homeless man. We share in the struggles of a troubled husband and father, hoping he submits his life to the Lord.

I recommend this novel. You'll be introduced to some sweet characters. You'll see God's transforming power

at work. You'll hear some good sermons. You'll be reminded of the true Christmas story. And you just might be inspired to care for the stranger in your midst, knowing you might be entertaining an angel without knowing it.

I received a complimentary digital copy of this book through Celebrate Lit. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Deb says

An amazing story

A family that go to church but are having problems because the devil is trying to cause issues in the family. A homeless man and other homeless show the husband/father what and who he is missing. The wife and children show him how Christian values shine.

Csitzlar says

Powerful

I have read the Chaos series, and love the way this author can draw me in to the story. This book about an unexpected visitor and his impact on a family in need of God's guidance, was a great read and rang true. We all need an unannounced visitor to remind us of God's love for us and our obligation to serve him joyfully and with our whole heart. I just know this is one book I will read over and over.

Jessica Baker (A Baker's Perspective) says

This is such a sweet Christmas story that really portrays what the Christmas spirit should be all about - giving to others. It also touches on a point that I think is absolutely relevant today - judging others. It broke my heart to read about how the people in the church responded to Enoch, simply based on his appearance. The truth of the matter is that he had more faith and a closer connection to the Lord than any of them. He was a man who wanted to worship the one who gave him everything he needed. These first several scenes got me thinking, would my church family react the same way? Would I react the same way? I would certainly hope not, but I bet there are churches out there who would. No matter if Enoch is an angel or not, he should have been treated with love and compassion.

For me, that was the heart of this story. Realizing that everyone has a story. Hearing some of the stories of the homeless people really changes your perspective, and for me made me want to run out and do something. The setting of Christmas time in this book was no mistake - it's the most giving time of year. A time when even the hardest of hearts open their eyes a little bit and realize the help they can be to someone.

There was more to this story, of course, then just realizing that we shouldn't judge people based on their appearances. You also see the story of John, a broken man who needs to find his way back. I think a lot of people can relate to his story - a church going person who just kind of lost their way. I enjoyed how the author molded his character, and the slow way he came to know and understand Enoch. There were a few

times I didn't think his reactions were plausible, but to be honest I didn't totally mind because I was just enjoying the story for what it was. A story of redemption. A story of helping others. A story of how a church really should be.

This a heartwarming Christmas story, though I feel it really could be read any time of year. I hope it touches your heart as much as it touched mine. I received a complimentary copy of this book. I was not required to write a favorable review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Carole Jarvis says

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <https://bit.ly/2QAfMkf>

“Yahweh, Jehovah God, change the overall heart of this gathering place of believers to resemble the heart of Yeshua rather than the unconverted world” (Enoch).

The Unannounced Christmas Visitor is a compelling, thought-provoking story that I enjoyed very much. It seems like a combination of allegory or parable and relationship drama – relationship between members of the Jensen family, and relationship between mankind and God. In the opening pages, an angel in the form of a homeless man, Enoch, enters a megachurch worship service, is promptly escorted from the front to the back row, and proceeds to shake up the norm. Elements of this story reminded me of the beloved classic, *In His Steps*.

I loved the interaction within the Jensen family. John, once a loving husband/father and devout Christian, he had become disconnected from his family, standoffish and argumentative in recent months. Lydia was open to God's working in her life and began reaching out to Enoch and the homeless group in the park. Lydia knew that “her Savior was more interested in the condition of the heart and how His followers treated others, than how many Christian songs and Bible verses they had memorized.”

Enoch was a fascinating character and I adored him. His mission from God wasn't clearly revealed at first, so he had spent a good amount of time with the homeless group, ministering to them in incredible spiritual ways. The author brought this group to life, making me care about them. Then as Lydia, and later John, reached out to them, the story was hard to put down. I loved the impact of the night John spent with them in the cold park.

“Until you're put in a position of total dependency on Christ and not your own abilities, you'll never truly know what it means to be fully alive as one of His followers” (Leroy). This story clearly presents the gospel message. There are lengthy passages of dialogue – teaching, sermonizing, etc. – but the intrinsic value of the message reigns supreme. The story illuminates the real meaning of Christmas, perfect for the season or anytime of the year. An Unexpected Christmas Visitor would make a great gift for a new Christian, a seeker, or someone who has grown complacent in their faith.

I received a copy of this book through Celebrate Lit. The opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

Sean Russell says

In "The Unannounced Christmas Visitor" novel, written by Patrick Higgins (author of the "Chaos In The Blink Of An Eye" series), I found myself immersed into the world of the Jensen family--a Christian family who find themselves run down by the pressures of life. John, the husband and father, is struggling to understand the inner turmoil that's taken over his life--to the point that he's lost almost all passion for his marriage, his faith, and purpose in life. His wife, Lydia, alternatively, questions her self-value and wonders if her husband has lost all interest--or worse, become unfaithful. Sounds like struggles any family or person might wrestle with, which is one of the strongest appeals of Higgins' novel.

So when a devout homeless man enters the Jensen's contemporary church, huge questions arise within Lydia--especially her church's response to the man. Their not-so-welcoming response to the mysterious stranger causes Lydia to question and probe her own faith, and the church she calls home. The man's appearance galvanizes Lydia, and later John, to reflect on that which is genuine versus that which is shallow/unChristlike. This was the second aspect of the story that drew me in and confronted me; what would be my response to such a visitor? And would I be bold enough to confront a church if their response was cold/indifferent to the unfortunate? Or would I keep quiet and silently agree with the majority?

A novel that entertains is good. But a novel that touches the heart and probes our own heart-responses to social problems is far more satisfying. And Patrick Higgins accomplishes this throughout his novel.

At the same time, the novelist highlights some of the truths of Christmas as well as presenting the Good News through the main characters' evolution. And the result for me, through and through, was constantly being drawn into the story and questioning, "How would I respond?" There are some lengthy dialogues between the characters that some might not appreciate, but most will appreciate--especially those who start the book questioning life and/or empty of purpose in their own lives. Also within the pages that I appreciated are glimpses into the hardships of the homeless--what many untouched by homelessness may not know or fathom.

The author handles the writing well, and the characters are fleshed out, believable, and interesting. I recommend "The Unannounced Christmas Visitor." I also love the cover art for this novel, and the great title.

Story Originality: 4/5

Story Inventiveness: 4/5

Characters: 5/5

Descriptive Power: 5/5

True to Scripture: 5/5

Strength of Fictive Dream: 5/5

Proofreading: 4.75/5

Cinematic Flare: 5/5

Overall Satisfaction: 5/5

[KEY:]

Story Originality: How creative was the concept from page one onwards?

Story Inventiveness: How surprised was I by the flow of the plot? Any twists?

Characters: How real and how drawn was I to the story's characters?

Descriptive Power: How well did the author control description, dialogue, etc?

True to Scripture: Were all elements true to Scripture's worldview?

Fictive Dream Strength: How much was I immersed in the novel—wanting to read page after page?

Proofreading: How well was the book proofread (typos, etc)?

Cinematic Flare: How strong were key scenes (that I could easily see as a motion picture)?

Overall Satisfaction: What was my overall feeling/enjoyment level after reading the novel? Did I want it to end?

I recommend this novel, and especially with Christmas approaching, it could be a book family members or friends would enjoy. It will challenge them to look at those less fortunate and the Christmas story in a new light.

-Sean Elliot Russell

Janice Sisemore says

The unannounced Christmas visitor

The book started out good for me but parts of it got boring. It turned out a little different than I thought it would. An homeless man comes to their church and was made to sit on the back row. Lydia decides to be a friend to him and the other homeless ones in the same area. That part was very inspiring. I loved how the little girl Grace took to Enoch, it did not matter to her how he looked. We should all be like a young child. When Enoch came into their lives everyone changed for the better, especially John who was the father, and husband.

I received an complementary copy of the book from the publisher through Celebrate Lit. I was not required to write an positive review. This is my own opinion.

Kimberly Anthony says

Enlightening Book

A wonderful book that will either enlighten or encourage you spiritually. I really like this book being set in today's setting, you can really relate to the characters.

Elaine Stock says

I had the pleasure of meeting author Patrick Higgins at the 2018 Readers Favorite Awards where he gifted me with his novel, The Unannounced Christmas Visitor.

This is a very special novel because of its Christmas, Biblically-inspired Gospel message. Especially read during the Christmas season, this story of what it's like to be homeless in a world of unaccepting people who "have it better" carries a powerful punch and puts into perspective of what God wants for us: to love one another and He loves each of us.

Judith Noameshie says

Completely blew me away!

Oh my gosh ! Do I have anything to say about this book? It was like the Holy Spirit was penning the words of this book Himself! So much revelation, and in a work of fiction at that! It felt like I was reading a Christian book about God rather than a Christian fiction! May God bless the author richly and use him for His glory! I pray that other Christian writers become inspired and write according to the Father's instructions. It made me question my Christianity... Praise God, I am a mission waiting to happen!

Arlene says

Amazing book

What a wonderful book this was. I haven't thought a lot about the homeless in our communities, so this book was very eye-opening to me, and I'm sure, right on as are the opinions on Christianity. This book is well worth reading.

Betti says

A most incredible fiction book that required me to consider my relationship with God in a whole new way! 'Secular man boasts that his intellect alone is enough to provide the necessary means to eventually create a near-perfect world without the need for God.' The Jensen family found out that this statement is far from true. A very well written story that uses many Bible verses to teach the promises of God and how these promises foretold His birth, death and ultimate plan for the salvation of man. Learning to give without expecting anything in return is a lesson we all can benefit from.

In all, this book caused a great deal of thought about my own life and my willingness to live the way that God wants.

I received this book through CelebrateLit and this review gives my personal impressions and opinions.

mary annette therrell says

This may be your last call.

This is one great and wonderful salvation sermon . It is written clear ,plain, to the point and the scriptures are right there to read for yourself. This book explains salvation in a way anyone can understand it.. I think it is a great work. Thank you.

Amy says

The Unannounced Christmas Visitor is a beautifully written Christmas tale. I found it to be a quick and enjoyable read. It captured my attention all throughout the book, making me want to continue to read without putting it down. I had it read in just a few hours.

When I first started reading The Unannounced Christmas Visitor, I was a little put off with how a church family were acting toward others who were there to worship. I quickly understood what was happening and felt at ease. So many would receive inspiration and learn life lessons by reading this book.

I am giving The Unannounced Christmas Visitor five plus stars and highly recommend this to all readers. It gave that warming after reading it. It is a beautiful, delightful, thought provoking, heart warming and inspiring story.

The Unannounced Christmas Visitor is definitely not one to be missed this Christmas season.

I received this book from the publisher, This review is 100% my own honest opinion.
