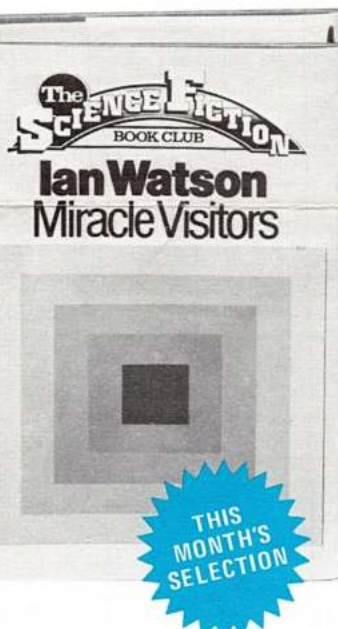


The SCIENCE FICTION Book Club News

Are UFOs manned spacecraft from another world? Are they really no more than a mental phenomenon? Or is there another answer?



"...one of the most intellectually exciting of Ian Watson's books."

— Tom Hutchinson, *The Times*

"For sheer inventiveness and intellectual brilliance, Ian Watson has already established himself in the front rank of contemporary writers."

— Edmund Cooper,
The Sunday Times

"The most interesting British sf writer of ideas—or, more accurately, the only British sf writer of ideas."

— J G Ballard,
New Statesman

During an experiment with hypnosis, a psychologist, John Deacon, stumbles upon the repressed memories of a student's encounter with a UFO. The discovery triggers a series of strange and frightening events as Deacon probes the enigma of UFOs and gradually grows convinced that it is possible to invoke and consciously control the phenomenon. Meanwhile, the student, Michael Peacocke, meets a bizarre and persuasive visitor from a star system eighteen light-years away who explains that U-F-O spells danger for the human race... But is everything as it seems? What is the truth about the miracle visitors?

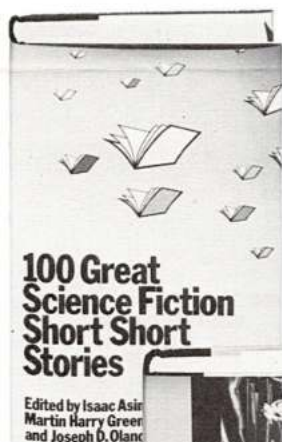
It is somewhat surprising to find a novelist of Ian Watson's calibre basing a fiction around such a sensitive subject as Ufology: UFO hunters have done much to bring sf—and, perhaps more seriously, all

the sciences to do with the possible existence of extraterrestrial intelligences—into disrepute and it is difficult to think of many sf novels of stature that have dealt intelligently with the subject. However, as with his previous novel, *Alien Embassy* (see Backlist), Watson makes sure that *Miracle Visitors* is no hack reworking of tired themes: he constantly keeps you on the jump, quietly luring you into thinking 'So that's what it's all about', before precipitating you into a new set of circumstances that make you realize that all your previous deductions have been false. *Miracle Visitors* is a novel glittering with ideas and one can only wish that Steven Spielberg had read it: then perhaps *Close Encounters* would really have been as good as its trailers claimed. 239pp

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