C4580  A CHRISTMAS VISITOR  (USA, 12/21/2002) [TV]

**Credits:** director, Christopher Leitch; writers, George Samerjan, David Saperstein.

**Cast:** William Devane, Meredith Baxter, Dean McDermott, Reagan Pasternak.

**Summary:** Melodrama set in a contemporary Middle Western small town. The Boyajians have not celebrated Christmas in 11 years. They lost their faith when they lost their son John in the Persian Gulf War. George Boyajian, the father (Devane), is starting to think it is time to end the period of mourning. But his college student daughter Jean (Pasternak) has just found a lump in her breast and his wife Carol (Baxter) is still searching for closure. Then on a deserted road George encounters a hitchhiking stranger named Matthew (McDermott) – a young man of the same age his son would have been. Matthew claims to be a Gulf War veteran of the same Special Forces Group as John, but says he did not know him. George takes Matthew home for Christmas Eve, gives Matthew some details of John’s boyhood and asks Matthew to tell his wife and daughter he knew John in order to ease their long-held grief. Matthew agrees, but when he relates is experiences with John to Carol and Jean he provides more details than George had given him. Is he a con artist? Or is he the miracle the Boyajians have been waiting for? George Boyajian and a disabled friend in a wheelchair who runs the general store are Vietnam veterans and make passing references to “their war.”


Justin, Neal. “Critic’s choice” *Star tribune* [Minneapolis, MN] (Dec 21, 2002), Variety, p. 10E.