

**Bourne**  
**toWrite...**  
creative writing  
workshops

## The Invisible Man

by Jane Reynolds

“The Accused stands before the Court, your Honour, on five counts,” said the prosecutor. “I will set forth the charges, if I may now, your Honour?...”

“My Lord, firstly this man is accused of Being a Man. Second, as you will see, of Standing there in the Witness box Without having been Offered the Advice of any Lawyer since First Detained. On a third count, Your honour, of Not Knowing what he is Accused of, nor, indeed, with What he has been Charged. On the fourth count, my Lord, and most welcome members of the Jury, this man is accused of Not Understanding how a Court in this country works, nor having any Knowledge of the Terms that will be set out before him. And fithly, honourable Sirs and Ladies, he is accused of being Innocent until proven Guilty - a charge you will find, he most vehemently upholds to be so, despite the inevitable, and indeed, grave consequences of such a charge.

“Members of the Jury, Judicial members, Advocates and Arbitrators, Prosecutors, the Defence and Counsel. We stand here today, our Duty being to Evidence that the Burden of Proof weighs, without a doubt, against this man, and before Queen and Country to ensure that we uphold with the upmost honour, the cherished principles of Liberty, Fraternity, Equality and Justice without any exploitation of these most privileged of positions we duly hold.

“So, without further ado, I ask, the Jury...”

“Do you find the Accused guilty or not guilty of being a man?”

“Guilty”

“Of having benefitted from no legal advice?”

“Guilty”

“Of not knowing what he is accused nor charged with?”

“Guilty”

“Of not understanding our judicial system?”

Guilty

“And finally of being innocent until proven guilty?”

“Guilty!”

“Thank you, Counsel,” said the Judge. “I hereby sentence this man to a lifetime of helplessness and hopelessness. Court dismissed.”