

HAUNTED

FEATURING:

ISSUE 12

**SCARY HOTELS TO SCARE
THE POO OUT OF YOU!**

HALLOWEEN TREATS

THE EVIL EYE

**THINGS THAT GO
TRUMP IN THE NIGHT**

**MISTRESS OF DEATH:
MADAME LALAU**

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TOP 10 ZOMBIE FILMS

**THE PONTEFRAC
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**TAKING THE CAKE
WITH MERRICK ALORA**

**THE GENEVA
CONVENTION**

**A BIT OF WITCH, A BIT OF THAT..
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!**

**"FEED
YOUR
NIGHTMARES"**



**BLACK EYED KIDS
WHAT'S BEHIND THE
UK'S SPOOKIEST
MEDIA FRENZY?**

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THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST EMOTION OF MANKIND IS FEAR, AND THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST KIND OF FEAR IS FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.

"England shelters many haunted locations. Borley Rectory, the Tower of London, Edge Hill. But there are other places; vile whereabouts, written out of modern history for reasons they dare not speak. Malevolent recesses... such as...

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Editorial

This editorial has changed more times than you can count on Anne Boleyn's fingers (11, so I am told), what started out as a mere introduction to our third Halloween special where we were going to look at some of our old features, dust them down, polish them up and update them before sending them off trick or treating into your homes soon turned into a full on, brand spanking new issue of the nation's favourite paranormal magazine (ahem - that's US by the way!!) AND because of that please gracefully receive and give a ghostly thumbs-up to a paranormal pleasuredome that will be known, for years to come, as Haunted Issue 12.

Nowadays, Halloween seems to last a whole month (not that we're complaining - we frickin' love Halloween) and even the national press seem to take an interest at this time of year as those bastions of news - the tabloids - are enthralled with the sudden re-appearance of

these Black Eyed Kids, somehow reading that headline in the middle of March doesn't have the same affect and it'd probably end up on page 33 next to the Dear Deirdre column or something. Now, here at Haunted HQ we have our theories on BEKs (which you can read in this issue) as we like to lob our ghostly grenades, into the mix, whilst dodging the paranormal bullets.

The Paranormal can be a war zone at times, you'd think it was just a battle between the sceptics vs the believers but there's many, many battles and kerfuffles going on - ghost groups fighting ghost groups, paranormal TV shows scrapping with other paranormal TV shows, magazines engaging fisticuffs with other magazines and so on, Jeremy Kyle would have a field day. Sometimes you can smell the resentment, the one-up man ship, the jealousy and the bitchiness in the air but is it because we're all in it together carving out our own

niches and paranormal roles to play or is it because you can't unprove or prove the unproven OR is it simply because we all love the paranormal, it gets our ectoplasmic juices flowing, whichever camp you find yourself in, think about it even the sceptics go to great lengths to dedicate their time and resources to poo-pooing the paranormal, they wouldn't do that if they simply didn't care.

And whilst we're running for cover under heavy mortar attack from some of you can I just mention that we feel that now is the right time to bring you Haunted for free, yes that's right FREE as in nada, nil, zero, zilch. It remains our aim to give you the best paranormal magazine out there, quality features backed up with quality design - a fun, fresh, interesting, informative and entertaining journey into the ghostly and spooky world of the paranormal - no strings, no gimmicks, no catches, plain and simple - FREE - let the fisticuffs begin.

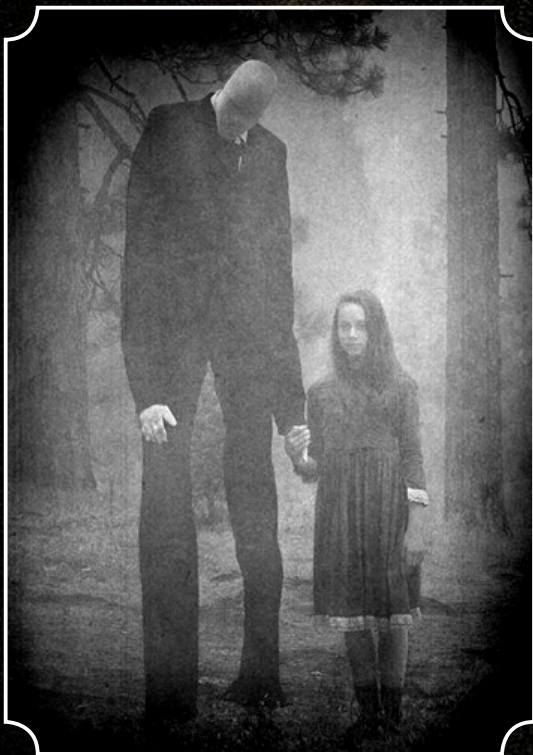
Paul Stevenson

paul@hauntedmagazine.co.uk

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COVER ART:

THOMAS G. ANDERSON & ANDY SOAR

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FEASTS AND FRIGHTS FOR HALLOWEEN AND BONFIRE NIGHTS

WITH PHILIP SOLOMON

Halloween or Samhain, as it was originally known in the UK, is so popular today it almost seems to be on a par with its popularity in America, but really that has only been in modern times, and was mainly taken to the States by Irish immigrants around the time of the potato famine when they left Ireland hoping to find a better life for themselves.

However, if you are a follower of Wicca or interested in the Celtic tradition, you will know that Samhain is the real New Year - according to the old traditions at least - and it has always been claimed that the 31st October is the time when the veil between our world and the other side is at its very thinnest. Halloween was certainly a time when the wise men and women of the past would be consulted for their psychic advice, and perhaps these early people were the forerunners of the mediums and psychics of today.

Many times over the years I have written of the traditions of Halloween and of the baking of things such as the 'Great Cake' and 'Soul Cakes', (little flat buns that were popular to bake and pass around to friends and family). But what of Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night, the marking of the night when Guy Fawkes (or Guido Fawkes as he was also known) tried to blow up Parliament in an attempt to assassinate King James and other dignitaries in 1605. People of all faiths and religions seem to enjoy Bonfire Night these days, but certainly in the past, people of the Catholic faith would

certainly not have done, and those countries and its peoples who deeply follow that religion to this day tend not to partake in this pastime.

Historically speaking, Bonfire Night and Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) are very much linked together, because although Halloween falls on the 31st October, it really should be recognised as falling on the 6th November, and Bonfire Night on 5th November, in Celtic times, was the eve before when a great fire was built ready to be set fire to the following day. There are even historical records that seem

"People of all faiths and religions seem to enjoy Bonfire Night these days, but certainly in the past, people of the Catholic faith would certainly not..."



to suggest that living things may have been placed within the fire to be horribly sacrificed amongst the flames. Those of you who have seen *The Wicker Man*, or even more so, the older version starring Edward Woodward, will have seen the type of things that would have been created and it may well be that the burning of Guy Fawkes has become mixed up with the 'burning man' effigy. There is also a similar festival that takes place in America, whose roots may well link back to those days. Also, many things tend to change and, indeed, during the time of Henry VIII and the reformation of England, it

would have been an image of the Pope that would have been put on top of the burning pyre, rather than Guy Fawkes!

But what I thought I would tell you about is a tradition that was followed in Shropshire and other parts of the English Midlands, (and I am sure other places throughout the British Isles), called the baking of the Great Cake, or smaller versions collectively called Soul Cakes. The Great Cake, in days gone by, was baked for

all the family to eat. Whilst being mixed, within the mixture would be placed a coin, a thimble and a ring. After it was baked, he or she who received a slice with the coin in it would make much money that year, if someone got the ring, they would be married within the year, whether this was by choice or necessity, and whoever got the thimble indicated a person who would never get married.



The Evil Eye

WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND

by Anthony Crowley

The practice of “witchcraft or “sorcery” plays a significant historical role throughout the old and modern generations of our British timeline. There was much superstition and ignorance initially when the discovery of witchcraft first came to light. During the latter part of the 16th century “witchcraft” finally made its unwelcoming in England. Previously during the year of 1542 the UK Parliament passed the witchcraft act as a crime punishable only by death.

“Poor and elderly females were instantly targeted and hunted like they were vermin of the night and due to lacking the aristocracy of beauty”

The law was dropped five years later and restored by a new act in 1562. Furthermore, a new act was passed in 1604 during the reign of King James I whom had an obsession for studying demonology and he also published a book about its dark practices. The witch trials were also transferred from the churches to ordinary courthouses during the years 1562 and 1604. There were many formal accusations made against witches.

Poor and elderly females were instantly targeted and hunted like they were vermin of the night and due to lacking the aristocracy of beauty, which

“Beware while travelling through Burnley and if you see a shackled farmhouse, who knows what will await your arrival?”

tainted them with a saddened unhealthy expression. South east England, especially Anglia became a known location for many witch hunts. In the town of Burnley it has been known in recent years that an old woman whose malevolent practices and rituals were supposed to render themselves manifest by the injuries she inflicted on her neighbours' cattle; and many a lucky-stone, many a stout horse-shoe and rusty sickle may now be found behind the doors or hung from the beams in the cow-houses and stables belonging to the farmers in that locality, which date their suspension from the time when this 'witch' in reputation held the countryside in awe.

Not one of her neighbours ever dared to offend her openly; and if she at any time preferred a request, it was granted at all hazards, regardless of the inconvenience and expense. If someone spoken of her doings and it went back to her she would cast spells of punishment towards these individuals. Even the local farmers would suffer with the loss of cattle, whilst others would endure the curse of bad health and dispersion from this wicked tormentor of Burnley. Time began to pass by and the “Burnley Witch” was now upon her sick bed and death was calling, she needed a successor, preferably a family member to



apple tree which grew opposite his house by directing towards it the first morning glances of his Evil Eye. Spitting three times in the person's face; turning a live coal on the fire; and exclaiming, 'the Lord be with us', are other means of averting its influence. Halloween or "All Hallows Eve" is a very special calendar event for witches the name itself derives from the old English word "Halwen" meaning "Saints". All saints day was then born and the world changed during the important dates of 31st October- 1st November. For many "Halloween" is a pastime and event for family gatherings and eating toffee apples (Candy Apples in USA) visiting funfairs and reading haunted tales and spooky stories of ghostly happenings. It is certainly a season for superstition and the unknown.

"ANY BIG HOTELS HAVE GOT SCANDALS," HE SAID. "JUST LIKE EVERY BIG HOTEL HAS GOT A GHOST. WHY? HELL, PEOPLE COME AND GO. SOMETIMES ONE OF EM WILL POP OFF IN HIS ROOM, HEART ATTACK OR STROKE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT." - Excerpt from 'The Shining' By Stephen King



FIVE HOTELS TO SCARE THE PROVERBIAL POO OUT OF YOU By Charles W. Bryant



Eduardo Garcia/Getty Images

5. Hotel Provincial

The French Quarter in New Orleans, LA., is not short of spirits.

New Orleans, La., is a mysterious town. Walking the streets of the French Quarter, the ghosts of the Big Easy seem to be present at every turn. Maybe it has something to do with the architecture. Maybe it's the thought of a voodoo doll made in your image. Any way you slice it, New Orleans is a spooky town, and there are many hotels and inns that boast other-worldly visitors. One of these is the Hotel Provincial.

A former soldier supposedly haunts the grounds of the Provincial. Guests have reported everything from doors opening and closing to hearing voices and

footsteps when no one else was around. There have been several séances held in the hotel over the years, many of which produced ghostly visions and recorded audio of things like, "Tell Dianne I have to go." A female guest reported being pulled from her bed by a hand and dragged across the room while she kicked and screamed. Another conventioneer claims to have seen the soldier fully materialize in the closet, complete with decorated uniform, before disappearing into thin air. So why does an army ghost haunt the Provincial? A former military hospital sat on the same site in 1722. Twin houses took the place of the hospital in 1831 — both burned down in 1874. Staying at the Provincial may not guarantee you a ghost sighting, but you'll definitely be spooked.

4. Crescent Hotel

No towels, but thanks anyway.

The historic Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, Ark., was built in 1886 as one of the first luxury spa hotels in the southern United States. The entire town is known to have many ghosts that roam about, and the Crescent seems to be a favorite destination. If you visit the Crescent, you'll want to avoid room 218, unless you're into having the daylight's scared out of you. The legend goes like this: During hotel construction, a stone mason fell to his death in the area that's now room 218. Although his name is unknown, hotel employees refer to him as Michael.

So what does Michael do

that's so spooky? How about reaching for you through the bathroom mirror? Or maybe crying out in terror in the ceiling above the bed? The hotel was also a cancer hospital in the 1930s. Guests have seen ghost nurses moving corpses on a gurney through the hallways. Other ghosts include Dr. Ellis, a cancer surgeon, and the lady in white, a woman in a flowing gown who floats through the gardens and perches on balconies. Some guests have complained that they awaken to find their clothes scattered throughout their room. So are these ghostly visions bad for business? Hardly — the hotel remains a popular tourist destination, and its ghost tour is a big seller.



Robb Kendrick/Getty Images

3. Borden House

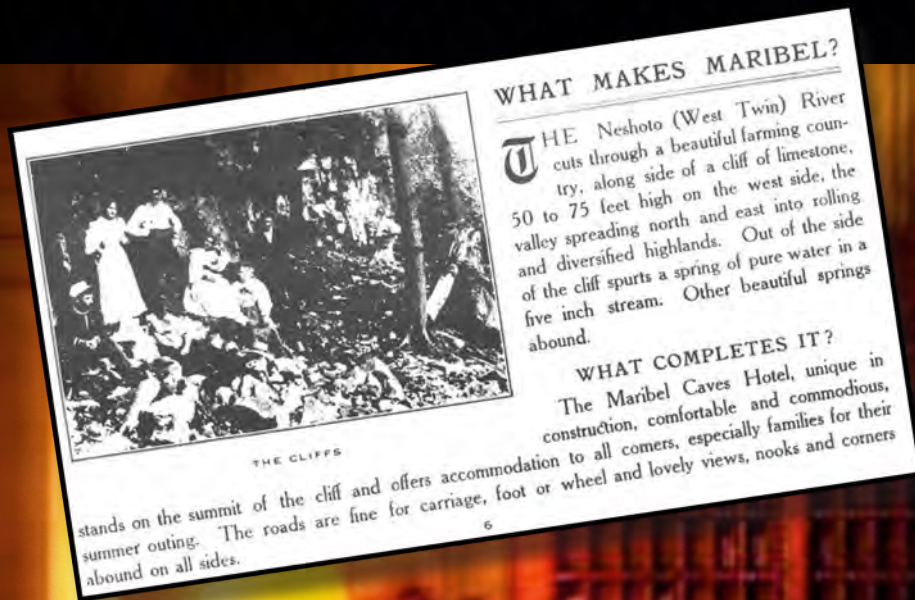
The house where the Borden murders took place, now a bed-and-breakfast.

This next entry on the list isn't haunted, but it was the scene of one of the most notorious murder cases in American history — the Lizzie Borden case. In the morning hours of Aug. 4, 1892 in Fall River, Mass., Andrew and Abby Borden were murdered with a hatchet in their home. Their 32-year-old daughter Lizzie and the housekeeper were the only people home at the time. Lizzie was arrested for the murders seven days later. The children's song claims that 81 whacks did them in — the actual number of blows was 29.

Lizzie was acquitted for the

brutal crimes after a trial produced no murder weapon, motive or physical evidence. Speculation remains today as to whether Lizzie had anything to do with the murder of her parents. After being ostracized from the community, she lived out her life quietly and died of pneumonia at the age of 67. The house is now a bed-and-breakfast, and its owners bank on its famous history to lure in guests. You can stay in Lizzie's or her parents' rooms and even eat the same breakfast that the Borden's ate on that fateful morning. For just \$1,500, you can rent the entire house and even get married in the very room where the Borden parents were hacked up. What a bargain.





2. Maribel Caves Hotel

If you check into a room and you see this, it's perfectly acceptable to request a different room.

It may not be a functioning hotel any longer, but the Maribel Caves Hotel in Wisconsin is still known for attracting guests that illegally camp out within its crumbling walls. Why? Maybe it has something to do with its famous nickname — Hotel Hell. There's plenty to dispute when it comes to the hotel's history, but even the most skeptical visitor would have to admit that it's one of the scarier places you could visit. Some of the disputed claims include:

- The hotel burned three times on the same date and glows under a full moon.
- Skeletal remains are still on the unreachable third floor.
- A hotel guest killed everyone in the hotel before taking his own life.

- Black witches performed a ceremony that opened a portal to hell in the front yard fountain. The hellish demons haunted the town of Maribel until a white witch sealed the portal.
- It served as a hideout for gangster Al Capone during prohibition.
- Underground passageways exist.

Fortunately, most of the claims are merely urban legend. It simply may be a case of a creepy-looking abandoned building that attracted rumors. The hotel has apparently burned only once, and there's no evidence that any murders ever took place there. Al Capone never owned the hotel but may have used it for his moonshine operations. There are also no secret passageways, but the Maribel Caves are nearby — they're merely natural underground caves. Even though the spooky claims have largely been disputed, it remains a scary destination — so much so that the county is considering tearing down the dilapidated hotel to keep vandals out.



1. Holmes "Murder Castle"

The name says it all. In the late 1800s in Chicago, Dr. H.H. Holmes, born Herman Mudgett, built and operated a hotel that would later be dubbed the "murder castle" by law enforcement agents. Holmes was a lifelong cheat, swindler and fraud artist — in medical school he took out insurance claims on cadavers and mangled the corpses to look like they were accident victims. Shortly before the

found a surgical table in a room spattered with blood. There were jars of



1893 World's Fair, which was hosted in Chicago, Holmes built a 60-room hotel in the Chicago suburb of Englewood. Holmes was the architect, and the hotel housed many bizarre features — doors that led to nothing, rooms without windows, trap doors and hidden passageways.

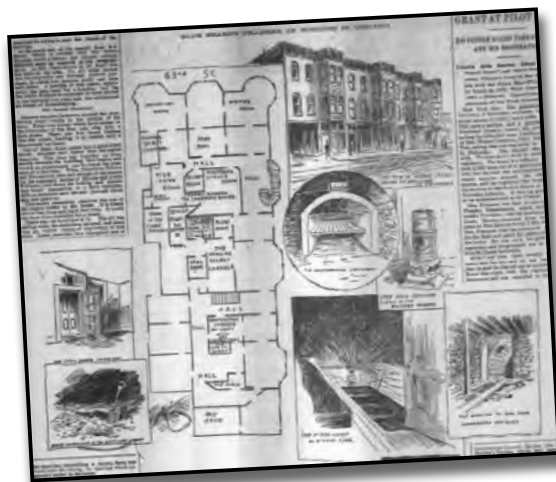
poison and boxes of bones. Holmes had his own crematorium, vats of acid and two lime pits that could dissolve a body in a matter of hours. Chutes from the prison rooms slid bodies directly to the basement.

Fortunately, the Murder Castle and its torture chambers were burned to the ground.

In a stroke of luck, Holmes was eventually arrested for an insurance fraud scheme. The murders were revealed when police conducted a search of the castle. He was hung for his crimes but never showed any remorse. He claimed to be possessed by the devil.

When Holmes opened the hotel up for business, guests got more than they bargained for. For four years, Holmes held various guests prisoner, tortured and killed them. He is known as America's first serial killer, admitting to 28 murders, though it's believed that he was responsible for many more. Some rooms were sealed shut and used as gas asphyxiation chambers, others were lined with iron plates and had blow torches built into the walls to burn his victims. The prison rooms had rudimentary alarm buzzers to alert him if anyone tried to escape.

The basement of the murder castle reads like a horror movie. Investigators



The building was burned to the ground shortly thereafter and eventually became a post office in the 1930s.



THINGS THAT GO TRUMP IN THE NIGHT...

BY NIGEL HEWETT <http://www.ultimate-top-trumps.co.uk/>

Over the years games come and go and change with time, change to reflect certain trends and fads but one game has changed little – Top Trumps. Yes, the theme might change but the game play that many school children of the 70's and 80's found irresistible, remains.



One series in particular stands out above the rest with its gory graphics and uniqueness that is, let's face it, timeless! The series is of course Horror!

The packs **Devil Priest** and **Dracula**, originally released by Dubreq around the turn of the 80's were so popular that Waddingtons in 1982 re-released the packs

after the sell up of Top Trumps by Dubreq but even so the packs still went on and remained a schoolboy favourite.

So why did this seemingly simple pack of Trumps reach such a pinnacle and why does it still remain top of most people's favourite school days games?

Was it the horror fest with all teeth, blood guts and gore or was it the gameplay? Or could it be the inclusion of some favourite horror film stars such as **Godzilla** or **Frankenstein** or the uncanny resemblance of some of horror's famous TV and film stars such as the **Venusian Death Cell** character that looks sneakily like a Sea Devil from *Doctor Who*? Never the less the packs were huge favourites and still are!

Today we can look back and wonder just why as school kids we were so fascinated with the deck and what all the fuss was. Well, back in the 70's and 80's there was if you like a curfew for children, bed by ten and definitely nothing to

give you nightmares and so the **Hammer Horror** films on a Friday night were a definite no-no. But these cards are different, they are a simple game made by a game producer who surely would not do anything to cause fright and terror in children's minds and give them nightmares! Could they?

Well, when you actually take a good look at the cards you will see that, yes they are things of nightmare, things that bite and rip you to pieces and relish the taste and texture of your entrails and brains! When you get down to the nitty gritty and take a good look then you will discover that there is more than just simple good old blood guts and gore. You have a touch of Sadomasochism with the **Alien Creature** in the **Devil Priest** pack that is holding a whip of some kind, torture with The Jailer who delights in setting his chained up victims on fire. But more strange is that there is also humour! We have the **Two Headed Monster** that looks more like a two headed **King**

Kong, The Incredible Melting Man, a character that makes me laugh because how can you melt and not just fade away but more bizarrely we have **Godzilla** wearing a pink dickie bow! It is easy to see why this pack most of all Trumps packs remained below adult's radar.

The stats are just as odd as the characters themselves. The idea of the stats are that whoever has the higher number wins and so you would assume that the stats bore some resemblance to the character even though this is purely a fiction topic, or is it?

Anyway, we have a character called **Death**. Now, would you not have thought that **Death** might be a full house of 100's? In the same pack there is a character called **Diablo**, is this not the Devil himself? Would **Diablo** not be as strong if not stronger than Death?

The pictures are done in an unusual way. With not much detail it is surprising just how much you read into them. But what is plainly clear is that the images are done in such a way so as to cause less concern for those who might otherwise deem them as too gratuitous for children's delicate and fragile minds, perhaps best kept for adults only. But there is no getting away from it; the images are a factor for school kids in an age before 3D artwork and cgi. Personally, I feel that the images are as graphic and as detailed as they need be and let's face it they are still highly collectible for collectors of all ages.

All in all both packs in this series – **Devil Priest** and **Dracula** are

humorous, creepy and frightening as well as good ole blood curdling fun!

There is another pack that was released in 1978 by Jotastar – Doctor Who Trump Card Game. As the title reads it includes characters from Doctor Who just as then as it is now very popular. This pack has a twist!

You would expect to find all the favourite Doctor Who aliens as well as probably all of the Doctors and their assistants, but you would be wrong. The game play can be played as a Trump game or a game of Good versus Evil and just 2 players. The pack includes Aliens such as Davros, The Wirrn (weird giant bugs), The Sea Devils to name a few on the Evil side and then

you have Doctor Who himself, Boudicca, Geronimo, Lord Nelson on the Good side.

There are just 3 stats – Mental Ability, Special Powers and Weapons. The artwork was probably mimicked in some way for the Horror packs a few years later, but unlike the Horror packs were not blood curdling so graphic, unfortunately but this was the 70's after all.

The popularity of the Dubreq/Waddington's packs are such that some people are selling reproductions of the originals which are great for people who want to experience the packs for themselves especially as the originals are becoming less available to buy.

Godzilla  Physical strength 98 Fear factor 88 Killing power 95 Horror rating 77	Maggot  Physical strength 76 Fear factor 66 Killing power 71 Horror rating 86	Phantom of the Opera  Physical strength 77 Fear factor 67 Killing power 74 Horror rating 87	The Hangman  Physical strength 83 Fear factor 73 Killing power 78 Horror rating 88
The Mad Magician  Physical strength 73 Fear factor 63 Killing power 68 Horror rating 65	Man Eating Plant  Physical strength 96 Fear factor 86 Killing power 93 Horror rating 94	Lizard Man  Physical strength 63 Fear factor 73 Killing power 80 Horror rating 81	The Beast  Physical strength 87 Fear factor 77 Killing power 82 Horror rating 98
Zoltan  Physical strength 82 Fear factor 72 Killing power 77 Horror rating 84	Zetan Priest  Physical strength 94 Fear factor 84 Killing power 91 Horror rating 95	Creature from Outer Space  Physical strength 79 Fear factor 69 Killing power 76 Horror rating 78	Martian Warrior  Physical strength 80 Fear factor 70 Killing power 75 Horror rating 72



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THE HAUNTED MOVIE THEATRE PRESENTS

LIGHTS OUT



Do you like a good scare? Then check out the brilliant short that went viral earlier in the year. The award winning David F. Sandford's, "Lights Out" is not to be missed. And not for the faint hearted! Turn out the lights if you dare! Bedtimes will never be the same again!



MISTRESS OF DEATH:

THE HAUNTED HISTORY OF MADAME LALAURIE

WITH VON CALLAGHAN



Marie Delphine McCarthy, more commonly known as Madame LaLaurie, was a Louisiana-born socialite, known for her involvement in the torture of African slaves. Delphine was born in 1775 in New Orleans to Barthelmy Louis McCarthy and Marie Jeanne Lovable. Both of who were prominent members of the New Orleans white Créole community. Delphine was one of five children and known for her exceptional beauty from an early age.

Delphine was married three times and bore five children, one from her first marriage and four more during her second. In 1825 Delphine married her third husband, a physician named Leonard Louis Nicolas LaLaurie who had travelled over from France to set up practice in New Orleans. In 1831 they purchased 1140 Royal Street. It was a three-story mansion with attached servants' quarters, a home of which Delphine managed without little interference from her husband. It looked very ordinary from the outside; the interior was however lavishly decorated to a very high standard and was obviously presented for the many cocktail parties and grand events that they held. Delphine was very well respected and known as a

friendly, wonderful hostess who pampered to her guests every whim. But there was a totally different side to her, a side that was very cruel and sadistic and would be remembered for long after her death.

The LaLauries had many African American slaves as befit their social class at that time, although at social functions she appeared to be polite to the slaves, it would seem that public rumours about mistreatment of them led her to appear in court several times. On one occasion it was with regard to the murder of a young girl who had fallen to her death from the roof while trying to avoid being whipped by Madam LaLaurie and was subsequently buried in



A newspaper clipping of the notorious LaLaurie Mansion

REAL HAUNTED HOUSE
New Orleans Boasts of One Duly La-
beled as Such.
MME. LALAURIE'S MANSION
The Clever and Fascinating Creole Woman
Who Used to Practice Terrible Cruelties
on Her Unhappy Slaves—Discovered by
Chance She Was Mobbed and Only Es-
caped by Nerve and Presence of Mind—
The House as It Appears To-day.

“On April 10th 1834, a fire broke out in the kitchen. It is believed to have been started by the cook (who was chained to the sink) to attract attention to the plight of the servants.”

a shallow grave in the grounds of the mansion. Slaves were taken away from them; however friends bought them and returned them.

On April 10th 1834, a fire broke out in the kitchen. It is believed to have been started by the cook (who was chained to the sink) to attract attention to the plight of the servants. Firemen heard screams and moans coming from the third floor and after breaking down the door (the LaLauries refused to hand the keys over) were overwhelmed by the unmistakable smell of death! After inspection it wasn't just the dead slaves that horrified them but the ones that were barely alive having been tortured beyond the imagination.

An extract from 'The New Orleans Bee' that was printed the following day states,

'Language is powerless and inadequate to give a proper conception of the horror which a scene like this must have inspired. We shall not attempt it but leave it rather to the readers' imagination to picture what it was. These slaves were the property of the demon, in the shape of the woman whom we mentioned at the beginning of this article. They had been confined by her for several months in the situation from which they had this providentially been rescued and had been merely kept in existence to prolong their suffering and to make them taste all that the most unkind cruelty could conflict.'

The newspaper article obviously has to leave a lot to the imagination because the truth



Kathy Bates played the evil LaLaurie in the Fox series "American Horror Story: Coven". Speaking to the Huffington Post, she spoke of how playing the character had changed her.

The Oscar winner said "American Horror Story" helped her find her way. Bates, who spent two seasons on "Harry's Law" before NBC unceremoniously dumped the legal drama, said she was shy about what the next step in her career was going to be, but had floated the idea about being on "American Horror Story" to her friend and series star Jessica Lange.

"Sometime after [speaking to Lange] I had a double mastectomy and so I was really still reeling and healing from that when I was having my meeting with Ryan. I wasn't really sure where to put my foot next in the business. I was so excited after that first meeting, I thought, 'There is life after all.' I discovered that here in New Orleans, I'm not only enjoying doing the show down here, but I found a wonderful place to go -- I need to have treatment on my arm because of lymphedema -- and there's a wonderful place here called the Center for Breast Reconstruction, which I've just discovered, and now I'm contemplating reconstruction for the first time since my surgery."

"I feel like I've just landed in clover, not only with the show, but for my own health. That's a great feeling. As my niece said: 'Lost in the right direction.'" In "Coven," Bates plays Madame LaLaurie, a real-life 18th century figure who became infamous for torturing and killing her slaves.



of the matter is that the slaves endured the kind of things we only now see in the most horrific of horror movies. They discovered many victims, all of whom showed signs of starvation and loss of substantial fat and muscle tissue. Seven of the slaves were suspended by the neck and wore spiked iron collars to keep their heads in a certain position, with their limbs apparently stretched and torn from one extremity to the other. Scattered around the floor were pails of body parts. Some of the slaves were strapped to tables. Upon inspection of the grounds and a well that was uncovered several bodies were found including that of a young girl. It was widely documented some years later that some of the slaves appeared to have been treated as forms of sadistic medical experiments. One man had surgically been changed

"My great literacy began with Greek mythology. I used to sit on daddy's lap and he would read me those stories. Full of that vengeful gods and miraculous creatures. But the Minotaur was always my favorite. Half man, half bull. And now I have one of my very own."

Madame LaLaurie - American Horror Story: Coven



April up to 4,000 people had attended to view them. As word spread of the horrific findings a lynch mob of local citizens descended upon the mansion and destroyed what was left, leaving little but the walls standing. Meanwhile Madam LaLaurie and her family fled to France. As to how she died it is not known but in the 1930s in a cemetery in St Louis a copper plate was discovered, the inscription reads that Madame LaLaurie, nee Marie Delphine Mac McCarthy died in Paris, on 7th December 1842.

The LaLaurie mansion which tourist guides claim to be the most haunted house in America still stands today. Over the years it has been used as a public high school, a tenement, a conservatory of music, a refuge for young delinquents, a bar, a furniture store and luxury apartments. It has recently been purchased for \$2.3 million by a financial company.

Hauntings have been documented since 1834. There have been many sightings reported by owners and tenants of slaves 'walking around' Anguished voices crying out in the night and the sound of clanking chains have reportedly been heard, and it has been said that doors and windows of the mansion seemingly open and close by themselves.

The furniture store was closed down due to seemingly supernatural vandalism. The merchandise was often found covered in a mysterious foul-smelling fluid. After staying up to catch the suspected vandals, the owner found the liquid had somehow re-appeared in plain sight, although no one had entered the premises.

At the turn of the century, a resident of the tenement, a poor Italian immigrant, encountered what was thought to be one of the servants sitting on the stairs bound by chains and covered in blood. An apparition of a woman with black hair and pale skin has been seen in the corridor after dark; sometimes she would be screaming. It is thought to be the ghost of Madame LaLaurie.

Von is part of the Staffordshire Paranormal Research Team. Check out their website at www.staffordshireparanormalresearchteam.com

into a woman. One victim had their arms and legs amputated and the skin peeled in a circular pattern leaving them looking like that of a human caterpillar. One woman had her limbs broken and reset at odd angles to resemble that of a crab. Some had fingernails pulled out by the roots and their eyes gorged out. Others had various horrific fates including great holes in their buttocks where the skin had been sliced away leaving the areas festering - ears hanging by shreds and lips sewn together. Intestines pulled out and knotted around the waists. Holes in their skulls where a rough stick was said to have been inserted to stir the brains.


Some of the slaves were held for public display in the local jail. The local paper reported that by 24th

DEAD FUNNY

SKELLY BOB'S i-MAD PLAYLIST

Do you have a Paranormal Related joke to tell? Send them into editor@deadgoodpublishing.com and if we like them, we might use them! (after copyrighting them and downright abusing them that is!)

What do you have to lose? (apart from your dignity, kudos and respect of your fellow man (or woman - or child!))



DEAD DEAD WINE UB 40
JINGLE HELL ROCK MAX BYGRAVES
ROLLERGHOSTER B*WITCHED
IT'S THE GHOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR ANDY WILLIAMS
SMACK MY WITCH UP PRODIGY
DOES YOUR CHEWING GUM LOSE ITS FLAVOUR ON THE BEDGHOST OVERNIGHT
LONNIE DONNEGAN & HIS SKIFFLE GROUP
DADDY GHOUL BONEY M
PENCIL FULL OF DEAD PAOLO NUTINI
BABY I DON'T SCARE TRANSVISION VAMP
BACK FOR BLOOD TAKE THAT
YOU'VE GOTTA FRIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT (TO PARTY) THE BEASTIE BOYS
RED FRIGHT SPELLS DANGER BILLY OCEAN
ANY SCREAM WILL DO JASON DONOVAN

THE RETURN OF THE BLACK EYED CHILDREN

Unless you've been comatose since the end of September then you've probably seen recent news features about kids with black eyes or as they're commonly referred to "the black eyed kids" – it's a simple idea, kids with black eyes scaring the living bejesus's out of ghosthunters, not content with the White and Grey Lady's gracefully sliding across the room or pesky poltergeists throwing things, touching things and whispering in people's ears so called paranormal experts have labelled these black eyed kids as amongst the most terrifying figures to emerge from the other side and are said to represent the highest levels of pure evil.



Image Courtesy of Thomas G Anderson Photography

VIRAL NEWS: TRICK, TREAT OR GIMMICK?



Drivers have reported them suddenly appearing late at night sitting in the back seat of their cars. Paranormal “experts” believe they may be aliens or vampires rather than ghosts. They are usually said to be between 6 & 16 years old, with terrifying hollow black eyes and ghostly white skin with a corpse-like bluish tint. Many are said to speak with adult voices and in a way that suggests they are far older than their appearance suggests. Even more terrifyingly, some spotters said they have been approached by pairs of black-eyed kids. In the United States, there have been several reports of the them appearing at people’s doors



and asking to come inside, they shield their faces and give the homeowner a false reason why they need to use the phone or hide from an unspecified danger BUT once inside they will suddenly turn on the owner and cause havoc. However other paranormal “experts” say that black eyed kids are often said to represent the spirits of lost or murdered

10 people from the paranormal world for their say on the Black Eyed Kids and I could bet that I’d get a whole host of differences of opinions, thoughts, views and interpretations.

Even researching these BEKs you get moved from page to page, link to link, site to site, this is now a global phenomenon but let’s go

***“Terrifying plague of black-eyed GHOST children:
Shock rise around the world”***

children, with eyewitnesses usually reporting sightings in quiet abandoned areas.

The trouble I have with people self-titling themselves as paranormal experts is what qualifies them to be a paranormal expert? Is it like the Scouts and their badges or like staff at McDonalds with their stars, the more ghosts you see the more qualified you are to have an opinion. I could easily get

back and retrace the steps of the Black Eyed Kids, let’s start from the beginning.

According to urban legend **Black Eyed Kids** aka **BEKs** are mysterious paranormal creatures that resemble children between the ages of 6 and 16 with pale white skin and black eyes and are reportedly seen hitchhiking, begging or encountered on doorsteps of residential homes. Tales of black eyed children have appeared in

VIRAL NEWS: TRICK, TREAT OR GIMMICK?

pop culture since the late 1990s. Tales of black eyed kids are found widespread on the Internet and in paranormal books, but only from about 1998 and forward

The supposed origin of the legend are 1998 postings on a “ghost-related mailing list” by a guy called Brian Bethel relating alleged encounters with “black eyed kids” in Abilene, Texas, and Portland, Oregon. He described how a couple of children approached his car and asked to be let in – a trope borrowed from vampire stories – before he realised they had black eyes and hastily drove off.

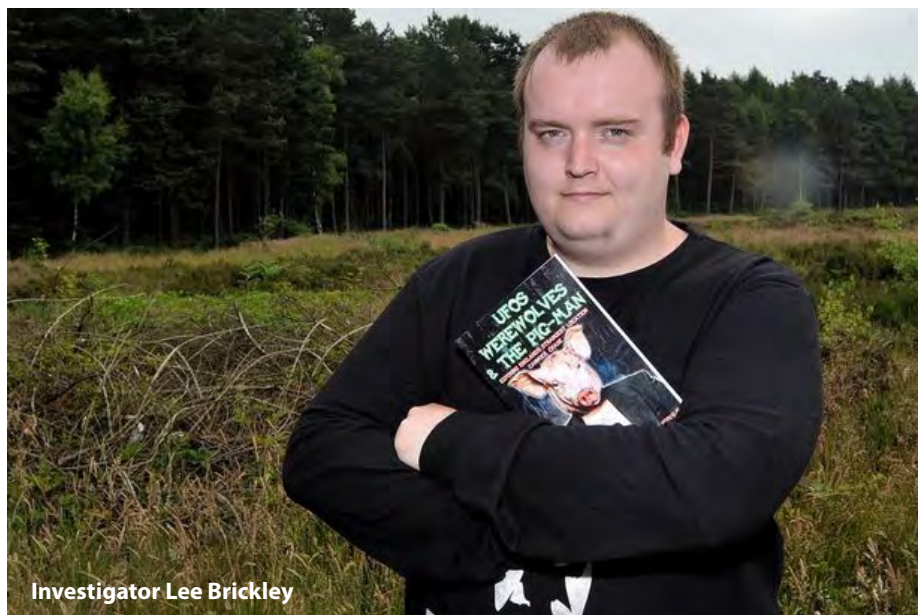
Take a look here: http://web.archive.org/web/20050213181819/http://www.pinn.net/~royaloak/Stories/black_eyed.htm

We’re not saying 1998 was the birth of the BEK but certainly seems to be the first mention of them on the tinternet, in fact I remember watching a film called The Village of the Damned in the 1980s which is based on a 1957 novel, YES they didn’t have black eyes but they all had blonde hair and were as sinister as sinister gets to an impressionable teenager like I was then.

**BIRMINGHAM
Mail**

Fast forward to 2014 and to the BEK furore now seems to have kicked off

again in the UK from a report by paranormal investigator (and author) Lee Brickley, it started on 30th of September when the Birmingham Mail feature Lee’s attempt to investigate sightings of BEKs at a beauty spot in



Investigator Lee Brickley

Cannock, Staffordshire (here’s the full article here <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/black-eyed-child-returns-haunt-7846214>)

The *Birmingham Mail* then went one step further and joined Lee on his nightly vigil to catch a “glimpse of the unkempt anaemic infant” on Cannock Chase, the report says that there has also been sightings of Slenderman, the new “bogeyman” and a creature called The Pig Man. [http://www.](http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/black-eyed-child-returns-haunt-7846214)

[birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/cannock-chase-black-eyed-child-7863696](http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/cannock-chase-black-eyed-child-7863696)

It took two days for that bastion of in depth reportage The Daily Star to cover the chilling tale <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/402270/Black-Eyed-Child-ghost-spotted-for-first-time-in-30-years>

The paper followed up on Wednesday with this front page about a pub in Cannock that’s haunted by various scary ghosts including a black-eyed child apparition <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/402776/The-pub-everyone-s-scared-to-buy-Screaming-ghoul-terrifies-punters>

And as I write this (Friday October the 3rd) The Daily Star BEK front page trilogy is complete with a tale of how sightings are increasing around the world <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/402988/Terrifying-plague-of-black-eyed-GHOST-children-around-the-world>



VIRAL NEWS: TRICK, TREAT OR GIMMICK?



Other papers and broadcast stations covered the story this week. But where does this story actually come from? Lee wrote a blog post last year about his auntie's sighting, which was then included in his book <http://www.amazon.co.uk/UFOs-Werewolves-The-Pig-Man-Strangest-/dp/0992603900>

"A PLAGUE of black eyed child ghosts have been spotted in Britain and across the world - sparking fears of a spook invasion"



Cannock Chase. Several papers have referred to the

historic sightings of the children, writing that the children are being seen in the UK "for the first time in 30 years" – but the only source for this appears to be Brickley's auntie. The book recounts that she was 18 years old and hanging out with some friends at a beauty spot. She then heard a "little girl shouting 'help mommy help'", before seeing a child aged 6–8 and running after her. The child gave her the slip. The next day the police were called and a search was launched (it didn't find anything).

Lee writes that no one thought this girl was anything spooky until later on, when his auntie learned about some child murders nearby in the 1960s.

"At the time, no one really had any reason to believe anything paranormal was going on, the girl certainly appeared to be of

flesh and blood. It was only later, when discussing the incident with a neighbour that my auntie was made aware of Raymond Morris's 1960s child killings in the area. Sufficed to say, this revelation really spooked her.

Although there have been many other sightings of this nature in the area, and I certainly don't completely rule out the theory that they are indeed the 'ghosts' of children murdered by Morris, to me it seems that, as these children

often appear to be completely solid and never really show any unusual qualities, their origin could lay squarely in the realms of the occult."

BUT in a twist to the tale, Lee has recently told the *Birmingham Mail* that people who spot the ghosts could be hallucinating, possibly because of a chemical leak <https://vine.co/v/OmxptXVi2EL>



"There are two theories. The Black Eyed Child is linked to the Cornovii, a Celtic tribe known for their blood sacrifices. The other is that we are dealing with some kind of mass hallucination. Something, some substances, has made people see this apparition. There were all kinds of weird, covert military stuff going on here during the years, there still is. Could something left behind have caused all these sightings?"





The Four Crosses Inn, Staffordshire - a supposed hot spot

So despite the story appearing around the world this week, with Brickley as the main source, he describes himself as a sceptic.

"I too am very sceptical, and as I said in a video interview for the *Birmingham Mail*, my personal opinion is that people are hallucinating. I draw that conclusion because the people I have interviewed seem very genuine. They appear to 'think' they are telling the truth. To be honest, I'm getting a little sick of the attention, and so I've already decided to stop talking to the press about the subject. It's not like I stand to benefit financially from the story, and I've hardly slept this week trying to keep everyone happy. It's just turned into a bit of frenzy, and everyone seems to be making money off my investigations. Everyone except me, that is. Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to get money from the press. All I ever set out to do was publish some interesting cases that have not been discussed before. I have no desire whatsoever to become a 'celebrity paranormal researcher' and have only ever wished for people to know my name for being a writer and author."

So that "something" that's causing hallucinations could be a chemical leak – which *could* have been the reason his auntie saw the ghost back in 1982. Where the chemicals are supposed to have come from and how the leak has lasted for 32 years is unclear.

So is the ghost hunter behind this story now saying it might not be real?

NO, Lee has said that the chemical leak angle was entirely invented by the press and wasn't a theory that came from him.

We contacted Lee for his reaction to this week's media frenzy – but far from being the publicity-seeking supernatural expert he may appear, he told us he was fed up of the coverage:

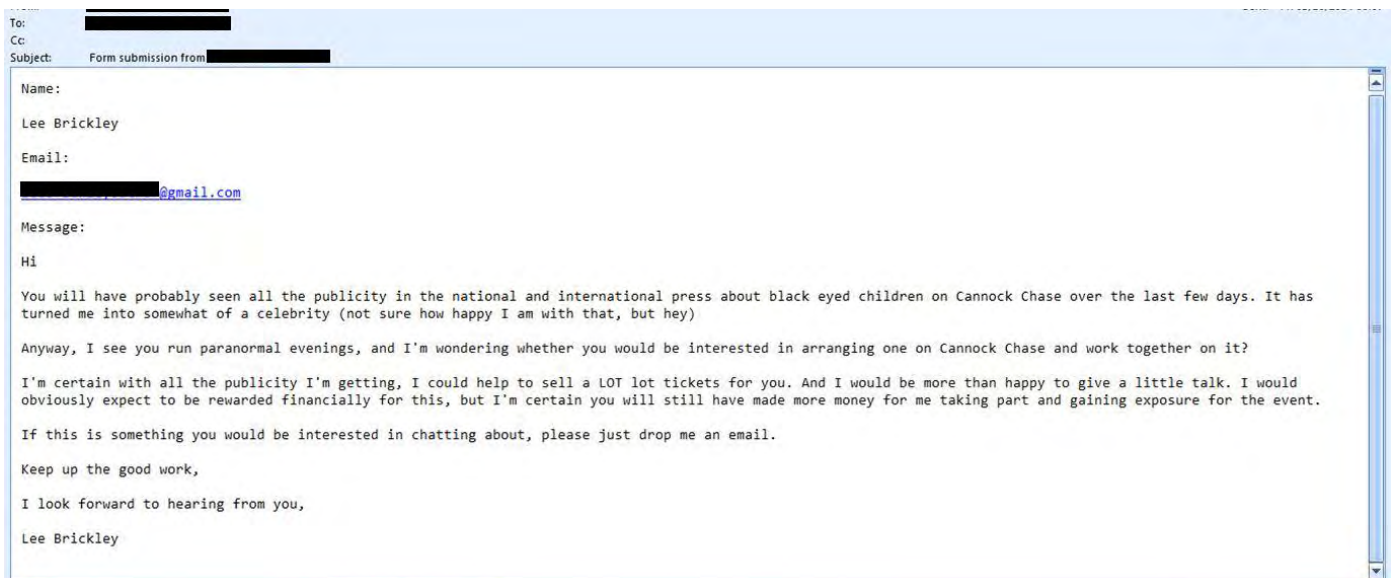
"Can I just make a point of saying that I've not sold the story to any newspapers, and they have been using me to make money all week. All I did was publish a report from a family member on my blog over a year ago, and the press have taken it upon themselves to lift

the story and put me all over their front pages. As a result of that, I have been contacted by hundreds of reporters and radio shows, and up until yesterday I was doing my best to help them out with interviews, quotes, and a couple of new sighting reports that have come in. They have not been reporting on the story accurately, and they keep placing my name next to their own theories about the origin of these sightings. I have never once said they have anything to do with the child murders on Cannock Chase, and yet they keep running this line."

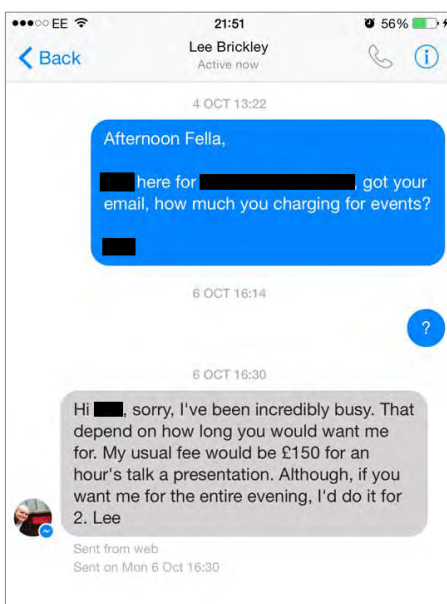
"If you see a ghost with black eyes you could well be in trouble"



VIRAL NEWS: TRICK, TREAT OR GIMMICK?



However Lee has contacted several paranormal groups that we know of asking if they want to organise a ghost hunt at the BEK location AND get paid for his services:



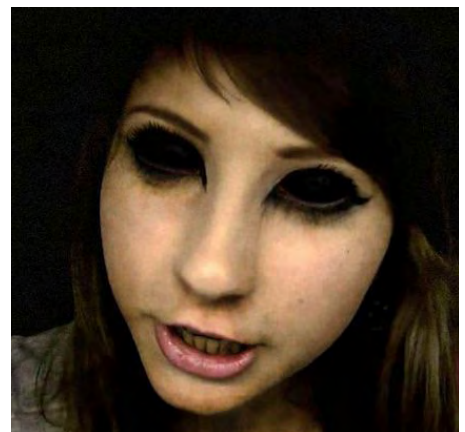
Whichever way you interpret the story I am sure that Lee never expected his Birmingham Mail feature to go global and it seems that the Black Eyed Kids are the

new “darlings” of the paranormal world, returning after a good few decades in the wilderness, just in time for Halloween, I know what kids will be wearing knocking on my door on the 31st of October, white powder make up, blacked out eyes and watch out for paranormal groups jumping on the Black Eyed bandwagon, why not eh? It's what the paranormal is all about!!

Let's just applaud Lee for getting the paranormal world into the mainstream press, in a world of doom and gloom it's fantastic that there's still space in the media for a little paranormal pleasure, don't get me wrong if I was ghosthunting and one of these came up to me I would probably shit myself from here to high heaven. The Black Eyed Kids are back, I can just imagine Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and ladies of white and/or grey having a right old sulk.

BUT as one newspaper put it:

“So, urban myth? Mass hallucination? Ancient bloodthirsty ritual? Or just a bunch of stuff that people have made up on the internet? Or how about a fun spooky ghost story in the run-up to Halloween that gets readers excited and freaked out in equal measure? In any case, it seems the black-eyed children myth is one borne of internet culture rather than ancient folklore. And it's all too easy to be misquoted when you write a book about supernatural events.”



MICK'S MIX TAPE



GHOSTBUSTERS
RAY PARKER JUNIOR

01:21 / 03:32

REMAINING
99

B4

SELECTION

COMING NEXT:
THIS IS HALLOWEEN
MARILYN MANSON

Songs to play: 3

DAM JukeBox

Page: 4 / 46

MR SANDMAN
THE CHORDETTES

HALLOWEEN (MAIN THEME)
JOHN CARPENTER

THRILLER
MICHAEL JACKSON

TUBULAR BELLS (THE EXORCIST)
MIKE OLDFIELD

PEOPLE ARE STRANGE
ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN

THE X FILES THEME
MARK SNOW

THE FOG (MAIN THEME)
JOHN CARPENTER

RED RIGHT HAND (SCREAM OST)
RED RIGHT HAND

HIGHWAY TO HELL
ACDC

SUPERSTITIOUS
STEVIE WONDER

I PUT A SPELL ON YOU
SCREAMING JAY HAWKINS

JEOPERS CREEPERS
THE FOUR FRESHMEN

THE TIMEWARP
DAMIAN

MOONDANCE
VAN MORRISON

WEREWOLVES OF LONDON
WARREN ZEVON

POLTERGEIST (MAIN THEME)
JOHN WILLIAMS




"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" And here at the Haunted Mansion it's just not Halloween without our Mick's Mix Tape! Dripping with blood, fresh from the hands of Monsieur Myers himself, here's everything you need to get into the Halloween spirit!

CLICK TO PLAY

<http://bit.ly/micks-tape>



The image features two metallic, silver-colored skulls positioned on either side of two books. The books are resting on a deep purple, textured fabric background. The book on the left is titled 'LARGO'S UNTOLD STORIES' in large, orange, serif capital letters. Below the title is a photograph of three standing stones against a sunset sky. At the bottom of the book cover, it says 'LEONARD LOW' and 'The author of The Weem Witch'. The book on the right is titled 'The Weem Witch' in white, serif capital letters, set against a green, swirling, ethereal background.

LARGO'S UNTOLD STORIES

LEONARD LOW
The author of *The Weem Witch*

The Weem Witch

WEEM WITCH:

a young boy's pretended
illness sends 8 people through
the hell of the Witch trials,
resulting in death, despair &
murder;

THIS is the true story of the
Pittenweem Witches.

LARGO'S UNTOLD STORIES:

uncovered stories of the dark
past of Largo from murder,
witches, Romans, perverts,
Robinson Crusoe, lost arctic
explorers, cannibalism and
much more

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REC●

BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN

"we didn't want to go, we didn't want to kill them,
but its persistent silence and outstretched arms
horrified and comforted us at the same time..."

BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN

On June 8th 2009, Something Awful (SA) Forums launched a "Create Paranormal Images" photoshop contest. The brief was simple. To turn every day photographs into authentic, creepy-looking images and then pass them off as authentic photos on various paranormal forums.

The photos often depicted children in everyday scenarios and used a simple process called layering. Some of the results were truly terrifying, preying on parental fears - harking back to that most common childhood torment - 'The Boogeyman'. The photos were often embellished with fabricated eye-witness accounts and local folklore to make them all the more convincing. On June 10th, an SA "goon" by the name of Victor Surge (whose name was later revealed as Eric Knudsen) posted two simple yet striking photographs of unnamed children with a shadowy faceless creature in the background. The creature was simply described as "Slender Man", a mysterious shadowy figure who stalked children.



"We didn't want to go, we didn't want to kill them, but its persistent silence and outstretched arms horrified and comforted us at the same time..." – 1983, photographer unknown, missing - presumed dead.



Above is one of two recovered photographs from the Stirling City Library blaze. The photo is notable for being taken the day that fourteen children vanished and for what is referred to as "The Slender Man" photograph - the deformities being cited as film defects by officials. A fire at library occurred exactly one week later. The actual photograph was confiscated as evidence and on June 13th, 1986, it's purported photographer Mary Thomas was pronounced missing.

On June 11th, 2009, Surge continued the myth further by adding a picture and a fake doctor's account. The following day, SA user LeechCode5 posted a photo of a burning building with a Slender Man back story. SA user Trench Maul re-used the Slender Man character for his own story. The original thread of the story still remains active today has now enveloped over 50 pages of back story and mythos.

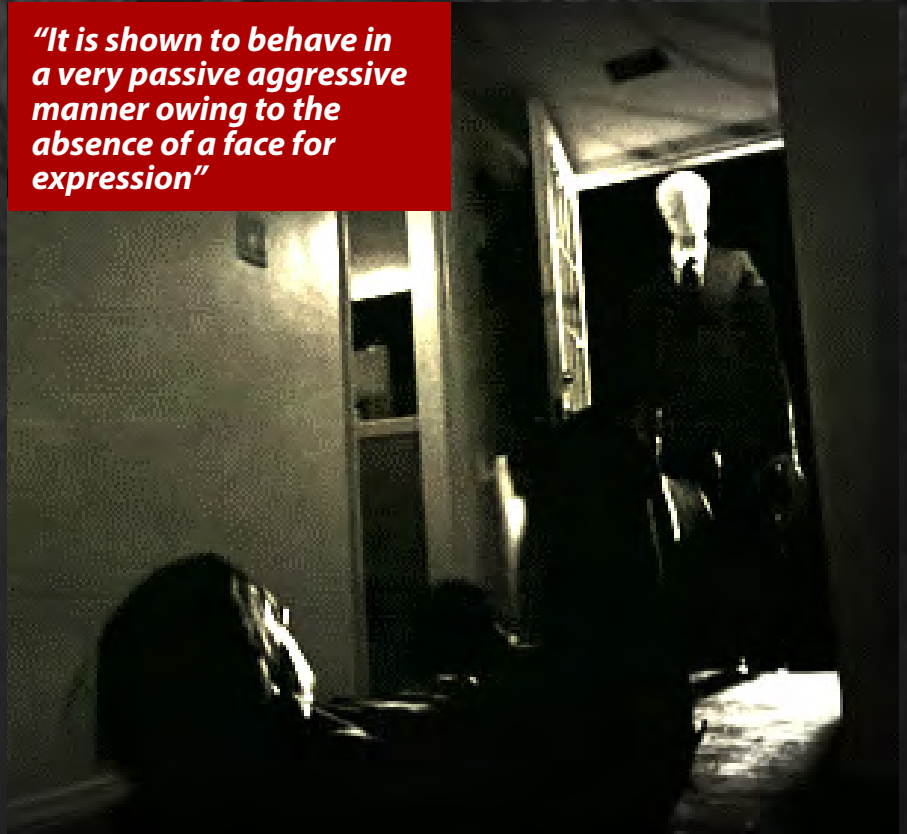


APPEARANCE

Slender Man generally appears as a tall humanoid figure in a black or grey suit, red or black tie, and white shirt, with no eyes, mouth, or clearly defined facial features. It has no hair, and generally has normal-

looking bare hands. Slender Man is depicted in photographs as between 6 and 15 feet tall, and in video as around 6-7 feet tall. It is shown to behave in a very passive aggressive manner owing to the absence of a face for expression, stalking targets for years at a time, torturing its' subject mentally for various unknown reasons. It is never shown in a benevolent light and is typically shown as a strong, malevolent force. This behavioural pattern has an uncertain reasoning behind it and exactly why he behaves in such a way has never been fully established. Anyone who has seen the cult J-Horror movie "Death Note" will instantly see a likeness. Slender Man is a true post-millennial Boogeyman that has the potential to grow and grow. Not since the creepy 1999 found footage movie "The Blair Witch Project" has a viral internet sensation spilled over to the mainstream with such power.

"It is shown to behave in a very passive aggressive manner owing to the absence of a face for expression"



HISTORY

Being of fictional origin, Slender Man has no accurate timeline, however SA contributors and internet forums have placed early sightings of Slender Man-like entities in early 1600s Germany where it took the dress of a knight or royal figure. Germanic fairy tales and mythology often makes use of the creatures to be used as cautionary tales for children.

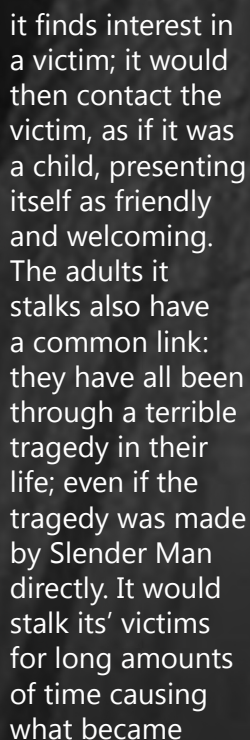
Mock-up photography from the early 1900s are the next confirmed sightings, where the Slender Man can be found in black and white and sepia photos and cuttings. There are multiple accounts of its' appearance at this time with documented sightings in the US, the UK, and Russia, with disturbing reports of child disappearances.

By the mid-1900s, accounts re-surfaced from German war zones, soldiers being its' primary targets. In America and Canada, reports of missing skiers and children followed, usually from heavily forested areas - which later formed the main location for the latest interactive games that can now be purchased on iPad and Android tablets and cell phones.

After a spree of building burnings from unknown causes, several deaths and a few surviving witnesses, it became apparent that the Slender Man had several un-nerving traits:



"THE GREATEST TRICK THE DEVIL EVER PULLED WAS CONVINCING THE WORLD HE DIDN'T EXIST." -CHARLES BAUDELAIRE, 1864



Slender: The Eight Pages is set in the middle of a forest during a dark, spooky night and is played from a first person perspective. The objective is to collect eight pages disbursed throughout various locations of the forest whilst avoiding the Slender Man, which appears when the player is near death. Slender Man can also teleport itself at will. The player is equipped with just a flashlight to see through the dark which it has only limited battery life and will eventually shut down permanently if left on for an extended periods of time.



34

Slender Man will not stop chasing the player's character even if all the eight pages have been collected. Once all the pages are collected, one is allowed to walk around for a couple seconds in silence until it appears behind you and ends your game. However the end credits can be viewed afterwards if all 8 pages were successfully collected, and new game modes are then unlocked. There is also a "grace period" in the very beginning of the game, during which Slender Man remains inactive for a few minutes or until the player collects the first page. However, the level (difficulty) increases the longer one goes without collecting pages. The end of this grace period is indicated by a repetitive stomping sound echoing in the background (also activated by collecting the first page), which is arguably emitted by Slender Man's movement, or perhaps the player's heartbeat. This sound is heard throughout the rest of the game & gradually gets quicker as more pages are collected, as well as several other layering sounds.



The game has spawned several games, photo apps, stories and enhanced or inspired editions, Slender: The Arrival being The Eight Pages true sequel.



NEWS UPDATE: WHEN FICTION BECAME FACT

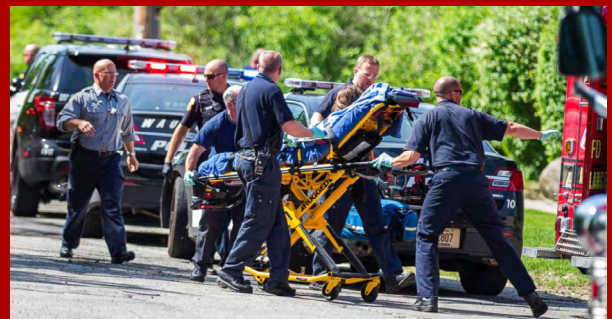
On April 23, 2014, a 13-year-old girl in Cincinnati, Ohio, attacked her mother with a knife, inflicting multiple wounds.

On May 31, 2014, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, two 12-year-old girls, Morgan Geyser (below left) and Anissa Weir (below right), held down and stabbed a 12-year-old classmate 19 times. Thanks to the intervention of a passing cyclist, the victim survived the attack. The two girls were charged as adults with first-degree intentional homicide and are facing up to 65 years in prison.



On June 8, 2014 in Las Vegas, a young married couple, 31-year-old Jerad and 22-year-old Amanda Miller, gunned down two policemen at a restaurant, then a shopper at a WalMart before killing themselves.

What do all three violent incidents have in common? **SlenderMan.**



The mother of the Cincinnati girl told a news channel that her daughter was wearing a white mask when she attacked her with a knife in the kitchen. The mother said, "We found things

NEWS UPDATE: WHEN FICTION BECAME FACT

she had written and she made reference to Slender Man. She also made references to killing." The girl is currently facing charges in juvenile court.

Geyser and Weir stabbed their friend because they believe committing murder is a first step to becoming "proxies" or acolytes of SlenderMan. They believe SlenderMan to be 100% real and lives in a mansion in the Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. Geyser believes SlenderMan watches her, teleports, and reads minds.

Although SlenderMan is an entirely fictitious character, "he" has spawned a deadly cult with many followers believing "him" to be real. Google lists more than 58 million "hits" for SlenderMan.



American sensationalist newspaper The National Enquirer spoke to three experts about the unsettling SlenderMan phenomenon.

Steve Hassan, an expert of cults and author of the new book *Freedom of Mind* says "SlenderMan is attracting a cult-like devotion. This is turning kids into killers. They are being encouraged to fantasize violence – and actually do it!" Curt Kissinger, a juvenile court administrator in Waukesha county where the Geiser-Weir stabbing took place, said, "I find this very frightening – (SlenderMan) motivates children to kill people!" Psychologist and author Dr. Judy Kuriansky, who has treated victims of cults, warned parents to be "terribly frightened" of this cult that's sweeping across U.S. schools. "Because SlenderMan has no face, kids can 'become' Slender Man. He is a mirror, and kids can project themselves into him. This is something we've never seen before – the emergence of a dangerous cult with a fictional leader!"

INTERVIEW WITH SLENDER MAN'S CREATOR – VICTOR SURGE

(real name Eric Knudsen)

Internet blogger Tomberry interviewed the creator of Slenderman for the KnowYourMeme.com website.

T : What was your reaction when people started creating pictures and stories about your newborn myth, in parallel with yours ? Did you think it would get that much popular and spread to others websites (4chan, Kongregate, Facepunch...) as quickly as it did, gaining the status of "Internet Urban Legend" and a meme?

VS : It was amazing to see people create their own little part of Slender Man in order to perpetuate his existence. I didn't expect it to move beyond the SA forums. And when it did, I found it interesting to watch as sort of an accelerated version of an urban legend. It differs from the prior concept of the urban legend in that it is on the Internet, and this both helps and harms the status of the Slender Man as one. In my personal opinion, an urban legend requires an audience ignorant of the origin of the legend. It needs unverifiable third and fourth hand (or more) accounts to perpetuate the myth. On the Internet, anyone is privy to its origins as evidenced by the very public Something Awful thread. But what is funny is that despite this, it still spread. Internet memes are finicky things and by making something at the right place and time it can swell into an "Internet Urban Legend".

T: Do you know about users "Ce Gars" and "KickYouInHalf", or overall, the Marble Hornets project itself?

VS: There have been a couple of e-mails, but I don't know them personally.

T: Did you help with their series of video (to these days, more than 26 episodes)? Was it more of a tribute to your work? What was your reaction toward it and their own popularity as a series on YouTube?

VS: I had nothing to do with their series of videos or any other that may have anything seemingly to do with the Slender Man. I'm keeping my projects close to my chest (in a plastic bag with the rest of my organs). I hope other groups create new concepts and make series of videos. Not necessarily a horror series or something about the paranormal, but productions using all sorts of subject matter and in multiple genres. I think the Marble Hornets project's strongest point is showing what you can achieve with this medium.

T: One year later, people still seem to continue to like the Slender Man character, enough to make the Marble Hornets crew consider about a new season. Do you still get recognition from time to time about Slender Man? Has that character changed your way of browsing the web?

VS: I do on occasion, but I like it to stay mysterious (does interview).

T: Do you have anything to add on what has been said, or any last word you would want to say to the readers?

VS: Before you had angels and succubi, and then ghosts and spirits, today we have shadow people and inter-dimensional beings. The Slender Man, and other newly created entities, are just the newest addition in the progression of a long, and very real, human tradition. You've seen him, now you can't unsee him.

SLENDER MAN GAMES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE APP STORES ON GOOGLE PLAY AND ITUNES AND ASSOCIATED WEBSITES.



THE EIDOLON STATE

Very quietly in the late summer of 2014, a rather brilliant Slender Man homage - The Eidolon State - appeared on the brilliant Dread Central website, social media sites and YouTube.

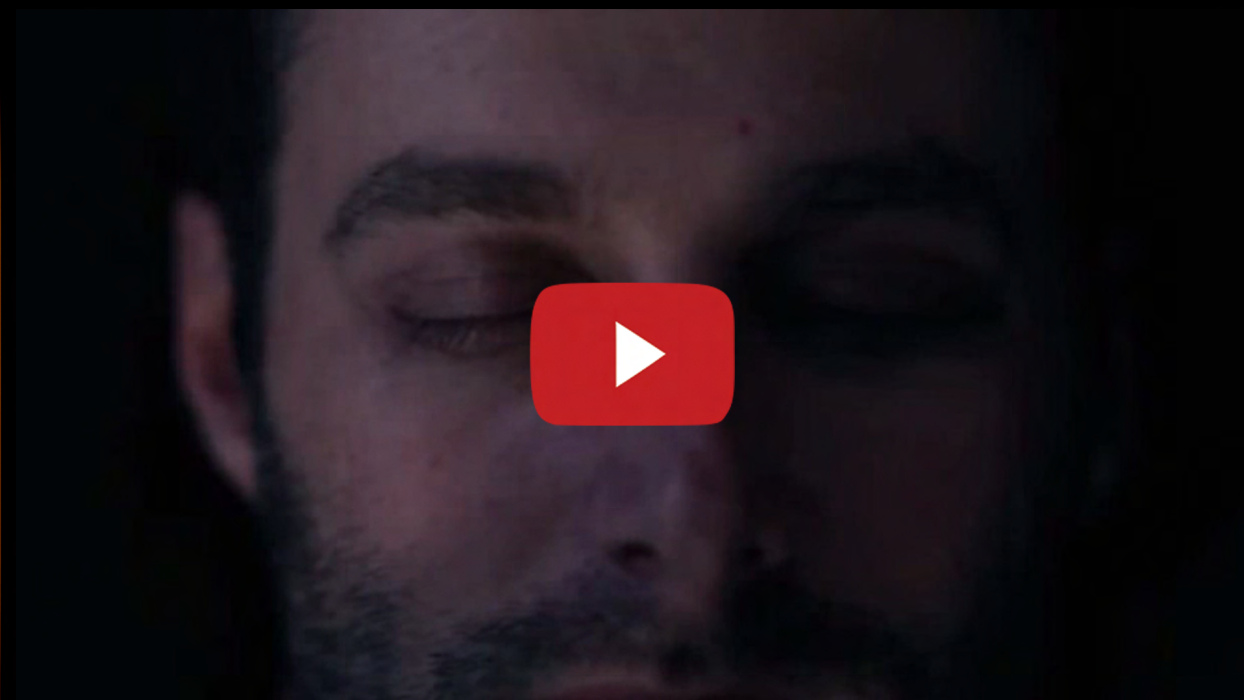
And what a treat it is!

"Along with this, most Slender Man films tend to use people in morph suits or morph masks, which we feel is not a correct portrayal of The Slender Man. Our film has been treated with a different approach. We are working on something that uses films such as The Conjuring or Sinister as a guide – detailed stories with beautiful cinematography and a true sense of horror. Along with this, our film never actually refers to the character as 'The Slender Man' but refers to him as 'The Tall Man.' Our main goal is to bring people the Slender Man short film we feel they deserve, similar to how Gareth Edwards is about to deliver the new Godzilla film that fans have been wanting."

[http:// www.facebook.com/pages/Freeze-Frame-Films/218299314865323](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Freeze-Frame-Films/218299314865323)

THE HAUNTED MOVIE THEATRE PRESENTS

DADDY



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UK FESTIVAL OF ZOMBIE CULTURE

SATURDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2014

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ZOMBIE FESTIVAL PREMIERE... Go Goa Gone (2013) Hindi

A group of friends along with members of the Russian mafia get stuck on a remote island off the coast of Goa, when new drugs turn the guests into zombies.

2nd UK SCREENING... I Survived A Zombie Holocaust (2014) New Zealand

A runner on a Zombie film set, has the day from hell when real Zombies overrun the set.

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ZOMBIE FILMS

O F A L L T I M E *

***in our opinion,
of course you're
going to disagree!**



Never in the field of human conflict as there been so much “human conflict” in the deliberation of an interesting debate that ensued, here, right here at the offices of Haunted Digital Magazine. We were discussing films, zombie films to be precise, and our favourite ones to be more precise. It was like the Battle of the Somme, with pretend bits of body parts flying everywhere, blood spurting out from every orifice as we deliberated and discussed our favourite zombie motion pictures.... And then just like Paul McCartney’s Pipes of Peace, we stopped, not for a game of football or to swap pictures of our loved ones, no, it was for the Indian take-away that we had ordered. A few naan breads, poppadoms and Lamb Tikka Baltis’ later our discussion rumbled on till the wee small hours. Even after agreeing on our Top 10 Zombie Films of all time, we still quibbled about the ranking, so we decided that the best solution was to each concoct our own top ten list of the final top ten, and then present the collaborative effort at some later point. Movies are chosen both for entertainment value and for their contribution to the genre.

10. WHITE ZOMBIE - 1932

The one that started it all. This classic horror is eerie, inventive, and suspenseful, without one gut being munched. It set the mythos for zombie films for years to come. White Zombie is the first zombie film on record, and it doesn't disappoint. With Bela Lugosi turning in a solid performance as the voodoo master and creepy images throughout, the film was eerie and suspenseful and engrosses to the end. The concept of the zombie had been brought into the mainstream consciousness in the US a couple of years before by the book *The Magic Island*. The zombies in this film are the classic voodoo kind, meaning pale, blank-eyed (but essentially intact) people, as opposed to walking corpses, but just as disturbing, if not more so, than ones that you would see in a Romero film. Perhaps because that they're that much closer to real life. The story is about a young couple (Madeleine and Neil) that comes to Haiti to get married in the house



of Charles Beaumont, who the bride-to-be befriended on a cruise. Unbeknownst to them, Beaumont is really hoping to persuade Madeleine to marry him instead, and when she refuses, he turns to "Murder" Legendre (Lugosi), the local voodoo master, for help.

Legendre, who has a multitude of zombies at his command, agrees to help but has plans of his own.

Lovers of gore will be severely disappointed, of course, but if atmosphere and suspense are what you're looking for, this film will satisfy.

9. BIO-ZOMBIE - 1998

This movie has action, horror, and suspense, but what really made it for are the heroes. The fact that Woody and Bee are so funny together and that their dialog is so great is what raises this film above others of its kind. It's funny and creative and has tons of zombies. The movie's heroes, Woody and Bee (Sam Lee) are two scoundrel type store employees who unknowingly bring the first zombie into the shopping mall where they work. Yes, that does seem to borrow from *Dawn of the Dead*, but this is entirely its own movie. Woody and Bee are just trying to scrounge up some cash and hit on the female employees of the nearby beauty parlour when zombies start popping



up. The dialogue between Woody and Bee is great. They're obviously great friends, but they are constantly giving each other a hard time. At first they appear to be complete slackers, but as the danger in the movie grows, they begin to show their true mettle. They have also obviously seen enough zombie movies to know

what to do when they are facing one (or several).

Bio Zombie combines humour and horror, not in The Evil Dead way, but in a new way altogether. It also has a couple of romances and, believe it or not, some personal growth thrown in. The movie gets more serious as it moves along...

TOP TEN ZOMBIE FILMS OF ALL TIME

Peter Jackson has a flair for gore, and he makes full use of it in this movie, but the gore is just a backdrop to the engaging storyline of a mild-mannered man who has to wade through a host of zombies to find love. Add in several truly original and bizarre ideas, and you have this classic. Long before he was filming *Hobbits* and *Orcs*, Peter Jackson directed this fun film, *Braindead*. You can see his love of special effects even this early in his career. *Braindead* is full of both gore and humour, usually combining the two if possible. A domineering mother is bitten by a Sumatran rat-monkey, dies, and becomes a zombie. Her meek son, Lionel, and his love interest, Paquita, are left with the problem of dealing with zombie-mum and all the people that eventually become zombies themselves. The script is excellent,



8. BRAIN DEAD - 1992

fleshing out Lionel and Paquita, as well as the various zombies in the film, until it becomes much more than a cardboard good vs. evil fight. The zombies in this movie retain many human qualities, including their sexual appetites.

Two of the zombies get it on, and produce a baby. (Apparently the gestation period of a zombie is a few days.) The baby zombie is one of the more entertaining ideas in the film.

7. 28 DAYS LATER - 2003



This movie keeps you on the edge of your seat and can partially convince yourself that there is an enraged zombie waiting quietly for me in the dark of the stairwell. A scary, engrossing movie. It can be argued whether or not the creatures in this film are zombies, but *28 Days Later* is definitely everything a

zombie movie should be. Apocalyptic, tense, scary, full of action, it had it all. While Raimi-style zombie films with tongue-in-cheek humour can be great, and Fulci-esque gore-fests have their place, a truly scary zombie film is a rare pleasure to see. Directed by Danny Boyle of *Trainspotting* fame,

28 Days Later displayed Boyle's flair for disturbing imagery and edgy writing. Like the best zombie films, the conflict was not only between the humans and the zombies, but also among the humans themselves, creating depth and meaning that other films lack. The film opens in an animal testing lab, where animal activists, unaware of the consequences, set free some animals infected with a virus called "Rage." The movie then cuts to 28 days later, when the main character, Jim (Cillian Murphy), wakes up from a coma in a hospital that appears to be abandoned.

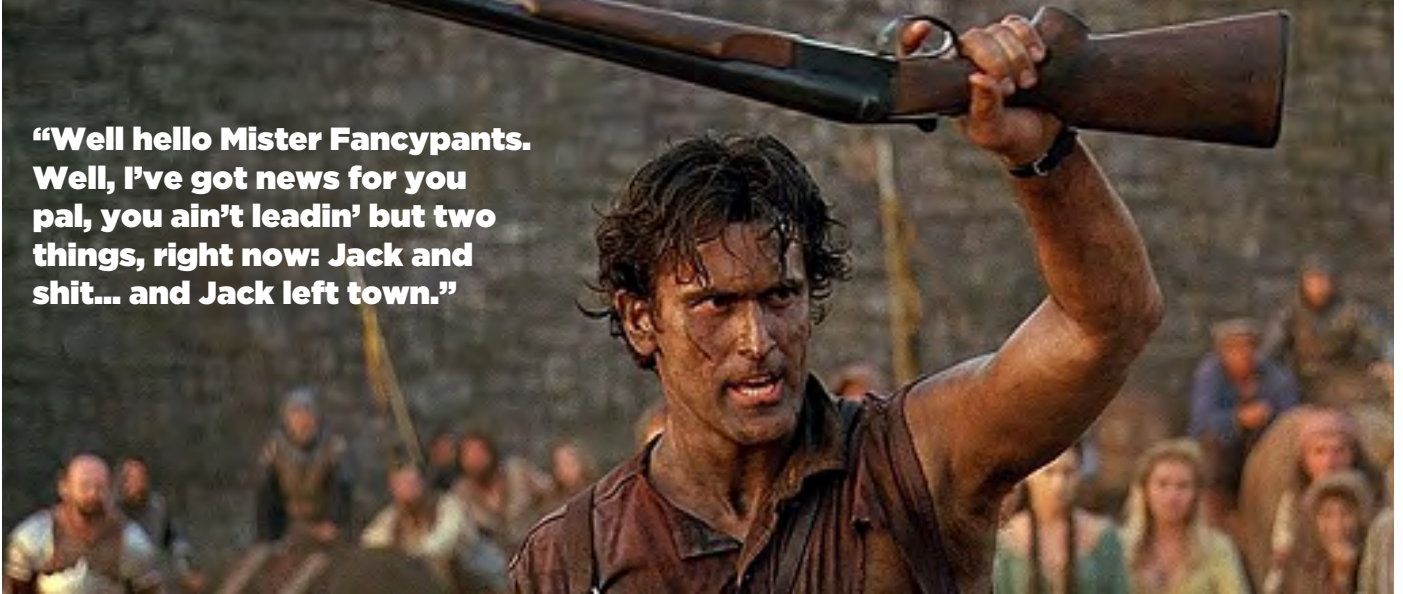
He eventually meets up with other survivors, who tell him about the "Infected," the people who have caught the virus and whose only thought is to attack humans.

The Infected aren't dead, they're people enraged beyond reason, who will attack as soon as they are aware of any people nearby. They aren't slow like classic zombies, but like zombies, they are mindless, and the virus can be transmitted through a bite or through the blood. Just an example of how this horror film is a cut above the rest.

TOP TEN ZOMBIE FILMS OF ALL TIME

6. EVIL DEAD III - ARMY OF DARKNESS - 1998

"Well hello Mister Fancypants. Well, I've got news for you pal, you ain't leadin' but two things, right now: Jack and shit... and Jack left town."



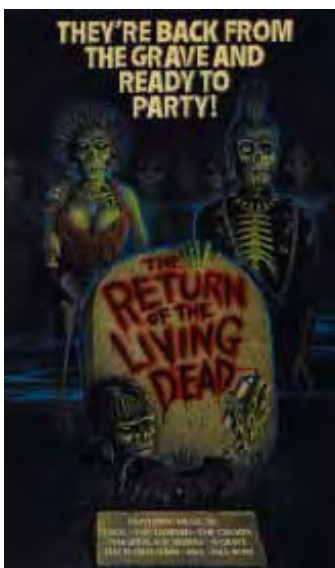
Raimi improves on the straight slapstick of Evil Dead II by adding an epic adventure, Ash-style, and more ways for Ash to harm himself. Campbell also perfects his smarmy portrayal of the hero. Army of Darkness continues the progression of the Evil Dead series, being even funnier and better than the second.

It's really more of an action movie, and while there is a veritable army of zombies in the film, there is really no creepy atmosphere except for maybe a few brief scenes. This one starts with a brief recap of Evil Dead II. Bruce Campbell manages to portray a hero who is at once both hapless and a consummate zombie

killer, alternating adroitly between laughs and action. The rest of the cast pretty much plays straight-man, but it works out really well.

This movie is a lot of fun to watch, but don't watch it if you want to be scared. As an action-comedy though, this is one of the best.

5. THE RETURN OF THE LIVING DEAD - 1985



If you're in the mood for a Romero-esque zombie film, then this could be the one for you. It's a low-budget film about two medical supply warehouse employees that accidentally release a gas that ends up causing all the bodies in the local cemetery to rise. The zombies in this film are clever and quick, making things tough for the heroes. Things are made harder by the interference

of a group of punks, who only become aware of the zombie problem until it's too late. The film is a lot of fun to watch, varying between comic and action sequences, and even though the low budget of the film is apparent, the story is still good. An interesting plot line was that in this movie, one of the characters discusses when the zombie gas reputedly caused an incident in the

past, which spawned a movie. Savvy zombie film viewers will recognize this as a reference to Night of the Living Dead.

This movie has one definite B-movie stamp, which is the presence of Linnea Quigley as one of the punk crowd. The cast has one or two other familiar faces, but overall they are relative unknowns. However, they still do a passable job.

TOP TEN ZOMBIE FILMS OF ALL TIME



4. ZOMBIELAND - 2009

packs it so full of humour, energy, and gusto that if it weren't about a zombie apocalypse, it would be downright joyous. But it's not really about the zombie apocalypse either. Yes, the world has been overrun with frenzied flesh-eaters, but the movie is really about the human need for companionship, even if it's someone with whom you

apartment number. Trust is slow to build between them, not just because of what they've already been through, but because of who they are. What really got this movie out of the pack, though, was the amazing cinematography. The slo-mo scenes were such explosions of colour, dynamism, and creativity.

“The first rule of Zombieland: Cardio. When the zombie outbreak first hit, the first to go, for obvious reasons... were the fatties.”

This movie is creative, vibrant, and funny and despite being set in a post-zombie apocalypse world, it's almost cheerful, and excellently done. This may be the most colourful, vibrant zombie film of all time. Director Ruben Fleischer

don't really have a lot in common. You never find out almost any of the characters' real names. They refer to each other by the places they want to go to, or the places they're from, or in one case, an

There is no shortage of mayhem and gore. The movie doesn't linger on gruesome deaths, though, like so many zombie films do, it just hits the right spot and then moves on, taking us along with it.

TOP TEN ZOMBIE FILMS OF ALL TIME



"We take Pete's car, we drive over to Mum's, we go in, take care of Philip - 'I'm so sorry, Philip' - then we grab Mum, we go over to Liz's place, hole up, have a cup of tea and wait for this whole thing to blow over."

3. SHAUN OF THE DEAD - 2004

This is the same kind of film as *Braindead* (combining horror and intelligent humour), but the storyline is even more interesting, and it's in a more classic zombie

film that manages to be funny, tense, there are references that zombie fans will catch, *Shaun of the Dead* is its own creature. Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg crafted a fine zombie

looking pretty grim when zombies start appearing around the city. Shaun rouses himself from his lethargy to defend himself and his friends. The cast has several good comic actors, and the writing is sharp, creative and displays a firm knowledge of what fans love to see in a zombie film. Like the best zombie films, though, there is more going on than just lots of zombies attacking.



film style. With a title like *Shaun of the Dead*, you might have fears that this is going to be a lame parody of Romero's classic. Nothing could be more untrue. Those that say it pays homage to zombie classics don't have it quite right either; although

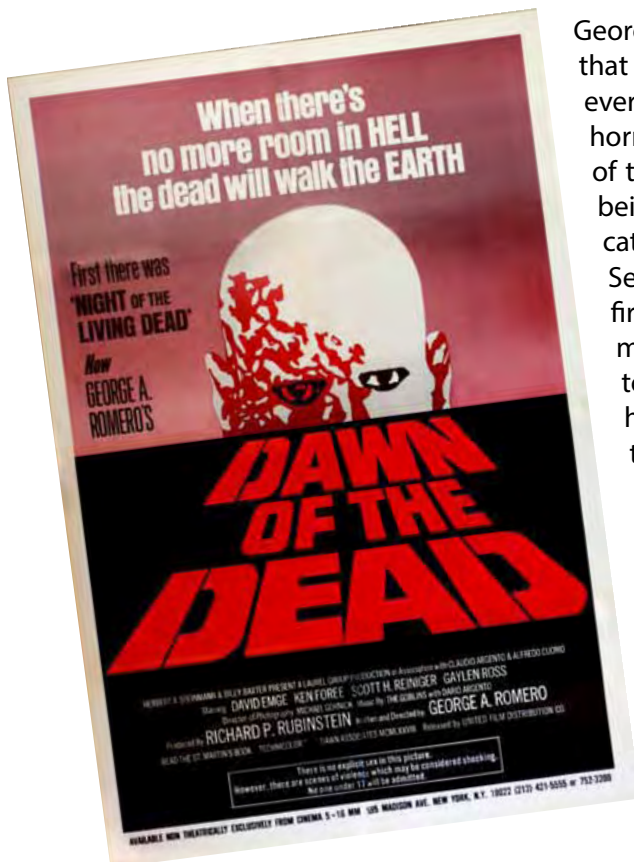
and dramatic, all at the appropriate moments. Shaun (Simon Pegg) is an unmotivated electronics store clerk who usually can't think of anything more interesting to do with his free time than go to the pub or play video games at home... Things are

The film bills itself as a romantic comedy with zombies, and that is indeed a major subplot of the story, but we get to see several of Shaun's relationships evolve under the pressure of the zombie threat. This was no budget film, either; a lot of care and time were put into the sets, makeup, and effects, resulting in some spectacular scenes.

TOP TEN ZOMBIE FILMS OF ALL TIME



2. DAWN OF THE DEAD - 1978



George A. Romero manages so well to convey the sense of apocalypse that his movies have such an impact. There is a desperation underlying everything that does not let up, and so an already well-written action/horror becomes even more gripping. This movie, as opposed to Night of the Living Dead, spawned many “sequels” in Italy, and the idea of being trapped in a large building (mall, warehouse, etc.) seemed to catch on much more than the idea of being trapped in a farmhouse. Second in Romero’s trilogy, Dawn of the Dead is even better than the first, Night of the Living Dead. Keeping with the tradition of the first movie, this sequel combines plenty of action with a well-written plot to keep you on the edge of your seat. For gore fans, there is a good helping of that as well, although most of it is not too extreme. For those familiar with the genre, this movie is known for its message of anti-consumerism. The zombies have come to a place that they were familiar with, indicating how obsessed they must have been with shopping during their lives. And things haven’t changed much now that they’re dead. They still lumber around vacuously, looking for things to consume.

The nice thing about Romero’s characters is that it is not just them against the zombies; there is also conflict within the group. This realism makes the movie more striking than some comic-book like band of heroes going out and slaying zombies. This is definitely a movie not to miss.

THEY WON'T STAY DEAD!

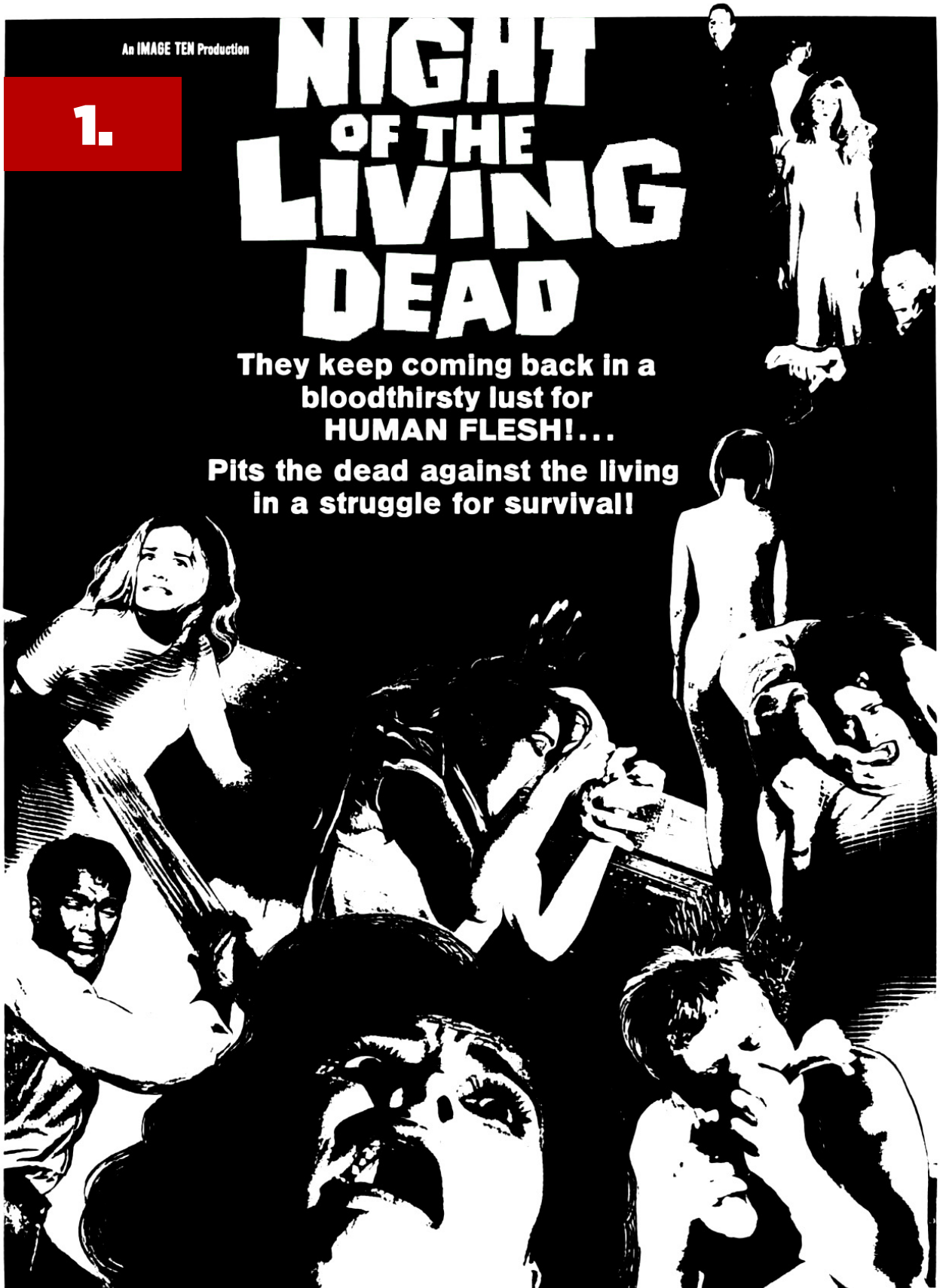
An IMAGE TEN Production

1.

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD

They keep coming back in a
bloodthirsty lust for
HUMAN FLESH!...

Pits the dead against the living
in a struggle for survival!



Starring JUDITH O'DEA · DUANE JONES · MARILYN EASTMAN · KARL HARDMAN · JUDITH RIDLEY · KEITH WAYNE



1. NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD - 1968



Although some of the ideas from Dawn of the Dead may have caught on more readily, *Night of the Living Dead* was first, and its impact on the world of zombie films is unquestionable. Eerie, tense, and imaginative, it is still a great film to this day. *Night of the Living Dead* was a turning point in zombie film history, influencing the genre in a permanent way and unfortunately inspiring several horrible imitations. Up until this point, most zombie films portrayed zombies as being created by someone for some nefarious purpose. In this film, written and directed by George Romero, the zombies are created by accident, serving nothing but their own savage

instincts. He also established the idea that being a zombie was communicable. In this film, this is merely because if you are dead, whether killed by a zombie or not, you are going to rise. This evolved in later films to zombie-ism being some kind of disease, where even if you are just bitten, you can turn. At any rate, this type of zombie dominated the zombie film genre thereafter. In the movie, radiation causes the dead to rise from their graves and pursue the living. A group of strangers, trapped inside a farmhouse, fight to keep the zombies out and stay alive, they are also fighting with each other on the best way to go about it.



This is one of the great characteristics of Romero's films, that the protagonists are all too human and must often overcome adversity within their own group

as well as from the zombies. This film is well-written and acted, and the effects are good without being over-the-top gory. Romero keeps things tense as the two main

human rivals in the film, Ben (Duane Jones) and Harry (Karl Hardman); argue about the best strategy, while the zombies outside the farmhouse keep gathering. Excellent film.



20 QUICK FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT H.P. LOVECRAFT



When Lovecraft was 3 his father went insane and died 5 years later, most likely from “general paresis of the insane” caused by syphilis.

Lovecraft became a prolific letter writer and by some accounts wrote 87,500 letters during his lifetime. He was also in the habit of dating letters 200 years earlier than the current date.

The statuette for the World Fantasy Award is a bust of Lovecraft, in honour of his writing. The award is informally referred to as a Howard.

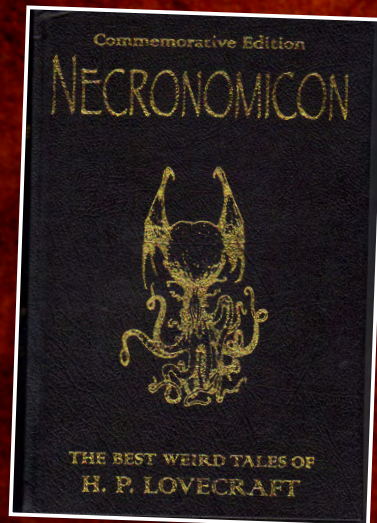
Lovecraft was once “killed” by fellow writer Bloch in the short story “Shambler from the Stars” and later killed Bloch in turn in a story called “The Hunter of the Dark.”

Although now considered one of the greatest early American writers of horror, Lovecraft never received his high school diploma.

Lovecraft’s first attempt at writing the “weird fiction” he would later become famous for is a story called “The Noble Eavesdropper.” The story (which some say he wrote at the age of 6 or 7) does not survive.

Lovecraft was friends with many contemporary writers of his time, including Conan creator Robert Howard, Robert Bloch and Fritz Leiber.

Although Lovecraft is most famous for creating the Cthulhu Mythos, he himself never used that term. Lovecraft referred to his own series of interconnected mythos stories as the “Arkham Cycle.”



Lovecraft only truly became popular after his death, when friend and fellow writer August Derleth founded Arkham House publishing to help keep Lovecraft’s work alive.

Lovecraft’s favourite author was Edgar Allan Poe, of whom he said “Poe was my God of fiction.”

All of Lovecraft’s stories written before 1923 are now in the public domain. However, it’s not clear who owns or owned the copyright to many of his works, and the status of stories written after 1923 is disputed.



Lovecraft created one of the few fictional books that was later turned into a real book: The Necronomicon. No less than 4 versions of the Necronomicon have since been created.

His first published work was a letter about “astronomical matters” that was printed in The Providence Sunday Journal in 1906.

While he died in 1937, Lovecraft didn’t actually get his own headstone until 1977, when fans pitched in to buy him one.

LOVECRAFT

Lovecraft isn't buried under his headstone, however, even though hundreds of people visit it each year to pay homage to him. (His body is buried nearby.)

Lovecraft in turn influenced numerous writers that came after him, including Stephen King, Clive Barker and Neil Gaiman. King called Lovecraft one of his biggest influences and "the twentieth century's greatest practitioner of the classic horror tale."

Although everyone knows Lovecraft was born on Aug. 20, 1890, and died on March 15, 1937, he's one of the few people whose "middle day" of life is also on record. A fan once calculated that December 2, 1913, was the exact halfway point of Lovecraft's life.

Lovecraft and his creations frequently appear in popular culture and have shown up in such diverse places as episodes of South Park and songs by Metallica. Although dead, Lovecraft has a Facebook page with more than 122,000 fans.

Lovecraft ghost wrote a story called "Imprisoned with the Pharaohs" for Harry Houdini, who later commissioned Lovecraft to write a book debunking superstition (which was never finished due to Houdini's death).

On Oct. 13, 1997, someone apparently tried to dig up Lovecraft's body, not knowing it wasn't under the headstone.



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DARK MORTE

INVESTIGATES



Welcome to the 3rd episode of 'Frights & Delights'. Mistress of the Macabre - Dark Morte investigates paranormal goings on at Hertfordshire's reputedly haunted Minsden Chapel with local psychic medium Andy Chaplin. Psychic since birth and an actively practising medium what will Andy uncover?

'Frights & Delights' with the hostess with the mostess, mistress of the macabre, queen of all things seductive and sinister

Dark Morte

ORB

CAPTURED SPIRITS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE
OR JUST A LOAD OF OLD BALLS?

WITH **LEE ROBERTS**

Halloween is just around the corner and you will all be having Paranormal parties, Ghost Hunts and taking lots and lots of photos and videos, but what if you capture something on those pictures, what do you do with it and how do you know if it's a loved one coming to see you to photo bomb your family picture.

What is the biggest question asked in the Paranormal World?

Do Ghosts really exist? How do I start my own Investigation team? How do I know if the activity is real? All very common questions, BUT over social media the most common question is, is this Orb I've caught a ghost or spirit?

Being a Paranormal Investigator / Ghost Hunter of the modern age I use social media quite a lot for many projects, from advertising events, tweeting videos, running Facebook groups and also answering many questions on the paranormal and I must get asked the previous question Six or Seven

times a day. Social media has made it not only easier to capture and share so called Paranormal Activity on camera but also to get instant access to those of us working in the industry day in day out.

I love a good Ghost Story, I enjoy hearing peoples experiences and I also like nothing more than helping someone who thinks they may have a ghost or haunting, yes there is a BUT coming on.. BUT Orb pictures are a real pet hate of mine and I hope this article will help with some of your questions.

If you go on Facebook right now while reading this and type in "paranormal" and go to the first

group it comes to, you will no doubt see within the first 3 posts there is a picture of someone's living room, house or garden, maybe sometimes in a graveyard or a dusty old warehouse, on these pictures will be marks, smudges or circles. They come in all different shapes or sizes and all different colours, so what are these mysterious objects and how did they get on these photos?

"They come in all different shapes or sizes and all different colours, so what are these mysterious objects and how did they get on these photos?"

You will no doubt also see people commenting saying they can see a face in the orb, or that the orbs are a "light energy" and that "light attracts light", not only will you see pictures but you will also see peoples videos and on these videos will be strange moving objects that float across the screen! What are these and why didn't the person see these until they took the video?

Once one of these pictures or videos are posted it starts a huge debate on what people see, faces, figures, grandma's, granddads, sometimes people say they see animals! You will also get Paranormal Investigators come on saying they are not sure what it is that you have captured but 99% of these can be explained. 99%? Really, I would argue that 100% of these can be explained.

Mediums, Clairvoyants and sensitive's will appear stating they can see loved ones and not to worry as for £35 they will look into the picture for you and explain all for you! What are they seeing that I am not?

The only thing to do is to look at facts, I quoted these facts on a picture a few months ago and a paranormal investigator, who will remain nameless, told me I

should do more Ghost Hunting as Orbs are the main source of their investigation. First of all I pointed out that I had probably done more Ghost Hunts than he has hot dinners and secondly explained that if his investigations revolve around orbs he should really find a new hobby.

So back to the facts, Orbs, light anomalies, mist can ALL be explained in way of dust, rain drops, snowflakes, moisture, pixel errors or camera faults to name but a few. None of which are paranormal and can explain any of these Pictures or Videos 100% of the time.

Don't get me wrong, I am not a sceptic and I do believe there is something out there otherwise I wouldn't do what I do, I just don't buy into the whole Orb argument, Its old, dated and explainable. I put



"Don't get me wrong, I am not a sceptic and I do believe there is something out there otherwise I wouldn't do what I do, I just don't buy into the whole Orb argument, Its old, dated and explainable."

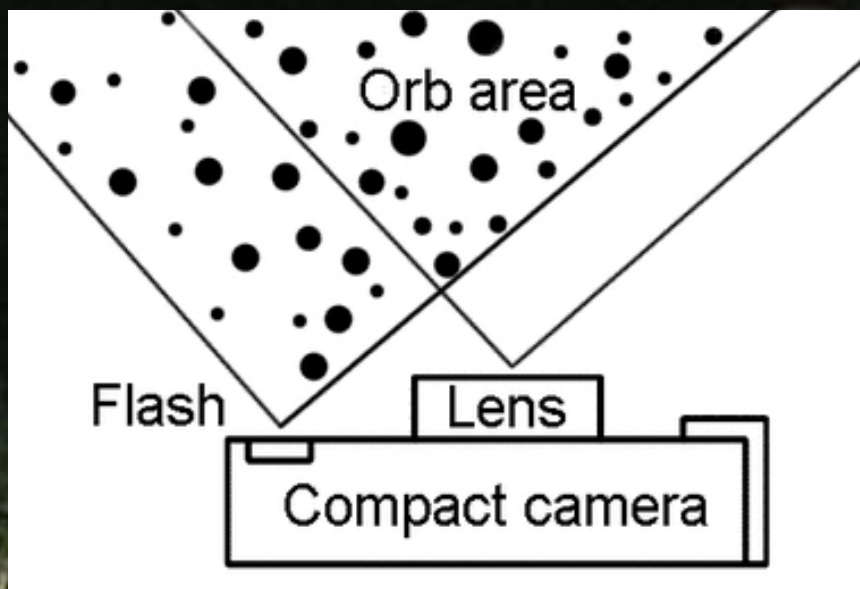
it down mainly to dated shows such as **Most Haunted**, when they started out back in 2002 their shows revolved around small orbs, lights, knocks, taps and bangs but back then they knew no better and every slightest thing was paranormal, they were not trained paranormal investigators just a bunch of presenters, camera men and make-up artists and to be

fair even now in 2014 that is the main part of their show, that has an impact on those watching the show and so now in 2014 with better camera phones we can see that activity by ourselves without having to purchase an all singing all dancing night vision camera. Shows like Ghost Adventures, Ghost Hunters and even UK Haunted here in the UK they have

all evolved, moved with the times and you see better technology, equipment and NO ORBS!

It's also a subject that is hard to explain to someone once they have been told by someone that it is their grandmother coming near to deliver a message, for me to stroll up and say "No sorry love, it's just dust". Saying that its dust doesn't mean that your house is dusty, I have been shot down so many times with people saying their house is not dusty so its not that!, we live in dust, we are dust, dust is everywhere even the queen will have dust in Balmoral Castle, doesn't mean the Queen Mother is nearby!

So how do you explain Orbs? Every orb captured MUST have light source, I had a discussion the other day where a member of the Haunted Events UK Facebook Group posted picture and said it was taken in complete darkness, but in the picture there was



clearly an orb glowing. Therefore there must have been a light source, even if it was a flash of the camera, the camera screen lighting up, street light, night light, moon light. Either way there has to be a light source from somewhere. The statement "Light attracts light" is complete and utter nonsense and used only by spiritualists. How can light attract light? Anyway back to where I was, the light source reflects on the spec of dust, raindrop, source and shines back at the lens causing it to glow or seem bigger than it is. Also if the spec of dust or rain drop is very close to the lens it will seem huge where in fact unless a light reflects from it you would never even know it was there.

So what about smudge like orbs or misty foggy effects, these can be down to condensation, someone smoking or an e-cig, maybe a cold day and its someones breath. When all of these float in front of a camera and captured on a still image or a video it does make a spooky effect but at the time you might



not realise that it was that cold of that the smoke was blowing that way.

Orbs have been explained 100% of the time to be non-paranormal and not the 99% that some claim, if someone has a photo or video that cannot be explained by experts I want to see it as I've not seen one yet.

Lee Roberts

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THE PONTEFRACT POLTERGEIST

IT WANTS CAKE AND IT WANTS TO EAT IT...

By Nichola Jeffery

THE PONTEFRACT POLTERGEIST by Nichola Jeffery



The Black Monk of Pontefract (also referred to as The Pontefract Poltergeist) is an alleged poltergeist haunting that occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s in the home of Joe and Jean Pritchard on 30 East Drive Chequerfield Estate in Pontefract. This particular activity is often noted by ghost researchers as unusual because of the purported physical apparition of a hooded figure that accompanied the otherwise typical disruptive behaviours of the supernatural entity. It is regarded as the most violent poltergeist haunting in Europe.

The disturbances now referred to as the haunting of The Black Monk of Pontefract allegedly began shortly after the Pritchard family moved into their home in the historic market town of Pontefract, along with their

13-year-old daughter Diane went for a holiday during the Bank Holiday, leaving their son Phillip (aged 15) behind with Mrs. Pritchard's mother, Sarah Scholes. While alone in the house, Sarah Scholes felt a cold gust of wind, despite the warm late-summer weather outside. When Phillip re-entered the house, he noticed white powder falling from mid-air all around the living room floor. Shortly after, puddles of water began appearing on the kitchen floor. A plumber was called in that evening, but he could not offer an explanation for the apparent leakage, as the surface underneath the linoleum floors were completely dry and there

was no evidence of ruptured pipes. When, that same night, a heavy chest of drawers began swaying without explanation, Mrs. Scholes and Phillip left the home to sleep at a neighbour's out of fear. When Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard returned home from their holiday, the disturbances had stopped, and thus they concluded that the phenomena must have had some logical explanation; especially since, for the following two years they continued living in the house without the slightest peculiar activity.

However, as abruptly as it ended, the poltergeist

“The main target of the activity during the second phase seemed to be the daughter, Diane, who was often thrown from her bed, and, in one instance, dragged up the stairs by an invisible hand that left lacerations on her neck. “

phenomena began again, this time plaguing the family for several years- though they refused to succumb and move from their home. The main target of the activity during the second phase seemed to be the daughter, Diane, who was often thrown from her bed, and, in one instance, dragged up the stairs by an invisible hand that left lacerations on her neck. Loud inexplicable crashing sounds were common, especially in the presence of outside company. Objects too went flying around the air and crashing, or dematerialising and then reappearing in a different location. Though on two occasions, exorcisms were attempted, these measures seemed only to agitate the situation. After a concerned family friend doused holy water throughout the home, the poltergeist responded by painting upside-down crosses on the living room walls and doors, and destroying the crucifixes that decorated the Pritchard house.

PHYSICAL MANIFESTATION

The physical manifestation of the poltergeist did not occur until quite late in the haunting. The figure first appeared to Joe and Jean Pritchard while they lay in bed. The two allegedly saw a black-cloaked figure (with the cowl over its head) hovering over their bed, but it soon dissipated. On a few subsequent occasions, other members of the home as well as visitors reported seeing a figure that looked like a monk, though no one ever glimpsed a face underneath the robes. The haunting abruptly ceased, never to occur again.



EXPLANATIONS

Many theories have been put forth to explain the disturbances, and especially, the unique apparition of the force behind them. Ten years after the Black Monk of Pontefract ceased his activity, paranormal investigator Tom Cuniff visited the Pritchard home and researched the story. At the mention of the monk, he wished to explore whether the apparition could be a remnant from the local priory which had existed from 1090-1539, and whose gallows were just across the hill from the Pritchard home. Mr. Cuniff proposed in his writings that a Cluniac monk that had existed during Henry VIII's reign that was hanged for the rape and murder of a young girl.

Hence, the poltergeist activity focused on Diane and could be interpreted as sexual in nature. Colin Wilson also investigated the Black Monk of Pontefract. His theory proposed that poltergeists find their energy in unhappy households and that tension between Phillip and Mr. Pritchard made the home susceptible. Also, the area surrounding the Chequerfield Estate, according to Wilson, favoured manifestations because they contained particular spiritual force from their religious histories. Hence, the location was key to the poltergeist activity. The Doncaster Research Group also looked into the disturbances, and concluded that Philip faked the entire haunting.

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The Pontefract Castle which lies near the Chequerfield Estate is now a popular tourist destination, both because of its rich history (King Richard II is thought to have been murdered there), and because of the reported sightings of a black monk walking from the kitchen to the Queen's Tower. Whether this apparition of a monk is related to the Pritchard families remains inconclusive.



The 2012 film *When the Lights Went Out* follows the story of the Black Monk of Pontefract. The film is directed by Pat Holden (*Awaydays*) and produced by

“The area surrounding the Chequerfield Estate, according to Wilson, favoured manifestations because they contained particular spiritual force from their religious histories.”

Bill Bungay (*Moon*) and Deepak Nayar (*Tucker and Dale vs. Evil*). Director Pat Holden has a connection with the story – he considers Jean Pritchard to be his aunt, according to issue 293 of the *Fortean Times* in the article “Shooting the Lights Out”. This article also states that his mother was a principal witness to these events. The story is set in Yorkshire in 1974, when The Maynard



Family (changed from Pritchard), Len (Steven Waddington), Jenny (Kate Ashfield) and their daughter Sally (Tasha Connor), move into their new family home, only to discover that the house already inhabited by a “presence” of a malign nature. The film also stars Martin Compston and Jo Hartley. The film had its world premiere in Rotterdam but before

that Haunted were invited to a screening of the film INSIDE the actual house – too scared to go ourselves we sent one of our readers (and her mum) who lived in Pontefract, this is her report from the night!!

“We arrived at 30 East Drive on the Chequerfield Estate Pontefract where the most violent poltergeist “The Black Monk” in

Europe is supposed to reside at around 5.50pm. We were greeted outside the door by the British Paranormal Investigations “BPI” before entering the house. Upon first impressions the house looks like any normal house with light coloured walls and patterned carpets and didn't feel oppressive. There were other paranormal teams there “Simply Ghost Nights” and Kester Dlee a member of “Ghost Nights Events” as well as medium Graeme Fryer, Richard Felix and Psychic Medium Chris Conway. There was also a freelance reporter called Jonathan Brown and some people from the media group of the film that is based on the Black Monk “WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT”. Tasha Conner (plays Sally in the film) arrived with her mum and sister for the screening of the film, when asked if she was ever scared while making the film she stated no but she didn't know at the time that the film was based on true events.

Carol Fieldhouse the next door neighbour for 24 years was here



talking to people about her experiences within this house as she has the keys and looks after the property bought by film director Pat Holden who is the cousin of Diane Pritchard. She showed me some pictures which she took from her mobile phone of things she had caught while checking in on the property, 2 pictures that interested me was a black mass that covered the stairs that looked like it was coming down the stairs and the second picture shows it to be going back up the stairs. She has stated that she has seen the black monk on more than one occasion and describes him as being 5ft 5in with red eyes that glare at her. She has even claimed that people have been pushed down the stairs by this dark entity. She stated that if

anyone else had moved in to this property then they would have left within 12 months because the black monk had told her that basically this house belongs to him. Her own property which is adjacent to this one has been subjected to some strange goings on as well even more so now as this property has been vacant for 4 years due to Jean Pritchard now residing in a care home, ranging from coins appearing out of nowhere and a pair of gloves that seemed to move about on their own. Medium Graeme Fryer stated that there were "ley lines" running under the house and most probably other houses on this street in the form of a water well attracting spirits to the area.

We had time before the screening of the film to have a wonder

around the house. Upstairs in the first bedroom which would have been Diane's it felt a bit heavy in the air when we stepped into the room but apart from that was fine. We moved onto the second bedroom which would have been the parents but everything felt fine in there although we were told about the sound of a bar and hangers dropping in the built in wardrobe and upon investigating it nothing had moved. The last room to check out was the box room and again that felt fine.

The film in general was very good and it will have you on the edge of your seats or hiding behind your cushions. The only disappointing aspect of the film was the fact that it was filmed on a set in Wakefield and not the original house which in my opinion would have added

THE PONTEFRACT POLTERGEIST by Nichola Jeffery

more realism to actual events. Now even before the film had finished my mum and me got our first paranormal experience of the evening when we both heard a child's cry coming from upstairs which only lasted a few seconds and the faint sound of footsteps which another person had heard as well, Andy Graham from "BPI". At first we thought that someone was upstairs but after checking that everyone was accounted for downstairs realised that things were slowly coming alive in the house as the sun went down.



At about 10.30pm as stuff was being set up all over the house ready for the witching hour to get underway "Simply Ghost Nights" decided to use a Ouija board upstairs in the box room with little success and after blessing the room packed up and went home. Richard Felix and Chris Conway would have liked to stay but they had other venues to go to so they left and a few other people went as well which left 10 of us to find out if the stories were true. Just before the witching hour struck Andy Graham



who is a medium/hypnotist and in charge of "BPI" had us in complete darkness apart from a candle flickering in the background stand in a circle and hold hands while he bathed us all in a white light of protection. The place we all went upstairs to first was the daughter's bedroom where what looked like orbs were caught on camera just inside the door. In this room we tried some glass moving and although by asking the spirits or spirit questions the glass did move but only slightly although it pushed itself off the table. We did try table tipping but nothing happened.

"He wanted us all to leave he swore at us, shouted at us and at one point threatened me cos I told him we weren't leaving and that he didn't scare us."

In the parents room we tried the glass pushing again and still it only moved ever so slightly. We found out that although you normally need about 4 people to help move the glass it seemed to come alive when just myself and my mum were doing it. At this point when we asked the spirit questions sometimes the



EMF reader would shoot all the way up to red and at the same time we noticed the change in Andy Graham when his breathing changed dramatically as it looked like the spirit in the room was taking over him to communicate with us. I knew then when he spoke and the voice sounded nothing like Andy's that we had the presence of the black monk in the room with us and he wasn't very happy about it. He wanted us all to leave he swore at us, shouted at us and at one point threatened me cos I told him we weren't leaving and that he didn't scare us.

THE PONTEFRACT POLTERGEIST by Nichola Jeffery



As the rest of the night progressed there was a growl heard and knocking in reply to questions being asked it in the daughter's bedroom and that was caught on EVP. On the landing at one point Kester Dlee heard what sounded like a choking cough at the top of the stairs and he had actually caught it on his Dictaphone which he had placed

entity that had taken over Andy had at one point tried to take her over but couldn't although she felt unwell and had to step outside for a bit. Graeme Fryer had to leave at one point through the night as he was due in Scotland so that left just nine of us. My mum was brave enough to try some "scrying" which involves sitting in front of a mirror with a candle

"The dark entity that had taken over Andy had at one point tried to take her over but couldn't although she felt unwell and had to step outside for a bit."

at the top of the stairs and left running. Other members upstairs at the same time in one of the rooms heard the same noise so we knew the noise had not come from one of us. Lisa Marie Baxter "BPI" and Kester Dlee were in the box room when the blow up bed that was in there was kicked from underneath them and she had her shirt yanked back. The dark

and just to stare at her reflection while if there are any spirits in the room will have the chance to enter her aura and if that happened her face would start to change and possibly her voice if the spirit wanted to communicate. We were delighted when after a few minutes of Andy talking to her having her relax we started to notice changes on my mums face,

first her nose changed to a longer more prominent one then her face seemed to fill out more and she aged quite a bit, even her ears grew in size we couldn't believe it. Things then started to heat up when my mums breathing got heavier and the anger on her face was unbelievable. Then she spoke but it wasn't her voice this was a voice of a male and even though it didn't look like it he was shouting at us and swearing and telling us to leave. This was all caught on video. Before Andy bought my mum round Dave Stead another member of "BPI" suddenly felt unwell so we all left the room pretty quick. When asked my mum had no recollection of what went on the only thing she could remember was seeing her nose change shape right in front of her eyes.



Next I volunteered to do some automatic writing and that was done in the parents' bedroom as well. I honestly didn't think anything was happening due to the fact that to me the wooden board I had my finger tips on was hardly moving at all but it was in reply to what Andy was asking. When the wooden board moved right to the edge of the table we knew the entity didn't want to play anymore so we could actually look at what was drawn. Needless

THE PONTEFRACT POLTERGEIST by Nichola Jeffery



to say I think the colour drained from my face as my mum and I saw what was on the paper. There was an X and an arrow pointing towards me and a drawing of a lady with what looked like a noose round her neck. My mum had also felt something near her by the wall and told Andy who said he could sense it as well. When I went downstairs for a break my mum and Andy decided to go in the box room for a bit to see if anything happened and as the spirits were in the mood to show off things did happen in that room. My mum just happened to look up at the light shade in the bedroom and she saw a face covering one side of it, she asked Andy if he could see what she could see but he couldn't so she believed that she was starting to see things the later into the night it got. But when she looked back towards the light

shade the face was still there and now it appeared to be talking but no words were coming out that anyone could hear.

While downstairs I was able to have a chat with some people to find out what they thought of the night so far and the response was mixed. The last thing I was able to try that night was something called "dowsing rods" which Lisa had used earlier in the night and had seemed to make contact with the spirit of a little girl. There was in fact 3 spirits that could be felt in the house the male presence and that of the little girl but also that of a woman. I was sat in the only chair in the front room while I used the "dowsing rods" and had made contact with a spirit in the room with us that wanted to communicate. I found out when I asked it to point the rods in the direction of where they were it

swung round to my left shoulder but never found out anymore after that so I have no idea who it was. It was getting pretty late on in the early hours of Tuesday morning and it seemed as though things were calming down. The "BPI" team and Kester Dlee decided to stay upstairs for the remainder of the night leaving EVP machine and Dictaphone on hoping to catch anything else while they tried to get a couple of hours sleep. I found out that Dave Stead had his switched off mobile in his back pocket and at one point was lying on his back on the floor when he felt it moving up his leg and nearly out of his pocket until he grabbed hold of it and stopped whoever it was from trying to take it, and Kester Dlee heard noises in the box room where he decided to sleep on his own and the blow up bed he was laid on was kicked hard up the top end just missing his head. In all the evening was very eventful and I have the British Paranormal investigations and Kester Dlee GhostNightsEvents" to thank for looking after us all."



When The Lights Go Out is available from Amazon and all good DVD Stockists.

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**"HELLO, MY NAME IS MERRICK ALORA,
I AM A MEDIUM, I AM PSYCHIC, AND
I'M ALSO A PART TIME MECHANIC AT
MERRICK'S MOTORS, WHERE WE PUT
THE SPIRIT BACK INTO DRIVING. "**

TAKING THE CAKE

**WITH
MERRICK ALORA**



Now I have been a professional medium for quite some time now and I would like to give you a short introduction into what I do and where I'm from.

It all started back in 2005 when I, myself, Merrick Alora was on a mission to find a girlfriend. I was currently taking dance classes every Thursday night after work when my dance partner, Karen suggested I would have a better chance of pulling if I attended a different event at the St Maggie's Church in Toxteth, (a district of Liverpool), but she wouldn't be joining me so I took this as a hint that Karen was not interested, she was clearly "taking the cake"!

The following Friday I decided to go down and see what all the fuss was about. I had taken Karen's advice too about smartening up, so I had splashed out on a new suit with a lovely purple shirt. This was a special occasion as I had never worn a suit before.

I walked into the hall and was surprised by how quiet it was, I

me two pieces of paper, one was a seating plan, the other with a big number 47, I assumed I was to pin to my shirt, which looking back now is quite unique as 47 is my favorite number and has been ever since that night. I found my allocated seat and sat down, I felt like I was on a budget flight to somewhere cheap and nasty... like Spain.

"I sensed this really old lady standing next to me, she seemed to appear from nowhere and scared the crap out me"

had been assuming that it was another dance class but as I looked round I realized it wasn't, just then I sensed this really old lady standing next to me, she seemed to appear from nowhere and scared the crap out me, she could of been hidden away somewhere playing an organ and pop out to frighten kids on Halloween. Creepy. She passed

The atmosphere in the room was electric, I'm not sure the place had been pat tested in quite some time, the lights kept dimming and, for the record, it wasn't the old organ lady leaning on the switch on the wall. The smell of incense and aged wood filled the air with the feel of death around every corner and I wasn't feeling at all comfortable but at this stage I had





**" I then heard laughing
which could only be described
as coming from within me.
"Bugger me!!" I thought I had
said out loud and laughingly
the voice said "That's very
kind but I'll have to decline
you're offer"**

already paid my admission fees so I was going nowhere.

On one side of the hall there were 6 curtained off booths, outside each one was a chalk board with a number on it. A bell sounded, the curtains opened and some old sad looking person would move out and along to the next booth, the number on the board outside of the booth would be rubbed out and changed by organ lady and so it went.

Eventually it was my turn so I stood up, walked to the first booth and entered through the curtain expecting something boss, maybe a woman, maybe this was a sad speed dating meeting or something but what I did find was an empty chair and a candle, which was quite fitting for a church. I sat down in the chair and looked around the booth wondering what was going to happen next, nothing did and I sat there for what seemed like 10 minutes but was probably more likely only 2. Nothing, not even a tumble weed and then the bell sounded informing me it was time to move to the next booth.

I was really confused at this point and I was considering why I was sitting in an empty booth.... and I had paid £20 for the privilege too. Why not just give up and go for a late night curry and call it a night I thought to myself when suddenly I heard this voice "Are you going to say something?" It was very off-putting because it was a well-spoken middle aged sounding Englishman, I had been expecting a female after all. The accent was very "posh", the kind you hear in American sitcoms. "Are you going to say something?" he repeated,



I spun round and jumped up off my seat knocking it over in the process.

Looking around the booth expecting to see who was talking to me, but I couldn't see a thing. I then heard laughing which could only be described as coming from within me. "Bugger me!!" I thought I had said out loud and laughingly the voice said "That's very kind but I'll have to decline you're offer" I felt like I was back in school sniffing glue again, not something I recommend.

"I've been here week after week for years and I've had the same old morons passing through, but you are different, you show promise.... you'll do."

All I could say was, "What is going on?" I had no idea who or where I was aiming the question to but I had to get answers and I had to get them now. The voice responded with a comforting tone. "I've been here week after week for years and I've had the same old morons passing through, but you are different, you show

promise.... you'll do. My name is Peter, to seal this bond you have to place my ring upon your finger, the ring in question is placed on the shaft of the candle but to remove it you must grab it with you're fingers and slowly lift it off without burning your fingers on the flame."

At this point I was game for anything. I was too intrigued not to follow this through so I accepted the challenge and tried to slowly release the ring from the

candle. I got close to the flame when suddenly I heard Peter shout "BOO" very loud, I jumped and lost all concentration and at this point I burned myself trying to free the bonding ring. The ring suddenly dropped to the floor and I was left blowing the wax off my burnt fingers. I could hear Peter laughing at me. "You have failed in the first

of many tests," I told him that it was harder than it looked and I wondered how he would do it to which he replied that first thing he would of done was blow out the candle. We both broke out into laughter and, I picked the ring up off the floor. Peter told me to place it on my index finger which I did. Ever since then I have worn mangy bonding rings. I have a ring for each test, each ring tells a story about Peter's bond with me and that's how we met.

Have you seen in the papers recently the news about the black eyed peas? Sorry, Peter is getting confused, the black eyed children? They're everywhere!



BLACK EYED CHILDREN

This is the hot topic of the moment. For me, it's something of a misnomer.

It is reported world wide, that individuals are being accosted by singles and groups of such manifestations. Some are swiftly disappearing screamers and some are said to be more vocal and persuasive. The theories relating to such events vary from the persuasive to the frankly ridiculous. Peter and I have discussed this and our view is, that if they exist, they may be related to my friend Derek's, Subterraneans.

Doesn't matter what you believe, if you're in a circumstance where you have such an encounter. Don't leave any kind of an opening that can be used against you. If you feel as if you're in an unsafe environment, such as a dark and remote space, get out of there ASAP and ask yourself this question. How did my lifestyle get to be so screwed up?

Below: Scariest Places Annette Pieling and a very large door. No really, it's a very large door. Just look at it. Ooooh!



PETER'S POINTERS! MESSAGE PETER WITH YOUR PROBLEMS

Over the years I have seen many changes in our society, some forever, not for better, some have passed and some remain.

But now our culture is going through so many changes which are more about money and quick fixes than people and improved circumstances.

This grieves me!

After the work of generations, I watch and can do nothing, whilst great concepts are destroyed from within and the principles they were set up to protect are whittled away by the uncaring and complacent.

Do you care enough to voice your opinion and see if the majority is really that uncaring?

Contact Merrick and I at:

@merrickalora or on [Facebook.com/merrickalora](https://www.facebook.com/merrickalora)

SCARIEST PLACES

It's a very exciting time for myself at the moment, I have just been approached by a lovely couple that want to put together a show and would like me to be their medium! Well I have jumped at the chance. It's called Scariest Places and it's going to be aired on **NotLivingTv**. It's a brand new paranormal channel that focuses on the world of spirits and unexplained phenomena. I was approached by Annette Pieling and Carl BT, who own a company called **Take the Cake Productions**. They have asked me to be their professional medium, travelling up and down



the country investigating sightings of alleged paranormal activity. We went off to film a pilot episode in Kelvedon Hatch, Secret Nuclear Bunker and if it all goes well we will have a brand new show to give to you all. The cast are lovely, they involve a



Ghostbuster or a psychologist called Chris O'Beef, he overlooks anything that can be explained and rules them out and things that can't be explained are left for us to investigate. We have our in house historian Dick Feelit. When we are off camera he is the first person to make me laugh and he never takes life too seriously! We clashed heads when we filmed the pilot but the more time we have spent together the more I realize that we are becoming



really good friends! I've just been told that we have a new member of the team joining us, I've not met him yet but his name is Simon Healy and from what I have been told he is really excited to be joining the Scariest Places team. From what I've heard he's turned up to the first location a month early! Sounds like a kid at Christmas to me!

So if you would like to see our Pilot episode then feel free to find on the links below on my page or on Take the Cakes. I hope you enjoy our new paranormal show coming to your screens very soon; it's probably the Most Haunted program out there...

So come and find me on social media and get involved.

Merrick

www.facebook.com/TakeTheCakeProductions
www.facebook.com/MerrickAlora

'You show me auras and I'll show you mine.'

<http://www.shelleypalmersuddenlypsychic.com>

"Over forty you are classed as almost 'dead' (but possibly with just enough life to give one last shag before expiring)"

The Decree Absolute heralded a man-less stage prompting me to turn to the dating columns in the local newspaper in order to remain part of the 'Norm'. I had become enlightened enough at that stage to discover that 'Norm' did not just refer to Edna Everage's hen-pecked husband but encompassed a wide range of values, dictated by the media and one's peers, basically giving rules around the acquisition of a suitable man – and insisting that being a single woman, particularly over a certain age, was not a desirable status. Bridget Jones also discovered this fact many years later.

I was no Bridget Jones though. What was she, thirty-something? I was well...a bit older. A lot older. The years had passed and dating became transformed by the Internet. Not always in a good way. The Internet dating sites see things differently from real life. Whilst there are cougars, in the big world outside all enjoying liaisons with much younger men, this just doesn't happen so much in the Internet world. If you are a woman under twenty, it's fine. Ditto, possibly up to thirty. Over thirty and we are entering the 'mature realm'. Over forty you are classed as almost 'dead' (but possibly with just enough life to give one last shag before expiring), whilst any unfortunates over fifty enter roughly into the 'exhumed' category. The 'exhumed' need to gain some sort of life force from a dubious source and then perhaps they have a small chance of a date on Zombie Dating Sites but no chance of obtaining a man from the 'Norm' category.

Unfortunately, I was not zapped by lightning or bitten by a vampire, both of which might have elevated my status from 'exhumed' to the next level above, so I just had to chance my luck on an ordinary site and wait to see what responses I got.

I had many reservations. It was not like the 'old days' whereby one left a 'phone message on a specified number to the intended date. There was a lot of stuttering, umming and ahing and you managed to say that you thought you were reasonably attractive and still breathing. The latter statement usually helped. But now with all the new rules of Internet dating, one had to be witty and dynamic. I tried, I really tried. I said I was 'fit due to my pole dancing hobby'. However my nervousness affected my typing and I found I had advertised myself as a 'git, due to my pole dancing hobby'. I didn't really expect any responses to this, particularly as I had stated my age. But, as it happened I was contacted by two men at that time, who were obviously into necrophilia. I blew one out immediately as despite the obvious attraction he had for the elderly, he came across beyond the 'Norm' to such a degree that I reckon he would have been totally boring. Also, he said he would like to take me to a romantic film and then we could have fish and chips afterwards. No alternative was offered. I hate fish.

The remaining guy stated he was six-foot-four, but when I contacted him, he said he was actually six-foot-seven but there had been a pick-list, which had not gone up to this height. I wondered why I had been drawn

DIARY OF A PSYCHIC DIVORCEE

WITH SHELLEY PALMER

to him. He was heavily bearded – possibly hiding a huge chin – with penetrating black eyes, that looked like the eyes of a crow. Yet somehow he had this magnetism about him. Eventually, after e-mailing each other a few times I agreed that he could 'phone me. I was then subjected to a list of questions, so comprehensive I was surprised I was not asked the size of my cervix. *Was I still interested in sex? How tall was I? Exactly what sort of clothes did I wear?* The list went on and on. He obviously had not studied wooing techniques. Most men haven't. Anyway despite this I agreed to meet up with him. However, the night before we were due for our date I had a rather disturbing dream. I saw my intended date burying two women in the woods – it looked like Epping Forest. Obviously being psychic, I was not one to ignore what felt like some sort of premonition and warning. I remembered the creepy monotone he had used to ask me questions, so I contacted him and said something had 'cropped up' (mainly my urge for survival!). Perhaps he had thought that as I was nearly on my last legs anyway, he might as well finish me off in a remote spot and save my nearest and dearest the expense of a funeral. However, looking at his photo again and the resemblance to Rasputin I doubted that philanthropy was his prime motivation!

Somehow the 'Norm' seemed more attractive after that and I re-contacted the first guy and predictably had the most boring date ever. But at least I'm still alive!

THE LOWDOWN ON WITCHES

ANNE GUNTER: TWO VERY RED CARDS AT THE FOOTBALL MATCH



The 15th Century Bear pub in North Moreton, one of the two bases for the warring football teams on May 1598...

It is run today by Patrick and Lucy Marples - now the only pub left!

"It's May 1598 and hello to everyone from YE OLD FOOT THE BALL FOCUS, today's game is a cracker. It's between two rival taverns in North Moreton near Oxford, today's teams are managed by the great village rivals Brian Gunter and the great Walter Gregory. Both teams today field around 60 players each, from a population of 300. Anyway who cares... lets kick of the action ...and with a sizeable support from both sides the game kicks off..."



The Lowdown: Anne Gunter

"It's May 1598 and hello to everyone from YE OLD FOOT THE BALL FOCUS, today's game is a cracker. It's between two rival taverns in North Moreton near Oxford, today's teams are managed by the great village rivals Brian Gunter and the great Walter Gregory. Both teams today field around 60 players each, from a population of 300. Anyway who cares... lets kick off the action ...and with a sizeable support from both sides the game kicks off...



The rules of "foot the ball" are very simple, get the ball to the other end of the park any way you can, hands feet head...pass it, boot it just get it there past the 60 odd opposition players by bashing them out the way....easy! An afternoon of utter mayhem and violence on the cards!

Anyway back to "Ye old foot the ball focus commentary"...and it looks like the Gregory team are coming on strong here down the wing, oooh! a great hoof up the park, and there goes the ball, oh and also some poor lads teeth!.... Günter's team are pressing now and, oh a ruck of bodies go down fists flying, in fact there's sporadic fighting all over the pitch, oh dear there goes a man through the butcher shop window, his was the last in the street to break, the rest went an hour ago, a very riotous assembly now, the ball can be seen occasionally flying up in the

air to great cheers from the crowd, but the violence continues in this ridiculous brawl. There goes William Gunter son of Brian head first into a melee and splits up one of the battles on display today, but ooh into the fray goes the two Gregory boys John and Richard, oh they are having fun now! And here joins in old Mr Brian Gunter

John Gregory would die on the 20th of May, his brother Richard on the 26th May. Both suffered blunt trauma to the skull caused by a blunt object. In this instance it was the heel of a Knife which 51 year old Brian Gunter had used on them in the game of foot the ball.

An inquest into the deaths at Kings Court Westminster reported that

An inquest into the deaths at Kings Court Westminster reported that "they shed but little blood but both died within a fortnight" it declared death by "divine visitation"

himself...he's cracked one boy over the head...and another! Can he do a hat trick? Its sensational stuff from the old veteran, they think it's all over...it is!both boys are unconscious on the field....within days both would be dead!

"they shed but little blood but both died within a fortnight" it declared death by "divine visitation" the death was regarded as suspicious but no action was taken against Brian Gunter. The Gregory family was furious and tried a private prosecution but that when it came

The Lowdown: Anne Gunter

to court was judged "no case to answer". Harsh words were spoken between the two families; and bad feelings were evident in the small parish village of North Moreton for the next few years.

The years went past but the hatred between the two families continued. Now the dead boys sister in law Agnes Pepwell had at some point gained a reputation as a Witch, Brian Gunter remembered this and things were to turn very sinister in North Moreton.

In 1604 Brian Gunter's daughter Anne became violently ill, having fits and strange trances. A Doctor was then called and in front of him she then amazed all, in his notes we can read "...she void pins from various bodily orifices, so violent it was though her heart strips would have broken" she threw up pins and they were also seen coming from her nose.

Before long the cries of Witchcraft rang through the village and it was Agnes Pepwell and her daughter Mary and Elizabeth Gregory, Walter Gregory's wife that the Gunter's were now accusing!

Agnes Pepwell packed her things and ran from the town, but her daughter Mary and Elizabeth Gregory were caught and taken to Abingdon crown court March 1605 on the insistence of Brian Gunter that they had bewitched his daughter Anne.

With a new king on the throne who was very interested in Witch trials James Ist wanted to oversee the witnesses, where at the Archbishop of London's home Lambeth palace Brian Gunter and his daughter were interrogated. It was in Anne Gregory the truth



Brian Gunters house

broke! She had learned how to produce pins from a family friend Alice Keys, her illness and bewitchment -it was all made up and planned by her father!

A Doctor was then called and in front of him she then amazed all, in his notes we can read "...she void pins from various bodily orifices, so violent it was though her heart strips would have broken"

The case was quickly forgotten about when an interesting gentle man called Guy Fawkes entered into the history books that year on the 5th November when he and other Catholic dissidents were caught trying to blow up the Parliament building with barrels of gunpowder hidden under the parliament building. James the 1st had other matters to occupy his thoughts more that a lying wee girl and her father. The courts

basically had no more interest in the case. What is known is Brian was in Lambeth or a local jail for a period of time up to 1608. His records of punishment whether a fine or jail is regarded as being lost. Whatever the Star Chamber Courts judged on Brian Gunter has never been found.

Brian lived back on his farm until 1628 where he was 78 years old, he was buried in St Marys church in Oxford. Anne Gunter the supposedly bewitched child's history is vague but it is thought she married a Servant of Archbishop Bancroft who she met while the trial was in full swing.

Walter Gregory, father of the two dead Gregory boys died in September 1629, it seems both the Pepwell women Agnes and Mary returned, Agnes dying in 1612, and Mary 1654 according to the Moreton Parish register.

There are no records to the full time score between Brian Gunter and Walter Gregory's team!



ALICE?

WHO THE F**K IS ALICE?

Hi Geoff! Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Hi. Yes, my name's Geoff Saul and I live in the Hull area in the UK. I started paranormal investigating about 2 years ago now - I think - with a very friendly and professional team called Totally Paranormal Events. They are a very kind natured group of people and I think for that reason they experience a lot of activity. For a living, I'm an engineer and computer programmer, so I really like to get stuck in with using various devices during an investigation. I try to find proof for existence of life after death scientifically and my creation, ALICE, is an example of that.

Okay, so I'm sure I speak for everybody when I say.. who or what is ALICE?!

ALICE is a computer programme, an Instrumental Trans Communication device (ITC). The basic definition of ITC is to communicate with spirits using electronic means. So this is my take on that. It's my dictionary for ghosts. [laughs]

And how does ALICE work?

As I mentioned, the whole thing is basically a computer programme, so it can be downloaded onto any Windows platform. It's not available in App form however as it runs through a complex network of

programming. I prefer it that way though - there's something a bit gimmicky about using Apps for scientific paranormal results if you ask me! [chuckles]

So once you've downloaded it onto your windows device, it's literally just a case of pressing the On/ Off button and leaving it running, waiting to be influenced, as you would with your other ITC devices - like the Ovilus for example.

Whilst it's running in this state there is an on screen display with two blinking lights, one red and one green. As long as the lights alternate, the circuits are open to any form of influence. When the

ALICE? WHO THE F**K IS ALICE?

lights stop flashing, this indicates to us that ALICE's circuits are currently being influenced, being given a direction by someone. Once this direction has been given, the word or phrase chosen (by whoever has influenced the circuits) appears clearly on the screen.

Okay, so it's a programme that spirits choose words out of to show to us?

That's the theory, yes.

Why did you make ALICE?

Alice was born out of the frustration of trying to communicate via existing ITC such as the Ovilus, the PSB7 etc. I first dabbled with these types of devices when they were introduced to me by my local paranormal investigation group. I was amazed by the concept when these were initially shown to me, the thought of having partial conversations, or maybe direct answers that we could understand from the other side? Extraordinary! Yeah, so I loved the idea of potentially communicating through ITC but I was beginning to realise that if that was going to happen, it wasn't going to happen through one of these devices... So, as a computer programmer, I thought "Why don't I give this a go?" The intrigue, the need for more potential evidence pushed me through the months of research and work and eventually, I had my first draft.

I was excited and a little nervous when I charged through the house to present my daughter with this initial version. We switched her on, sat patiently, and the first thing



we experienced..? "ALICE." She had named herself. Since then, she has never ceased to amaze us.

What results have you seen from ALICE?

[laughs] What can I say?! The results have been astounding in comparison to what I had anticipated. I created ALICE for complete personal interest, to be used amongst myself and close friends within a local paranormal investigation group. Because it was for myself there really was nobody relying on this to 'work' and therefore no high expectations from her. So I suppose you can imagine my reaction when we had multiple direct and relevant results to our questions.

Can you give us some examples of these responses?

The examples really are endless... We have had the words "Dean" and "White" produced in direct response

to the question "who are you?" We later found out that there had been a White family living at the property we were investigating! We have also been told by a user in the USA that their ALICE produced the phrase "I killed myself" in direct response to the question "what happened to you?"

Some of the outputs are less direct than that though and some of them tend to be observations of the room we're in. We have also had instructions through such as "Stand", "Quiet" and "Quickly".

On one occasion ALICE described and directed us to a specific item within a certain location of the house we were investigating, through several outputs. Users have also reported ALICE giving cohesive answers when used in conjunction with other equipment including a Frank's Box, Dowsing Rods and K2 Meters. There's a brilliant example of this happening on US based

ALICE? WHO THE F**K IS ALICE?



Paranormal Warnings' YouTube channel actually; it's really most interesting.

Also, I must stress that this device is obviously as strange and as new to spirits as it is to all of us, so users mustn't be surprised by seemingly random output at first whilst they get the "hang" of how to use her. A great example of this happening to us was the words "Practice", "Happens" and "Disregard" being produced after some odd outputs at a new location. It was as if we were being told to ignore the previous outputs as they were just learning how to use her. Amazing!

Anyway, I really could list endless results that we've had but of course we still need to remember that there are occasions when, on an investigation, you can get next to no activity. So I'm not going to pretend it's perfect every time, because nobody can guarantee that spirits will want to communicate.

Amazing! What can users expect from ALICE in the future?

Well in terms of individual experiences I obviously can't guarantee users any specific expectations because she performs differently every time, depending on variables such as your location.

"If we are, through some as yet unidentified mechanism, able to make a seamless connection between our spirit selves and electrical circuitry, have we finally shed our view of terminal separation from the world following physical death?"

My job is merely to update any of the programming depending on feedback and need for improvement. So currently ALICE is different from other products in that we can add and remove words, phrases, even entire dictionaries as we please, giving further opportunity for more specific responses. But there are some plans in the pipeline for the future, including an internal memory of the

words and phrases produced during a session, allowing users to go back through their results. And possibly a text-to-speech feature. Although I haven't quite decided on that one yet. Alterations are generally made as and when we come across any room for improvement, which is

why I welcome all feedback and ideas from other users out there. The best way to discover what is needed from her in the future is to just use her!

The growing ALICE community can be found on Facebook (search ALICE Instrumental Trans Communication) and she has her own site at

www.alicebox.co.uk

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RED:FUSE
RELEASING

MYCHO

Disney GRAVITY FALLS



TV FOR KIDS OR TV FOR GROWN UPS WITH KIDS?

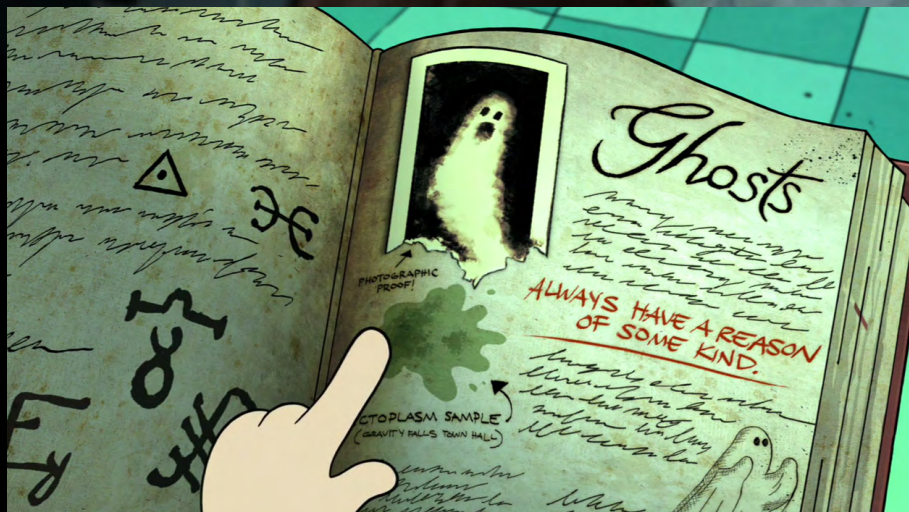
with Roxy Orcutt, The Halloween Honey

At first, when my 2-year-old daughter started to show interest in the Disney Channel, I was hesitant to indulge her. Not because I am against watching television (ha!) but because I was not on board the Disney train at all. I guess it was silly of me to think she would be okay with watching *Ghost Hunters* marathons with me all day long. So, we switched

on over to the Mouse House and I gritted my teeth as she became enamored with Mickey and Minnie and the rest of their cohorts. Then, one day last summer, something magical happened. I saw a commercial for a new show on the Disney Channel. It caught my attention mostly because of the unmistakable voice of the hysterical Kristen Schaal, but also

because it featured a joke about a cemetery and zombies. What's this, now? It was like the Disney Channel suddenly knew someone like me was being forced to watch them! I made a mental note of the show's title, *Gravity Falls*, and the day it was to air. I was immediately smitten. *Gravity Falls*, despite being an animated show and produced by Disney, is by far one of the best new television shows I have seen in a long time.

Gravity Falls is one of those outstanding animated shows that is aimed at children but made for adults. It lacks the smug, winkyness of say, one of the *Shrek* movies, that likes to pound their grown-up viewers over the head with their "hidden" adult jokes. Instead, *Gravity Falls* relies on warmth, quirk and clever writing to amuse, and the best part is, it's dripping in the paranormal.





TV FOR KIDS OR TV FOR GROWN UPS WITH KIDS?



On March 15, 2013, the episode "The Deep End" was watched by 4.5 million viewers after the premiere of Wizards of Waverly Place's The Wizards Return: Alex vs. Alex, becoming the highest rated episode of the series

The show takes place in the town of Gravity Falls, Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Dipper and Mabel Pines, twelve-year old twins from "the city" are shipped up north to Gravity Falls by their parents to spend the summer with their Great Uncle Stan. Grunkle Stan, as he is affectionately called, runs the Mystery Shack, a museum of the bizarre out of his home. It's more of a money-sucking tourist trap, and Grunkle Stan knows it. Once the kids arrive, he wastes no

time getting them on board with "fleecing rubes." It seems, however, that Grunkle Stan has picked the right town to set up shop. Quickly, the kids discover that Gravity Falls is quite the spooky little town. From run-ins with zombies, ghosts, time-travelers, gnomes, conspiracies, psychics and an endless forest that seems to be filled with nothing but paranormal activity, the kids are up against a lot in Gravity Falls. Dipper, however, had come across a book marked with the number 3 in the first episode written by a mystery

man that seems to hold all the secrets to the town. However, he is without book 1 or book 2. Book 2 happens to be in the possession of the town's psychic, all-around bad guy, Lil Gideon. The whereabouts of book 1 remains to be seen.

Along with all the supernatural beings the kids encounter, and resident villain Lil' Gideon, there is also a cast of characters that the kids befriend and get them wrapped up in whatever adventure of the unknown they are on.





Since we first ran this article, Gravity Falls has been commissioned for a second series and continues to capture the imagination of a whole new generation of mystery cartoon fans.

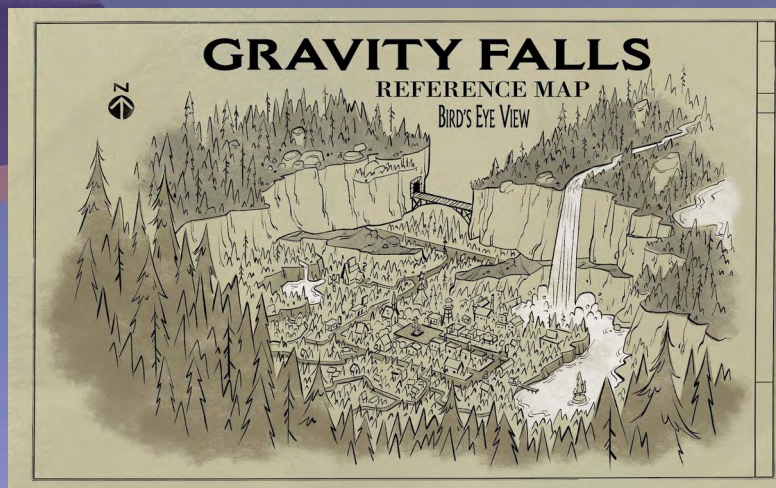
Whilst it would be unfair to compare Gravity Falls to Cartoon Network's rebooted Scooby Doo "Mystery Incorporated", there are clear stylistic similarities between the two. Both do retain their own sense of humour and style.

As with most new cartoons, there's quite an ensemble of cast and returning characters that punctuate each story and like so many mysteries this day, a main story arc in the background to keep you hooked for the next episode.

The main characters are Dipper and Mabel Pines who are dropped off from their home in Piedmont California to the town of Gravity Falls, Oregon for their summer vacation with their Great Uncle (Grunkle) Stan. Stan runs and lives in The Mystery Shack, a tourist shop billed as "the world's most bizarre museum."

We also meet Hispanic Handyman Soos played by show creator Alex Hirsch. As a crossover from the Mystery Inc universe, Linda Cardellini (Velma in the movie version of Scooby Doo and the character Hot Dog Water in Mystery Incorporated) voices Wendy Corduroy who also happens to work at The Mystery Shack and attempts many times (in vain) to impress Dipper.

Amongst the villains we have Bill Cipher (again voiced by Hirsch) who is a powerful demon that can be summoned and released into a person's mind. My favourites are the maniacal gnomes who capture Mabel and try to make her their Queen.



Much to my delight, my young daughter now asks to watch Gravity Falls when we are in our TV room (where the DVR lives) by simply asking for "Falls." Her and I can watch this show time and time again and I still laugh and find myself intrigued by the stories. The mix of spooky, supernatural, silliness and straight-up Disney magic is why I love this show so much. The writers have outdone themselves when it comes to originality and creativity. Like *The X-Files*, *Lost* or *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Gravity Falls can have their "Monster of the Week" episodes while still maintaining an



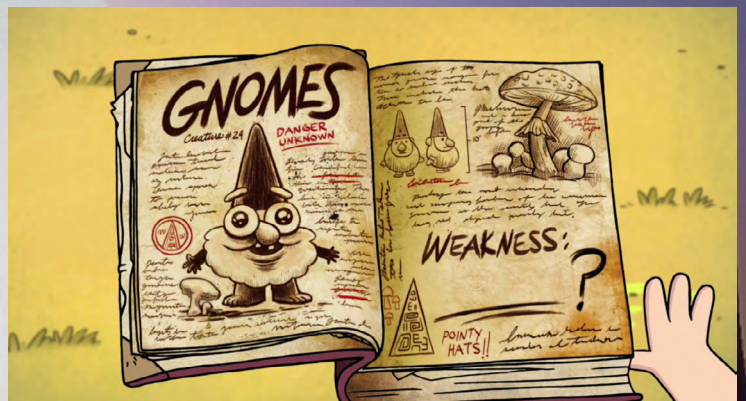


TV FOR KIDS OR TV FOR GROWN UPS WITH KIDS?

overall mythology to the series. They have learned well from some of the best sci-fi and fantasy shows out there.

I would encourage any paranormal lover to watch this show, whether you are a parent or not. Animation has never stopped me from watching a TV show, in fact, some of our best modern television is animated. See: *The Simpsons*. If you do have children, I know how painstaking it can be to sit through the 100th episode of *Mickey Mouse Clubhouse* when you know that there is a marathon of *My Ghost Story* on a few channels away. But, chin up! *Gravity Falls* is well worth all the time you put in tolerating the less-than-awesome shows The Disney Channel has to offer.

So, when your little darling is enraptured in some lady singing about a choo-choo train and you see that *Gravity Falls* is on next, hang in there. As a Paranormal Parent, you will be glad you did. Once you enter *Gravity Falls*, there is no going back. For the non-parents: Next time you are home on a sick day and have had it up to here with the soap operas and news programs, don't be afraid to wander over to The Disney Channel. You may be surprised at what you find.



Roxy Orcutt has always had a passion for all things spooky since she was a child growing up just outside the town of Anoka, MN, the self-proclaimed Halloween Capital of the World. Her interest in the paranormal was fostered by her mother who always encouraged her daughters to have an open mind about everything, especially when it came to the supernatural. She now lives right in the heart of the Halloween Capital of the World with her family and runs the website The Halloween Honey

www.halloweenhoney.com and you can contact Roxy at halloweenhoney@yahoo.com or followed on Twitter @halloween_honey

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SCREENPLAY BY A.M. KEEN EDITED BY AND DIRECTED BY ANDREW LOVERIDGE



AFTER MIDNIGHT
PRODUCTIONS

UK HAUNTED



THE **GENEVA** CONVENTION

**GHOST STORIES AND THE NUTS AND BOLTS
THAT LED TO AN ICONIC HORROR STORY**

BY MIKE WRIGLEY

Picture yourself as a 19 year old woman. You have met and fallen in love with an older married man who has some exotic friends; you have already travelled around Europe with him and suspect that you may be pregnant. Then he invites you to go away with him for a while to Switzerland, Lake Geneva to be precise. He will be bringing a couple of his friends, and his wife. May be a touch awkward, but what the hell, its Lake Geneva with the man you love, so you agree. You are expecting days on the Lake, perhaps trips to nearby towns and who knows what else? Maybe there will even be a lively social scene!

THE GENEVA CONVENTION WITH MIKE WRIGLEY



PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Who could have imagined that this seemingly ordinary trip would give birth to one of the iconic Horror stories of all time, and as we shall see, it is not too far-fetched to imagine that it may even have had a hand in another.

The man in question is the romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley and the woman is Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. They, as might be expected, are good friends with Percy's contemporaries at the time, including the notorious Lord George Byron. It is with him, his personal physician Dr John Polidori and Claire Clairmont, Mary's stepsister, that the historic trip to Lake Geneva will take place in June 1816. And something as

prosaic as the weather will change literary history forever.

It was a miserable trip; constant rain had kept the party indoors for the last 2 weeks. They had started to amuse themselves by having readings from a German book of ghost stories called *Fantasmagoria*. Things degenerated into more and

his hands to his head, ran out of the room with a candle." The explanation for this? Again from Polidori's diary - "He was looking at Mrs Shelley and suddenly thought of a woman he had heard of who had eyes instead of nipples" one can quite see why this may have upset him slightly!

"He was looking at Mrs Shelley and suddenly thought of a woman he had heard of who had eyes instead of nipples"

more weirdness which reached a head after Byron read some verses from Coleridge's *Christabel*. As a result of this Percy threw a fit. From the diary of Dr Polidori - "Shelley, suddenly shrieking, and putting

To relieve the tedium it was suggested that they each try their hand at writing a ghost story. You can see that this would fire Byron and Shelley's imagination and it would be reasonable to assume

THE GENEVA CONVENTION WITH MIKE WRIGLEY



MARY SHELLEY



DR. JOHN POLIDORI

that one of them would produce the basis of a story that would go on to be a classic. But that wasn't the case, no one would have predicted that Mary, and to a lesser extent, Polidori would be the ones to do so.

Byron knocked out a story entitled "The Burial", more on this later, Dr Polidori produced "The Vampyre", which did go on to be published and caused quite a stir, again back to this later. Percy came up with "The Assassins" and Mary? Nothing.

Nada. No ideas at all. Luckily for the literary world, but perhaps not for her at the time, she experienced a nightmare some nights later where "A pale student of unhallowed arts created the awful phantom of a man". This inspired her to write the creation scene which later became perhaps the best, most passionate part of the novel that became Frankenstein.

In late 1816 Percy's wife Harriet committed suicide and Percy and Mary married. Percy began encouraging Mary to flesh out the

story she wrote at Lake Geneva and expand on it. After a few failed attempts she finally finished "Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus" in 1818.

As a book it is a fairly slow melodrama, typical of the day, and has been distorted out of all recognition by the movies. The monster in Shelly's book is the polar opposite from the Monster portrayed on film by so many, no shuffling, shambling Monster in the book; he is an intelligent, rather sad figure.

Despite the mainly sedentary prose of the novel, there are moments of excellent writing contained within the scene that Mary wrote at the gathering -

"In late 1816 Percy's wife Harriet committed suicide and Percy and Mary married. Percy began encouraging Mary to flesh out the story she wrote at Lake Geneva and expand on it,"

THE GENEVA CONVENTION WITH MIKE WRIGLEY

"I started from my sleep with horror; a cold dew covered my forehead, my teeth chattered and every limb became convulsed; when, by the dim and yellow light of the moon, as it forced its way through the window shutters, I beheld the wretch - the miserable monster I had created" Good stuff! Nice and descriptive. And later in the same scene - "His jaws opened, and he muttered some inarticulate sounds, whilst a grin wrinkled his cheeks"

Not surprisingly Victor Frankenstein reacted to this in the way that anyone might - he ran, screaming, into the dark, cold night.

The Monster learns to talk, which is a fairly amusing process as Mary comes up with the utterly unbelievable idea that he learns by overhearing a peasant teaching his Arabian noblewoman girlfriend

English! Hey ho, I guess in the world of fiction anything goes, but you do get the impression that Mary struggled with some of the some of the practicalities of her story.

The Monster, with his new found grasp of language, honed by reading Milton's Paradise Lost amongst others, then goes on to take his revenge against his creator by first killing Victor's little brother, then allowing a servant to take the

will disappear forever to live out there unnatural existence without bothering mankind any further, if not he will engage upon a "reign of terror".

Victor has doubts and agonises over his decision, what if they spawn a race of monsters? However at length he agrees and does create the monsters mate, again Mary manages to write some fine prose in this scene -

"The Monster, with his new found grasp of language, honed by reading Milton's 'Paradise Lost' amongst others, then goes to take his revenge against his creator by killing Victor's little brother"

blame for the crime, later telling Victor that he was responsible all along. He then tells the hapless Victor that if he will provide him with a bride then all will be well and the monster and his wife

"I trembled and my heart failed within me, when, on looking up, I saw by the light of the moon the daemon at the casement. A ghastly grin wrinkled his lips as he gazed upon me, where I sat fulfilling the task which he had allotted to me". And later, "As I looked on him, his countenance expressed the utmost extent of malice and treachery".

Victor's conscience then overcomes him and he destroys the second Monster. Driven by hate the original Monster makes good on his threat, beginning by killing Victor's boyhood friend, Henry Clerval. Mary then creates her own version of the now staple idiotic premise of many a ghost movie, see The Amityville Horror, the house screamed "GO AWAY" so the couple buy it, in Mary's version, the monster promises that he will "Be with you on your wedding night"



(surely one of the most chilling sentences ever written) to which Victor responds by marrying his childhood sweetheart. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Predictably, for the time, Victor assumes that the monsters threat is against him alone, so he goes to confront his misconceived child leaving his wife alone. During his absence the monster breaks into the hut that Victor and his new bride were sharing and kills Victor's wife. The death toll continues to mount when Victor's father dies of shock.

Victor then pursues his creation to the very ends of the earth, well the Arctic anyway, but he dies aboard a ship belonging to another scientist.

So back to Dr Polidori, Byron and the potential second novel that the meeting in Switzerland may have spawned.

Polidori and Lord Byron fell out soon after their return to England. It has been speculated that the reason for this may well have been the more than passing resemblance of Dr Polidori's story "The Vampyre" to Lord Byron's "The Burial", both of them written during the meeting at Lake Geneva remember. While writing these stories was just a way of passing time during a rainy week there wasn't much to argue about, although with Byron's famously fiery temperament you can imagine some tart words were exchanged at the time, however when Polidori published "The Vampyre" and it became a great success things



VILLA DIODATI

came quickly to a head, and the friendship between Polidori and Byron abruptly ended.

The novels success ultimately led to the Doctors downfall. It prompted him to leave the medical profession and become a full time writer, with disastrous consequences, due to the fact that he wasn't very good at it. He was, however, excellent at producing gambling debts and when he was unable to pay them he shot himself, as was the custom of the gentry at that time.

Fast forward to the year 1897 and a red haired Irishman named Bram Stoker. Considering that when he wrote his seminal classic "Dracula" it was only 78 years after "The Vampyre" was published, it is not too much of a jump to believe that he may well have had at least a

passing familiarity with the earlier work, especially as Stoker was known to have done extensive research before he wrote his novel.

So can we definitively state that the meeting by Lake Geneva helped in the creation of both Frankenstein and Dracula? No, but we can say it is not outside the realms of possibility.

Another point to consider would be that if, as speculated, Polidori did crib his idea from Byron, and Stoker did take some inspiration from "The Vampyre", this would link Byron to Stoker and Dracula, a nice idea. And consider that within Dracula the Count tells Jonathan Harker that he "drove the Turks from Transylvania" and Byron died whilst helping the Greeks fight the Turks... serendipity.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?



GHOST ADVENTURES

THURSDAYS 8PM

REALLY

SKY | VIRGIN | FREEVIEW



"When Kate Bennett, presenter of TV ghost hunting show 'Where the Dead Walk', investigates a haunted cliff-top house, she encounters a spirit who holds answers not only to a childhood she can't remember, but an unimaginable crime..."

Hi John, thanks for agreeing to the interview today! Can you introduce yourself in the manner of someone who's just won The National Lottery, but can't find the winning ticket in his house?

Hm? Oh, yeah. Hi. My name is John Bowen... I'm the author of - 'Where the... Where the... heck did I put that damn thing..? Erm, sorry, I mean I'm the author of 'Where the Dead Walk'. The amazing, spine tingling, gripping – aaaaah...! My jeans! The back pocket of my jeans!

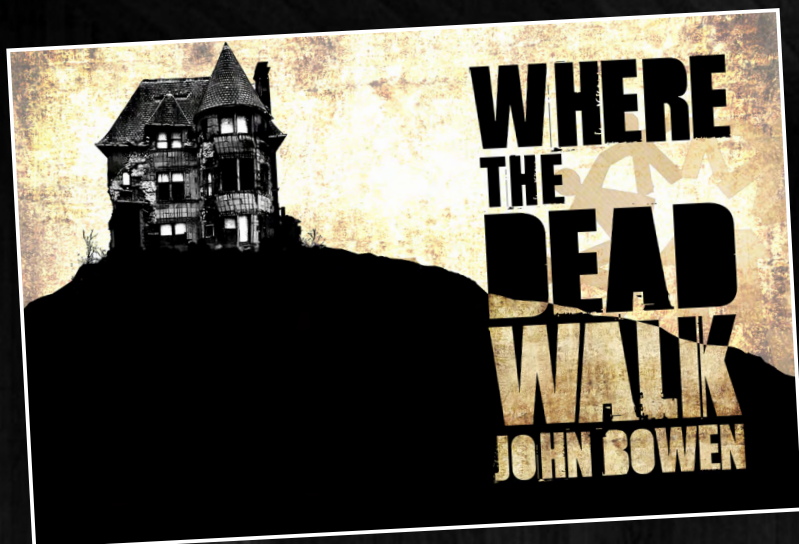
Which I put in the... linen basket...?

Which I just... put...in the... WASHING MACHINE?

Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

INTERVIEW with **WHERE THE DEAD WALK'S** JOHN BOWEN





"My wife is a believer. She believes in ghosts, spirits, the afterlife... Me? I have problems. I want to believe, but I can't quite get there. I have issues with... Well, not quite the 'logic' of the paranormal, perhaps, but definitely with the consistency of what's reported."

Can you tell me everything and more beside please about Where The Dead Walk? What inspired you to write the novel and what is your own view on paranormal investigation shows?

If we're going to tackle inspiration, I guess there's no point in avoiding the grainy-green, low-light amplified elephant in the room is there?

'Most Haunted' was, of course, a huge influence. When the show first aired I thought it was an absolutely fantastic concept; a TV crew embarking on a mission to investigate some of the UK's 'most haunted' buildings? Simple, but brilliant. It was a show my wife and I enjoyed a great deal - but for increasingly different reasons.

'An enjoyable story with psychopathic and loveable characters thrown together to make your imagination work overtime.'

I'll explain. My wife is a believer. She believes in ghosts, spirits, the afterlife... Me? I have problems. I want to believe, but I can't quite get there. I have issues with... Well, not quite the 'logic' of the paranormal, perhaps, but definitely with the consistency of what's reported.

If those who encountered ghosts and spirits all described the roughly same thing I'd have less of a problem, but they don't. Ghosts just don't seem obliging enough to maintain any consistency. I've never seen a duck-billed platypus first hand, actually I'm not sure I've even seen one on film now I come to think of it, but enough people describe them as looking same - mammal, webbed feet, duck-billed and all - I'm willing to give them the benefit of the doubt. Ghosts though? Some are reported to resemble ethereal wafting lights, some dense shadows, some are transparent, some as solid as a Marks and Spencer's fudge cake...

I know what you're thinking. Given I've just confessed to being something of a sceptic, what exactly did I used to get out of Most

Haunted? Well, the atmosphere was a big part of it; almost as big was the show's medium, Derek Acorah. For me, whether Derek was actually communing with spirits was irrelevant; I loved what he did either way. If you've seen him in action you'll know what I mean.

But then, even discounting Derrick and the cool atmosphere, as the show progressed something even more interesting began to develop...

The problem with searching for something that may not even exist is when you keep not finding it the pressure to do so subtly increases. In the first few episodes of Most Haunted, the show could get by on a bump, literally a bump. Everyone would freak out. Brilliant. By the end of series one, though, it would be fair to say bumps were getting a bit old. By the time the show eventually reached its final series tables would rattle readily and the crew would get goosed, brushed, and even scratched by unseen entities on a pretty routine basis. I'm not making any judgments here, like I said, the show was great, but - well y'know...

"A strong plot, a big theme and memorable characters presented in a super accessible fashion. I'm striving to make the words on the page disappear, get that conversational feel, economical description and easy, natural dialogue, make the book as hard to put down as I can."

The idea of writing a story following a show like that, having the crew go through that progression intrigued me. Watching them grow jaded by the experience - especially if they then actually had something definitively paranormal happen to them. Maybe contact with a spirit, a spirit who wanted something?

What though? What exactly would a spirit want? Well that's precisely what 'Where the Dead Walk' is all about.

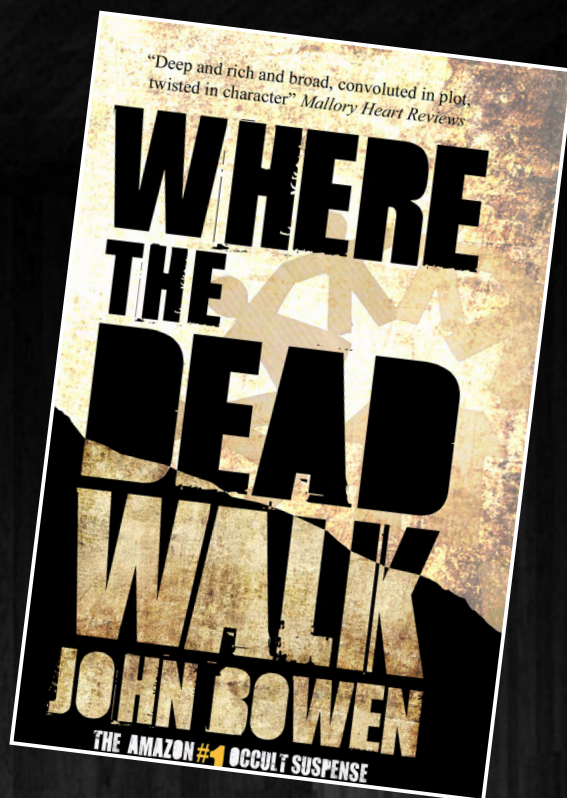
You decide to go and visit your best friend out of the blue one day, finding their front door wide open. Concerned that they have been broken into, you rush into the house, hearing what sounds like moans for help. You are shocked to find your friend in a compromising position with a garden vegetable! How would you deal with the situation and would you ever darken their door again?

I'd sensitively assure them while vegetarianism is certainly bizarre

and unusual - a quick look at one's teeth and the varied range of molars and canines confirms we are without doubt omnivores - in enlightened circles the practice is becoming much more acceptable, and pledge to stick by them. I'm loyal like that.

How would you say your writing style differs from other authors? What can we expect to see in a John Bowen novel that we won't see in other writer's novels?

A strong plot, a big theme and memorable characters presented in a super accessible fashion. I'm striving to make the words on the page disappear, get that conversational feel, economical description and easy, natural dialogue, make the book as hard to put down as I can. I want to decimate early nights, make people late for appointments, and make someone burn their toast reading just one more page...



Where did the inspiration come from for Kate Bennett, is it true that Yvette Fielding is interested in the role if there's a film based on the book? Who could you see playing Kate Bennett?

Kate sort of emerged organically as a result of one of the book's central themes: 'Why do we want to believe in ghosts anyway?'

There are benign reasons, I think, excitement, fun, not wanting the world to feel all tied up in a boring bow of rationality, but I think there can be less fun reasons people want to believe too.

Losing someone you love is tough. Not wanting to let go, not being willing to let go, is quite understandable. Kate's someone who's lost almost everyone, in that sense she's already surrounded by ghosts. It's something that also makes her uniquely vulnerable in some respects...

WHERE THE DEAD WALK JOHN BOWEN

A 'Where the Dead Walk' movie? That would be amazing, although I actually think it might be better served by something like a three or four part drama on the Beeb. A two-hour movie would be tough to squeeze everything into. Having said that, if someone could pull it off...

And with Yvette playing Kate? Hm. She's a great TV presenter, no question, but I think Kate's role would be pretty demanding; whoever tackled it would have to be able to pull off a pretty tricky combination of strength, and at the same time vulnerability. Kate Beckinsale would be a great fit, as would Emily Blunt... Scarlett Johansson? Ha. This game's way too painful...

If you could only choose one of the following to do and were not allowed the other, which one would you jettison and why? Watching films or playing video games? You can choose only one!

Woah... That's something I would find extremely tough. I love movies, but I think video games are actually striding ahead in many respects with narrative, and there's still so much untapped potential there. I think narrative heavy video-game stories are much more aligned with novels than movies. They both demand more engagement, and you dip in and out, digest them, in a very similar way.

I struggle to think of a movie that hit me as hard as Naughty Dog's 'The Last of Us' last year. The opening ten minutes alone carried the same kind of emotional punch as Pixar's 'UP', and then they have the 'Uncharted' series, which absolutely smoke Spielberg's last Indiana Jones movie. GTA V owned me for something like eighty odd hours... TellTale's episodic 'Walking Dead' stuff is every bit as great as Kirkman's graphic novel and TV series too. Swearing off one would be like cutting an arm off... but, argh.. Movies?

Can you tell me about your forthcoming novel Vessel please? How does it differ from Where The Dead Walk? What's it about please?

Ha. It's considerably more 'Michael Bay'. The plot is still the boss, and it still has rich characters and a meaty theme at the heart of it, but it's a faster moving beast, and leans into the more 'supernatural' side of the paranormal. Oh yeah, it features around a millennium's worth of mythology to boot. The research

was hell, but worth it. I think it's a blast. It's due out in November.

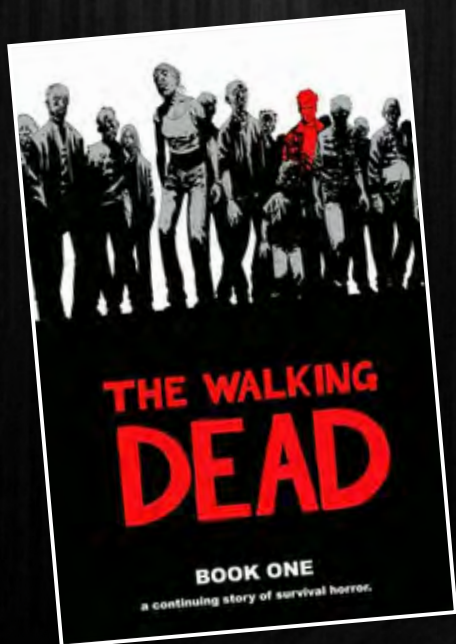
What is the future of books, print or digital? If one had to "give up the ghost" right now, which one would you like to see become the only outlet for books and why?

Paper is dead. The advantages of digital for authors and readers are too huge for it to survive. Sure, traditional publishers are doing their best to slow things down, but the writing is on the wall, or the tablet, I guess... Consider the recent dispute between Amazon

'It isn't a horror story with proper fiction elements added to it, it is a well written novel with a frightening theme.'

and Hachette. The old guard aren't keen to give up what they've grown used to, which is dictating terms, controlling and limiting what readers have access to, and at what price. They're fond of talking about 'established publishing providing a bar of quality', then they go and sign Katy Price or Kerry Katona for a multi novel deals...

The Internet, digital distribution and print on demand *have* happened. Kindle and Kindle apps encourage readers to leave ratings and reviews when they reach the very last page, not everyone chooses to,



WHERE THE DEAD WALK JOHN BOWEN



but enough do to provide other readers with a valuable resource. Bad books get found out pretty fast on Amazon.

Average customer ratings clue readers in to quality regardless of whether it comes from a big established publisher or a tiny indie. Big marketing budgets and cosy retail bookshop relationships

'Exciting... heart wrenching...surprising... all of the above and more! Great subject and a gripping read!'

increasingly mean less and less. The argument for some kind of 'gate keeper of quality' already looks as antiquated as it is. The customer's opinion is king. Honestly? Would you book a holiday these days without consulting Trip Advisor first?

I'm not anti print. I love paper books and magazines, and I'm happy to offer a paperback edition of Where the Dead Walk for people who want that. It's a lovely thing and looks great on the bookshelf, but it costs several times as much as the Kindle edition, and that's not down to me, that's just a consequence of putting ink on four hundred odd pages, binding them together, putting a full colour cover on and shipping the result to someone's front door. When you view it in those terms, print's just crazy.

Have you ever experienced any paranormal activity? Do you watch paranormal shows?

I still do enjoy the occasional paranormal show. I like that US one, T.A.P.S, a lot. They have a pleasingly rigorous, investigative approach, and are always keen to offer rational explanations for the 'evidence' they gather. The crew are great too, particularly Dave Tango and Steve Gonzales. They make me think of Shaggy and Scooby for some

reason, I say that with the greatest respect, of course. I quite like the American medium John Edward too. Again, there's a show that works for sceptics and believers alike. Either he's a gifted medium, win, or he's the best cold reader I've ever seen, win.

I want to believe in the paranormal, really I do. It's a constant agony I can't. I live in hope of having a personal experience which blows my world view to smithereens, because deep down I want it all to be true: Ghosts, Amazon women in the rainforest, Sasquatch in the wilds of America, aliens, werewolves, vampires, honest politicians...

What would you say has been the greatest moment ever in your life?

The days my kids were born are a tie. As an answer it's dull, I know, but true. The universe, or at least your universe, kind of tilts on its axis the day you become a parent. If you're in a jam, and you're with one of your kids, and there's just one escape pod? You won't be the one strapping in.

Can you name 5 positive and 5 negative things about The Only Way Is Essex please?

Okaaaaay... here goes...

- : Mark Wright's calendars raising women's expectations regarding six packs, the mind bending implications of Vajazzling, redefining our concept of 'culture', not being able to hear someone say,

WHERE THE DEAD WALK JOHN BOWEN



'Shut up' without hearing, 'Shadaaaaap!'; and reality TV becoming even less real.

+: Arge thankfully balancing things out regarding the whole six pack issue, Joey Essex tearing up the rulebook in regards to IQ benchmarks, educating the ignorant about the previously misunderstood region known as 'Essex', occasionally making me laugh really hard between extended bouts of rolling my eyes. Most of all, though? Just consider how much Vajazzling alone must have contributed towards the UK economy. Colossal.

Any advice for up and coming writers who never seem to get published?

Quit waiting for permission. Never has the playing field been so level. We're fast approaching a true meritocracy in publishing. If you believe in your work, make it the best it can be and get it out there. People tune in to passion; it's difficult to hide. If your work's strong you'll find your audience, might be small, might just be huge.

Finally, what have you got planned for 2015? Please dish the dirt!

Promoting WTDW and Vessel, trying to get an audio-book of WTDW in the works, and between all that knuckling down to write my next book, 'Death Stalks Kettle Street'. Like WTDW and Vessel, I'll be stretching my poor brain and imagination to breaking point in an effort to take readers somewhere new. It's going to be an exciting journey. Dirt dished!

John, thank you once again for agreeing to the interview today! It's been fantastic!

Any time, Paul. It's been fun.

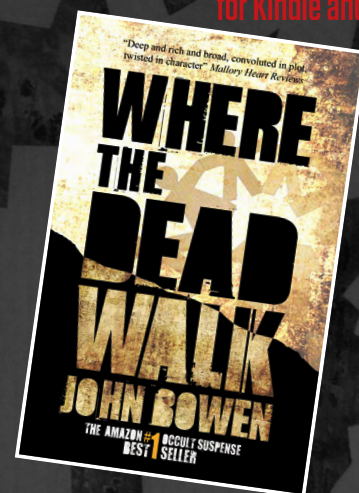
'WHERE THE DEAD WALK'

the debut novel from author John Bowen, is a paranormal thriller set within in the world of TV of a ghost hunting show. A #1 best seller on Amazon's suspense occult top 100 best seller list.

Available in Kindle and Paperback editions from Amazon.



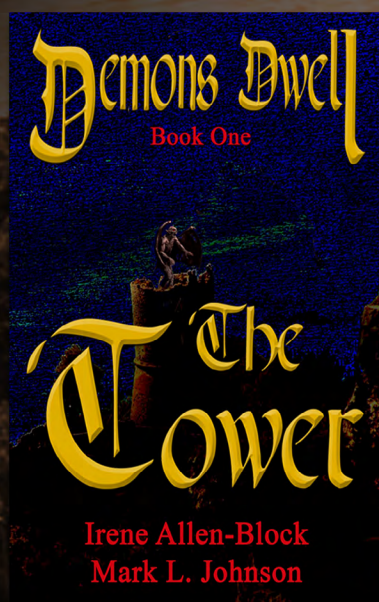
<http://getbook.at/WheretheDeadWalk>
for Kindle and



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for paperback.

The Books of Irene Allen-Block

Irene Allen-Block is a renowned paranormal investigator and founder of **Spirit Rescue International**. Irene wrote her autobiography, *Among The Spirits*, which tells of her personal journey interacting with ghosts and spirits, and how she works with people to help resolve their frightening paranormal problems.



The success of her first book inspired Irene to delve into her extensive background to write two novels. *The Psychic Spy* tells the story of Eileen Evans, a young British psychic who is recruited by MI6 to be a part of their secret Remote Viewing program. Finding forbidden love with a fellow agent, Eileen finds herself quickly descending deeper into a world of danger and death at every turn. Not only must she cope with the very real possibility of losing her life, she must also struggle with losing her very soul.

Demons Dwell - The Tower takes place in a quiet Italian village on the idyllic Amalfitana Coast where two paranormal researchers investigate a sinister evil that threatens to destroy a young family. They quickly find themselves embroiled in a one hundred year old mystery involving Satanic cults, demonic possession, and terrifying unknown dark forces.

Irene Allen-Block's books are available in soft cover or Kindle format at Amazon.co.uk or at <http://www.glannantty.com>.



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“YOU’LL DIE SCREAMING (WITH LAUGHTER)”

“What happens when mirth turns to murder? When the screams are not from joy, but flesh-ripping pain? Dead Funny is an audacious anthology, featuring tales of terror from some of the brightest lights in UK comedy”

Award-winning comedian Robin Ince and award-winning horror editor Johnny Mains team up for this unique exploration into the relationship between comedy and terror to see if they do, indeed, as is believed, make the most comfortable bedfellows.



And those wonderful people at Salt Publishing have kindly given us a snippet of one of the stories featured in the book...



DEAD FUNNY

INTRODUCTION

I WAS LUCKY enough to find a sheep's skull in a field when I was ten, and soon it was on my bedside table, with a candle stuck on it to replicate some imagined cover of a horror anthology. I was that child who hung around cemeteries, collected LPs of death and horror sound effects and Edgar Allan Poe readings by Basil Rathbone, and was told by his older sisters that, if and when he grew up, he'd become a serial killer. I became a stand-up comedian instead. On the advice of the Pope of Trash, John Waters, I have committed my hideous crimes as comedy routines rather than in actuality.

It all started with Alan Frank's *Horror Movies* book. I still have it now, though stupid nine year old me cut out some of the colour plates to make into a wastepaper bin as a project at the Friday night Baptist church children's group. It would be some time before I would see my first proper horror. At ten, I saw Vincent Price in *The Pit and the Pendulum*. At eleven, I was allowed to watch the black and white half of the BBC horror double bill season. I wrote to Boris Karloff's widow and she sent me a lovely letter back.

All things horror were embraced by the outsider kids of my generation. We spent our pocket money on *House*

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Introduction

of *Hammer* magazine and trading cards with a stick of yellow gum and images of Christopher Lee's Dracula impaled on a cartwheel. I bought the *Mayflower Book of Black Magic Stories* and picked up Herbert Van Thal's *Pan Book of Horror Stories*. The first I remember reading was by Dulcie Gray, an actor who specialised in playing well-bred couples with her husband Michael Denison, but I discovered that behind this prim and proper exterior was a mind that reveled in the grotesque. The outlet for being trapped in stagey, sometimes stodgy fare, was to kill and kill again on the page.

The comedians and writers I usually hang out with were usually the slightly weird kids at school, while others collected football stickers, they hung around comic shops trying to get hold of *Monster Mag* and imagining whole films in their heads from single stills of decapitated Shakespearians or frozen Nazis. We had nightmares, but rather than destroy us, we fed on them, and one day they'd become our day job. I still read Poe now, and I even got around to a one off, late night improvised prog rock musical with Robyn Hitchcock and a bunch of jazz musicians, mimes and opera singers, based on Guy N Smith's killer crabs novels.

And while you are reading this book, remember that the goriest deaths will have been created while the writer was imagining their worst heckler. Interrupt at a comedy club at your peril, now you know what goes on in the minds of the stand-up.

As to the traumatic birth of this book, I 'met' editor Johnny Mains in 2010 through Twitter. I was due to play in Norwich, where he was then living. He asked if we could chat about the *Pan Horrors* after my show, which we did.

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Over several beers. Johnny made less sense as the evening went on and he forgot his coat.

We met again when I came to Plymouth in 2011 with 'Night of 400 Billion Stars'. He came to me with the idea of co-editing *Dead Funny* and it was something I immediately said yes to. However, Johnny and I are both hectically busy people and we never got round to working on the book until this year. But here it is. A book that we're both extremely proud of, we've not had to kill any comedians during the making of it and I'd like to thank Johnny for all of his hard work.

ROBIN INCE

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FOREWORD

I ALWAYS THINK that a good story becomes a truly great one when it has a smattering of black humour to it. The stories of Conrad Hill and Harry E. Turner, both authors of the infamous *Pan Book of Horror Stories* series were able to, quite magically, mix disgusting horror and stomach ache laughter very easily.

It was during a chat about what anthology to do next with my wife when we hit upon the idea that an anthology by comedians would be a suitably quirky book. It's certainly never been done before. The more I thought on the concept, the more I was excited by it; comedians write their own material and it can stray into very dark places at times. Why couldn't they write a short story?

I had known Robin Ince for about a year by this time. I had commissioned a short story from both he and Charlie Higson, and what I was sent for *The Screaming Book of Horror* only confirmed the fact that a horror anthology, written by comedians, just *might* work.

So I asked Robin if he would co-edit the book with me. Robin said yes, then the work of finding a publisher began. Although interested, several publishers said no. They were impressed by the names we could bring to the book, but all said that horror anthologies didn't sell

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any more. One publisher even laughed down the phone at me.

Finally, I found a publisher who were really excited by the idea, Salt. And it's another example of an Indie publisher venturing into territory where the mainstream ones fear to tread.

And bless them, they've been really brilliant to work with.

So here is *Dead Funny*. Horror stories by comedians. It's an experiment in terror. Not all of the stories will make you laugh. Some of them might make you vomit or be scared to go outdoors after 6 p.m.

I'm so very proud of this book. It's been a surreal experience to work on but a delight to do. Thank you to Robin Ince who is a very canny co-editor and also the authors who have written some excellent stories. I really do hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

JOHNNY MAINS

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ROBIN INCE

MOST OUT OF CHARACTER

THE SCREAMING WAS deafening.

The panic was swollen-eyed and chaotic.

Whatever it was had startled them from their brain-stem instincts into a very conscious terror. He had been told that intelligence was what you used when you didn't know what to do, a relief from the binary options that most animals are stuck with.

Like that frog he'd seen that had its eyes turned upside down by some scientist investigating whatever it was that scientists investigate when they feel the need to turn a frog's eyes upside down. That stupid frog, every time a fly flew by its tongue would go in the opposite direction, down, not up.

Stupid, stupid frog.

It got hungrier and hungrier, but it never learnt.

He wasn't that keen on vivisection, after all, he was a vegetarian, he had been since he saw Morrissey for the first time. He had a morbid fear of meeting Morrissey

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ROBIN INCE

and smelling of mince or bacon, so had stuck by his principles, though he did sometimes eat foie gras.

He hated those vegetarians who felt all guilty because they had a bit of chicken or tuna; if you are going to break the rules, really break the rules.

Lose your willpower and eat something that exploded inside a duck, or was it a goose?

He couldn't remember.

He could kill a fly, but he couldn't kill a bee. They danced. If an animal has learnt a complex series of dance moves to express itself, then let it live.

But flies?

To hell with flies.

Who cares?

Why get teary over a fly.

That silly human trait of anthropomorphising.

The fly has no inner life, he thought. It's not as if it gets hit by a newspaper and falls to its death ruing that it was a bitter irony that today of all days he died, his day of retirement, the last day that he was to vomit on ham before moving to the Algarve to spend his splendid last days shitting on cheese.

What was all this screaming about? It was beginning to annoy him. That laughable foolishness of panic that sledgehammers the veneer of human sophistication.

'I am not an animal!'

Of course you were, Joseph Merrick.

We all are, whether we have bumpy, lumpy heads or aqualine noses and alluring eyes.

He didn't like being an animal. He liked politeness and wine and talking about impenetrable books that won prizes. He controlled his urges. He was meticulous, most of the time. Perhaps very late at night he would

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Most Out Of Character

let himself go a little, he might peer at what others were doing and experience the vicarious thrill of others' lust slowly bleeding into his own, but he was never seedy.

Another scream pierced him. He had a sense of looking up, though numb and blurry. He was seeing everything as if it was surrounded by a heat haze. Slightly disembodied, like that time he had half-wittedly bought those 'legal highs' from the back of a magazine of ghosts, leprechauns and water memory. He wouldn't do that again. It had taken almost a fortnight to get possession of his body back. He had sat stiffly in an armchair for days, looking at his own hands, perplexed by the movement of his own fingers. Had he met his homunculus? He felt a little like that now, he wasn't even sure where his hands were... or his feet. Not only was he not feeling himself, he really couldn't feel himself. Did he feel dizzy? Was he lost? Did he feel sick or well?

The square was empty now, though he saw it before him, he didn't know for sure if he was in it. In the distance, a man ran into the square, saw something, and ran, startled. Everyone else was scared, why wasn't he?

What had the man seen that he hadn't or couldn't?

He saw a hand.

It was his hand.

And it was bloody.

Sodden with gore.

TO FINISH READING ROBIN'S STORY & STORIES FROM REECE SHEARSMITH, CHARLIE HIGSON, RUFUS HOUND, AL MURRAY AND MANY, MANY MORE YOU NEED TO PURCHASE DEAD FUNNY OR POP IT ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST

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DEAD FUNNY

HORROR STORIES BY COMEDIANS

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'WE ARE SCIENTISTS SEARCHING FOR
THE THINGS SCIENCE CAN'T EXPLAIN.'

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#FREAKYFRIDAY

You **Tube** OFFICIALUKHAUNTED

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I don't know about you but it is very rare that I watch programmes at the time that they are actually on. My television viewing life is a late night cacophony via Sky Plus, on demand or +1. I am relegated to this because the women in my household (the wife & six year old twin daughters) have control over the remote control and you know what it is really not worth arguing about (the plans for my "man shed" are taking shape in my head).

You Tube

THE HAUNTED CHANNEL



in association with Haunted Events UK and Haunted Digital Magazine

I went through my Sky Plus the other day as it was down to 1% and drastic action was called for – do I ditch The Magnificent Seven, Some Like it Hot, Ghost Adventures or sneakily remove some of the kid's programmes and blame it on the big old satellite up there in space? Anyway it got me thinking about how you can watch things these days, back in the days when I was a young un (circa late 1970s-early-1980s) you had no choice it was BBC or ITV for an hour after school and a couple of hours at the weekend (for your information I was more Swap Shop than Tiswas (contrary to popular opinion)) but now if you miss something you don't have to mope around as you can view it like a Martini and have an 'anytime, anyplace, anywhere' moment.

I reckon that there are more channels available to me than Loom Bands in my house; well that maybe a slight exaggeration but it paints the scenario that I am trying to create that TV is everywhere and it won't be long before everyone has their own channel. Funny I should say that as we do have our own channel and we have cunningly called it The Haunted Channel.

The Haunted Channel is a new venture that we (Haunted Digital Magazine) are proud to be working on alongside our good friends Haunted Events UK, one of the leading paranormal ghost event companies in the UK. If you're reading this magazine you are more than likely to have an interest in the paranormal and all things spooky, ghostly and things that go bump in the night and you know what, so do we.

We love the paranormal; we love its humour, its naughtiness, its darkness, its nastiness and as lovers of the paranormal we sit there watching all the paranormal shows on TV and thinking a plethora of thoughts ranging from good to bad and from the sublime to the ridiculous and it got us to thinking about the "for every one that makes it, there's ten that don't" quote that is often heard in the music industry and that got us to thinking some more that there might be some paranormal shows out there, somewhere in the ether that are just as good as the ones that we see on the umpteen channels that show them and haven't had the luck of the paranormal green when it comes to getting them shown to a paranormal audience.

That is one of many reasons why The Haunted Channel was born and why this feature goes on about the massive potential for people to show off their own shows, stories and adventures to a new audience who are hungry and greedy for more.

We're not saying we are the next Sky TV or Virgin Media but what we want to be is to be a strong paranormal voice and champion the shows out there that deserve to be seen. We could've just created a playlist for these shows to be seen and shared that to our social networking stalkers, which would've been so easy but we're not here to rest on our paranormal laurels which is why we created #WickedWednesdays.

Wicked Wednesdays is actually a proper paranormal scheduled programme that is dedicated to showing some brand new

paranormal shows, it's on every Wednesday, it's segued brilliantly by the owner of Haunted Events UK, Lee Roberts and it's "wicked". The idea behind it is to show off some fantastically produced and edited paranormal shows that would hold their own with some of the paranormal shows that have found their way onto the mainstream digital channels and have had the fortune to have money thrown at them and backed by large corporations and companies.

It's very early days for The Haunted Channel and we hope that, in time, Wicked Wednesdays are joined by Terrifying Tuesdays and Frightening Fridays, who knows what could happen? It is the paranormal after all.

And now a word from our sponsor.....

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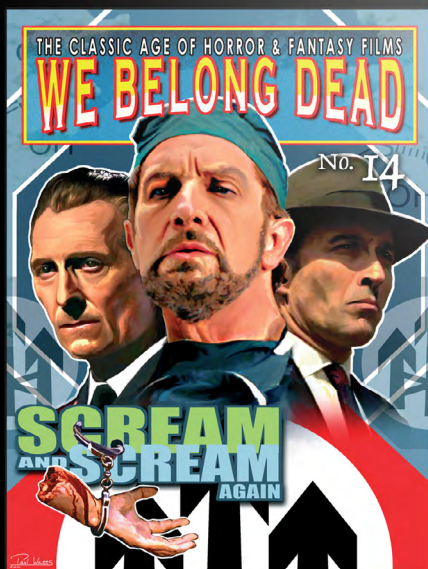
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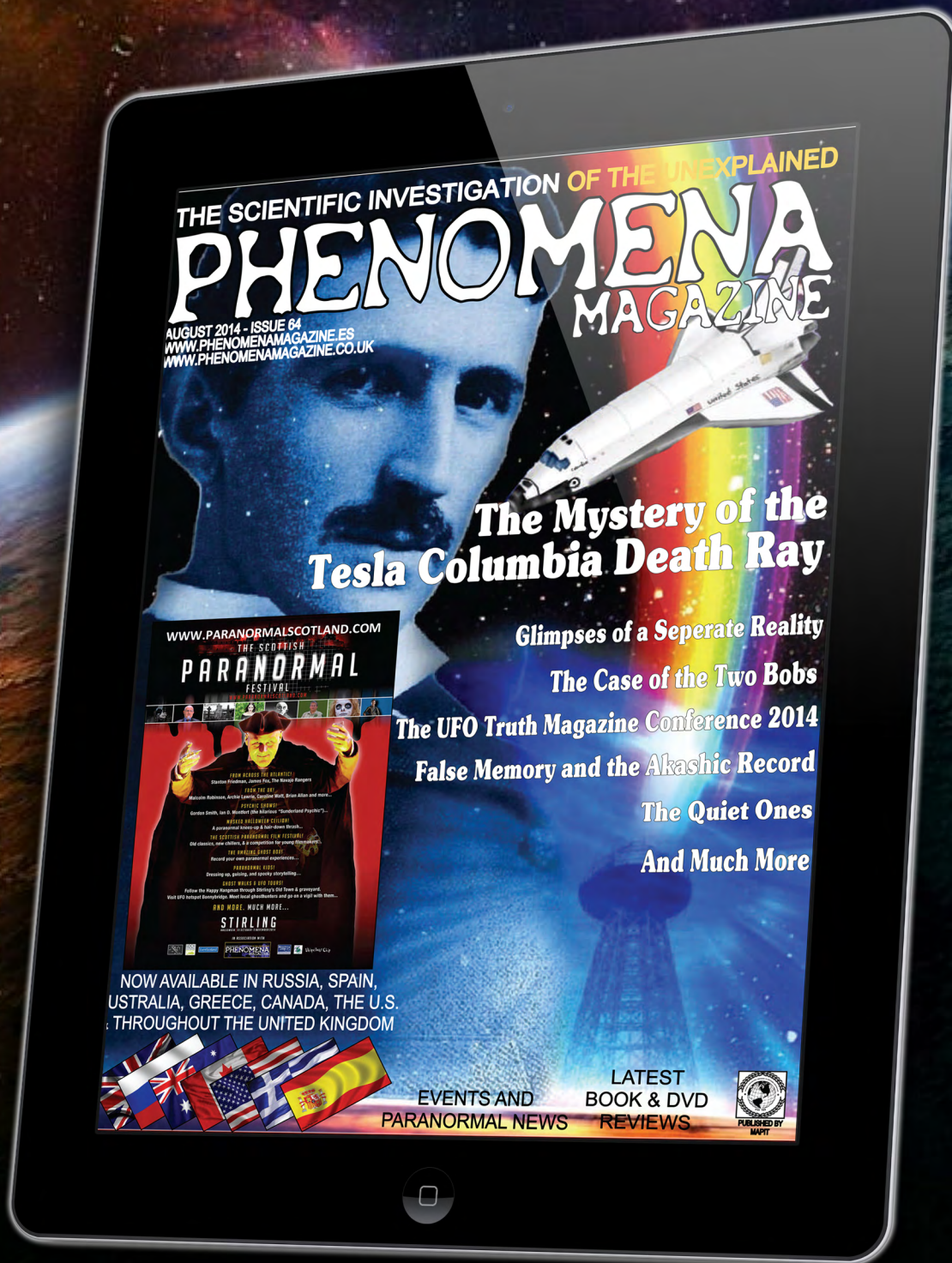
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Paul Stevenson

paul@deadgoodpublishing.com

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Andy Soar

andy@deadgoodpublishing.com

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Jason 'JJ' White

jason@deadgoodpublishing.com

COVER ART

Thoma G. Anderson

WRITING TALENT & CONTRIBUTORS

Anne D Sauw, Steven Paulson, Shelley Palmer, Lee Roberts, Rita Scott, Leonard Low, Anthony Crowley, Charles W. Bryant, Nigel Hewett, Von Callaghan, Dark Morte, Nichole Jeffrey, Merrick Alora, Roxy Orcutt, Mike Wrigley, Robin Ince and Philip Solomon.

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