

HAUNTED

magazine

#16



TOKEN MALE



GUEST EDITOR
Lorraine Warren
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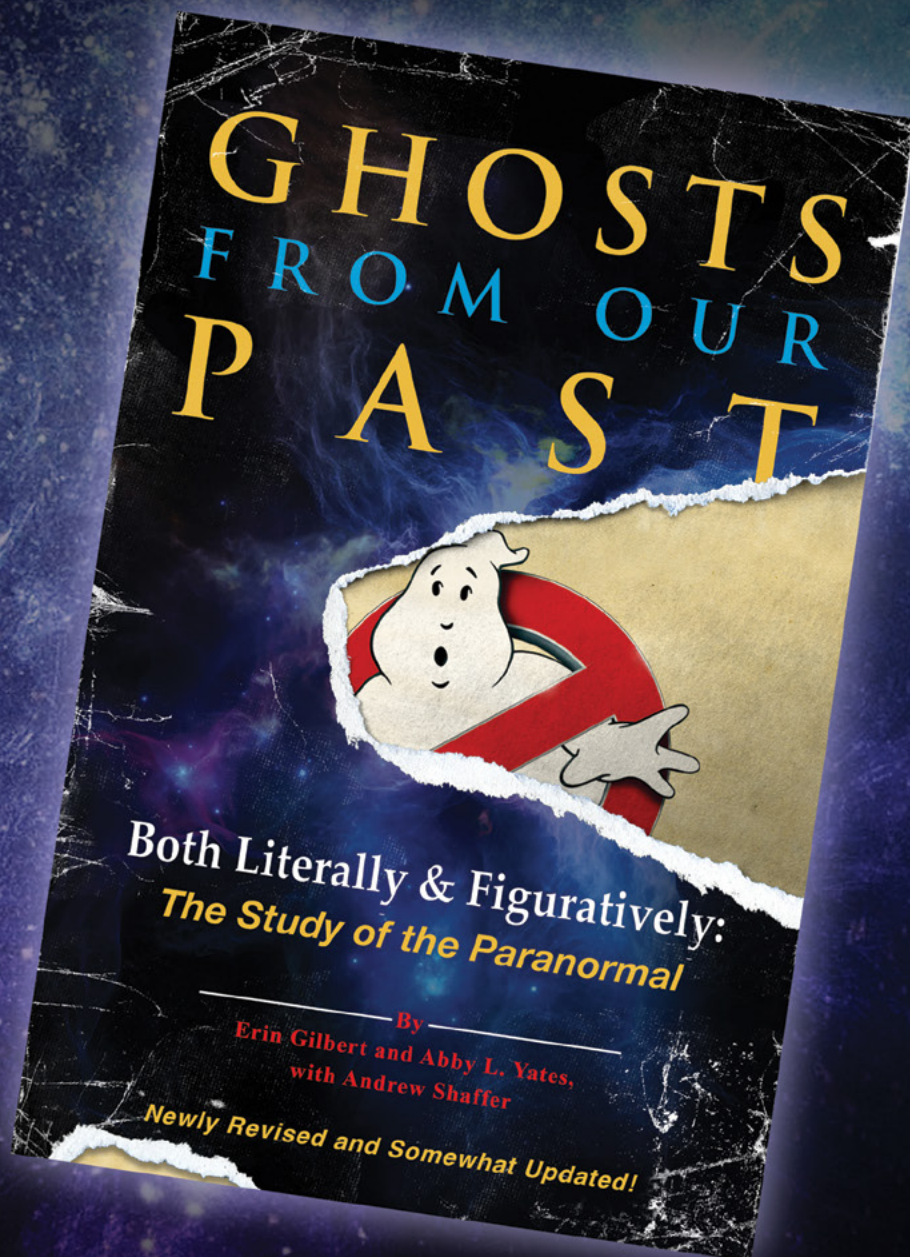
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“We know.”
— Erin Gilbert and Abby L. Yates



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*"Behind every male ghost hunter
there's a female ghost hunter
pulling the strings, we know our
place"*

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Massive Thanks

Lorraine Warren and Tony Spera,
the editorial is an important
piece of the magazine, we are
truly honoured and humbled that
Lorraine agreed to write it.

Awesome Thanks

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Kristin Wiig, Kate McKinnon,
you rebooted something special
and dear to our hearts and made
it more magical and special
than we ever could've imagined
(buckets of slime to the doubters
and knockers)

*This issue is dedicated to every
female ghost hunter, past, present
and future.*

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EDITORIAL

Guest Editor: Lorraine Warren, YES the one and only LORRAINE WARREN

Women in the Supernatural Realm

My husband Ed and I began investigating reports of haunted houses, ghosts, satanic cults and a myriad of other paranormal events before it was a generally accepted concept. We took the slings and arrows of the sceptics (there were many) and the atheists, and the name callers. But we never wavered. When you do something that deep in your heart and soul you know is righteous and good, nothing can stand in your way.

And so it was with Ed and I.

My husband grew up in a haunted house and lived in fear, from age five to age twelve. He witnessed intense haunting phenomena. He was well aware of the torment endured by families plagued by inhuman entities. For me, however, my life growing up was much different. I was in a loving Irish Catholic family upbringing, ghosts and Devils were never spoken of.

I learned early, however, at the tender age of nine, that I was different from others. That's when I began seeing lights around people. (I later learned that what I was seeing was the human aura that surrounds all living things).

Women's involvement in the paranormal realm is accepted rather easily today. And that is as it should be. For women have much to offer in terms of sensitivity and empathy. I am delighted to have been asked to write the editorial for Haunted Magazine's Women in Paranormal special, I understand and get what they're trying to do with the magazine and their approach and take on the paranormal.

We all have a long way to go in terms of gathering a solid understanding of the supernatural realm. We have only scratched the surface into this intangible and invisible realm. Perhaps we will never know all of the answers while we reside on this earth plane. Mysteries of the Universe that we are not meant to know about.....

And perhaps that's how it should be.

Enjoy the magazine.

Love & Prayers,

Lorraine Warren



22



THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

06 THE MYSTERIES OF
WYMERING MANOR

10 JUST CALL ME
CATHERINE CROWE

13 THEN I SAW HER FACE,
NOW I'M A BELIEVER

17 CALAMITYVILLE HORROR:
FIVE GO MAD IN BODMIN

20 I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT,
WHAT I **REALLY, REALLY**, WANT!

26 DIXON OF SHOCK, SCREAM!

30 THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES:
SPOOKIER THAN THE MALE!

56



GHOSTBUSTERS: SISTERS ARE BOOING IT FOR THEMSELVES!!!

34 3 GIRLS IN THE DARK:
THE VILLISCA AX MURDER HOUSE

38 PATTI NEGRI:
A WHITE WITCH IN HOLLYWOOD

CONTENTS

42 HAUNTED MAGAZINE DOES CRYSTALS. WTF!

44 INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINA HENRY

47 INTERVIEW WITH LORRAINE WARREN

51 TROUBLE AND STRIFE: THE GHOST HUNTER'S WIFE

52 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER



70



ED AND LORRAINE WARREN: A LOVE STORY

62 THE DARKER SIDE OF CRYSTALS

65 EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION

68 MAN VS WOMAN

72 WHEN WORLD'S COLLIDE

76 THE TOP 10 WORST WITCH CASES EVER

81 IS BRIGHTON THE PLACE TO FRIGHTEN?

83 SO, JUST WHO IS DOREEN VALIENTE?

86 THE NUMBER OF THE BEASTS

91 TOP FEAR

94 ONCE UPON A TIME IN AN ABANDONED MENTAL INSTITUTE

013335

2206




WHO YA GONNA CALL? HAUNTED MAGAZINE!



THE MYSTERIES OF WYMERING MANOR

QUITE POSSIBLY PORTSMOUTH'S PREMIER PARANORMAL PROPERTY. PERHAPS?

BY NORIE MILES



“THE GHOSTS HAVE PLAYED
THEIR PART IN GENERATING
INTEREST IN THE MANOR.
THEY WILL ALWAYS BE PART
OF THE MANOR”

Wymering Manor is located in a quiet residential area on the outskirts of the city of Portsmouth. Originally it would have been well away from any other buildings, but today it is almost hidden amongst modern housing. This is perhaps the best known property in terms of paranormal activity in Portsmouth, and Wymering Manor is certainly the oldest habitation in the city. There was a roman camp near Wymering in 43 to 438 and the Saxon tribal leader Wym may well have included land from the manor in his settlement. The first recorded occupant was William Mauduit from 1085 - 1167. Naturally a house of this age will have many stories to tell some of which have become legend.

Probably the most infamous legend is that of Reckless Roddy from Portchester Castle. It is said that in the middle Ages a husband brought his pretty young wife to the Manor House. Shortly after, the husband was called away for several days. Sir Roderick of Portchester found out about this, and decided to call over to see the bride at night in the hope of seducing her. The husband returned unexpectedly and Sir Roderick-Reckless Roddy-tried to escape. The legend does not include whether or not he had been successful in his seduction but the husband slew him as he attempted to mount his horse, which then bolted up the lane.

The ghost of Reckless Roddy is said to return to Wymering Manor whenever a newly married couple stay there. The legend tells that the newlyweds will hear a ghostly horse bolting up the lane in the dead of night.

This happened to Leonard Metcalfe shortly after he married following World War II. He had not heard the legend and did not learn of it until many years later. The first night he stayed at the house after he married, his wife woke him and asked him about the noise of a horse outside. They both heard it gallop away up the lane. It was 2.00am.

The house has been used as a youth hostel and in 1960 one Mr. Jones was the first Youth Hostels Association Warden. He was completely unaware of the legend and on his first night at Wymering Manor, Mr Jones and his wife were kept awake by the clear sound of a horse outside.

The previously mentioned Leonard Metcalfe and his wife Marion occupied the South East corner bedroom of which was known as the 'Panelled Room'; On many occasions when Mr Metcalfe was facing the washbasin he felt a hand on his shoulder but there was nobody there when he turned around. He had always scoffed at 'ghost stories' but he, his wife and his mother, quite often felt like the room was about to close in on them, and there was a strange presence that would want to make them flee the room.

The first Youth Hostels Association Warden and his wife, Mr and Mrs E. Jones, had also expressed an unexplained fear of the room although they had heard nothing of the previous experiences of others

Leonard Metcalfe, who died in 1958, said he often saw a choir of nuns crossing the hall at midnight and heard them chanting along to the sound of music. The family used to scoff and disbelieved his story as none of them, at that time, had any knowledge of sisters visiting the house in the middle of the last century. These were from the Sisterhood of Saint Mary the Virgin of which Mr Metcalfe knew nothing at the time of his death.

Very recently, in 2007, a group of young guests were in the hall one evening, when two of the girls began screaming that 'figures in long dark robes were walking across the hall from the front door' towards them. These girls were completely unaware of what the robes signified and had heard no stories about the manor. Were these the same nuns that Leonard heard and seen?

Outside the small attic room, a Nun has been seen with her hands dripping with blood, she is just said to be looking down the staircase that leads from the attic.

When Mr Parr lived in the house, he awoke one night to see his cousin who had died in 1917, standing at the foot of his bed. She was wearing a full length violet coloured dress, addressed him as 'Tom', spoke of her recent religious experiences and of deceased members of the family. The ghost said "Well Tommy dear, I have to go now as we are about to receive Aunt Em". Early next day he received a telegram saying that Aunt Em had died in the night. An older relative who was staying in the "Blue Room" would always lock her door at night for fear of burglars-was surprised to find her door ajar the following morning.

A guest staying in the Panelled Room dreamt that someone was hanging from the tall Chestnut tree which the small window in the room overlooked. When he awoke in the morning and looked out a body was hanging from the branch. A man had committed suicide in the night. Other visitors have experienced a similar dream.

In 2002 a former manager David and his wife Evette were living at the manor with their children. One evening his wife Evette witnessed seeing a figure of a man on the stairs, her husband David presented her with a collection of random Victorian photos from a book about the vicars of Farlington. David asked if she could identify the clothing of which the apparition was wearing, but instead of pointed out the clothing; Evette pointed to a picture of a man in the book she recognised and said it was him she saw on the stairs. It turned out the photo was incorrectly credited and the photo wasn't a vicar but was in fact Sir Francis Austen who is buried across the road at St Peter and St Paul church.

Sir Francis was a full admiral and Commander in Chief of the North American and West Indian fleet, he was made a Senior Admiral of the Fleet when he was 89 years old. His sister was Jane Austen the famous author. Sir Francis died in 1865

Many paranormal groups over the years have visited the Manor, and have reported all sorts of phenomena. A number of apparitions have been sighted by ghost hunters, as well as many EVP'S (Electronic Voice Phenomena) recorded on tape and Dictaphones.

Now the Manor belongs to the charity Wymering Manor Trust, their aim is to renovate the building and is trying to making it a valued community asset. The Friends of Old Wymering are still supporting and helping the Manor, but they are a separate organisation. The Manor still allows paranormal groups in occasionally, as well as murder mysteries and workshops.

Norie x

"OUTSIDE THE SMALL ATTIC ROOM, A NUN HAS BEEN SEEN WITH HER HANDS DRIPPING WITH BLOOD."



Norie Miles

Norie is the Editor of the *Supernatural Magazine*, Conference and Events Organiser for ASSAP (*The Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomenon*) and a global business coach. With 44 years' experience investigating the paranormal, having conducted investigations in Australia and America as well as the UK, there aren't many people with more experience than **Norie**. In addition to her commitment as an investigator, **Norie** has worked as an advisor and researcher for many paranormal TV shows and appeared as a contributor. **Norie** is also a member of the *Society for Psychical Research (SPR)* and a solid part of the wider paranormal community and well respected amongst her peers.

You can read *Supernatural Magazine* at <http://supernaturalmagazine.com/> (it is the second best magazine out there about all things paranormal; we're probably fourth or fifth best so you can bet that *Supernatural* is something special!)

JAYNE HARRIS WANTS YOU TO

“JUST CALL ME CATHERINE CROWE...”



Have you ever wondered whether you've lived before? Do you even believe in past lives?

I'm unsure personally, although I have over the years seen and read about many compelling cases, so let us assume for a moment that we have all been here before, that this physical life we now enjoy is but one of many incarnations we are to experience. If we knew for a fact that this were the case, how many of you reading this would love to know who you were, and when?

ME, ME, ME! Erm...yes, I would. Sorry, for a moment there I forgot myself, or did I?

I've always had an impulsive nature, often acting without thinking, my mind littered with thoughts, ideas, to-do lists and so on – all of which may appear quite mad if written down. I'm also known for my stubborn nature and if I have

lived another life before this one then I can see no reason why it would be any different, and in fact I think it highly likely that I've gained my quirks and traits as a result of past experiences!

Yes, I must have been a stubborn, determined woman, slightly bonkers with an obsession for all things paranormal. I would like to believe also that I have once lived a life in Edinburgh, a place which in this life holds a piece of my heart and calls me back time and time again.

Enter Catherine Crowe.

Many of you may not be familiar with this name, and you'd be forgiven, after all the veil of time is so swiftly drawn across many of our pioneering female trail blazers. If I were to transport you back to 1848 you would find you were hearing and reading about her very often however as in this year a book was published, written by Mrs. Crowe, entitled “The Night-side of Nature”,

which was a competent investigation into the supernatural using historical evidence and a variety of self-developed theories and research methods. It was ground-breaking and bearing in mind that it was written almost 40 years before the Society for Psychical Research (the SPR) was founded, it possibly helped lay the foundations for all future analytical ‘para-thinking’ and psychical research. She was an intelligent woman and knew that the book would likely be rubbished by respected academics, not least because it was penned by a woman, but that didn't deter her.

In the books introduction she makes a direct appeal to the academic community urging them to take notice of some of her more credible reports, highlighting that they deserved proper scientific investigation.

“I avow that in writing this

book I have a higher aim than merely to afford amusement. I wish to engage the attention of my readers, as I am satisfied that the opinions I am about to advocate, seriously entertained, would produce very beneficial results...If I could only induce a few capable persons, instead of laughing at these things, to look at them, my object would be attained and I should consider my time well spent”.

Yes, indeed Catherine Crowe was a bright and determined woman with her eyes on the prize. She wanted recognition and approval from those she respected.

Victorian society was at this point fascinated by ghostly tales and Catherine was very keen to separate truth from fiction by introducing measurable methods of investigation and to my mind certainly helped prompt this now much recognized field of study. Life must have been full

“Did Catherine Crowe really tear through the streets of Edinburgh at the end of February 1854, naked but for a handkerchief clutched in one plump hand and a visiting card in the other? And, if she did, was it because she had experienced a nervous breakdown, or because the spirits had convinced her that, once her clothes were shed, she would become invisible?”

of obstacles for Catherine. Born Catherine Stevens in the Borough Green area of Kent in 1790 she had been home schooled, sheltering her from many of the realities of the big wide world. But this didn't seem to faze her.

The very fact that she was a woman looking to make a name for herself in what was a man's world is testament to her determination and thick skin, and the Yearbook of Spiritualism published in 1871 lists her as 'a prominent Spiritualist', showing that she had indeed achieved her goal by then. Alongside her work in the field of the paranormal, she was also one of the earliest advocates of women's educational rights and her associates and friends included Hans Christian Anderson, Harriet Martineau (often named the first female Sociologist)



and artist Jane Loudon, showing she was certainly moving in some very influential and intellectual circles. Quite an achievement for a sheltered girl born into a village life.

Despite all of her achievements, it was an extraordinary claim about her, made by Charles Dickens in 1854, whilst she was living in Edinburgh, which really captured the public attention. Dickens had found Crowe an interesting individual and had followed her work for some time, although he seemed not to like her very much judging by comments noted in some of his letters “she is a medium, and an ass” being one such comment!

In a letter to the Revd. James White, dated 7 March 1854, he gave what has become the standard account of the incident which signalled the beginning of the end for Crowe's career:

“Mrs. Crowe has gone stark mad – and stark naked – on the spirit-rapping imposition. She was found t’other day in the street, clothed only in her chastity, a pocket-handkerchief and a visiting card. She had been informed, it appeared, by the spirits, that if she went out in that trim she would be invisible. She is now in a mad-house and, I fear, hopelessly insane. One of the curious manifestations of her disorder is that she can bear nothing black. There is a terrific business to be done, even when they are obliged to put coals on her fire”.

Dickens seemed to take great pleasure in spreading this rumour through various letters and no doubt conversation. So was it true? Did Catherine Crowe suddenly go mad, and believe that the spirits told her to go outside naked with a playing card and a handkerchief in order to become invisible? Well despite Dickens circulating the rumour, nothing appeared in any edition of the Scottish

Newspapers. Surely it would have been a wonderful headline?

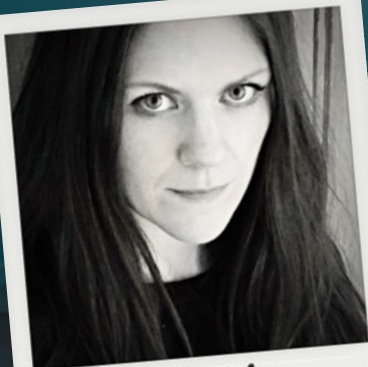
Crowe herself always strongly denied that the incident ever took place and even wrote a letter to the Daily News in April 1854 contesting the claims most strongly.

Whatever the truth, whether a mad, naked Spiritualist, or an intelligent and determined woman making waves in Victorian high society, one thing is clear. This woman not only raised the profile of the Spiritualist movement as we know it today, but more importantly I see her as the spark which ignited the Psychical Research fire. Over 40 years before the creation of the Society for Psychical Research Catherine Crowe was out there investigating suspected hauntings in a methodical and scientific way. She was recording events and analysing data while most others with an interest in the spirit world were sitting around tables holding hands.

Crowe's *The Night Side of Nature* was one of the publishing sensations of 1848, and appeared before the worldwide explosion of interest in communication with the dead, encouraged by the Fox Sisters across the Atlantic. The book introduced a large number of well-to-do Victorians to the world of the occult, and has been described as “marked the turning point in society's relationship with the paranormal.”

So going back to past lives, I'd be infinitely proud if I could know with a degree of certainty, that one of my past incarnations was as this incredible woman, but of course that's highly unlikely. And so I suppose for now I'll forge onwards in her honour as a woman cutting her own path through the Paranormal forest of beliefs, theories and challenges.

If she could do it then... ladies, we can do it now.



Jayne Harris

Described in VICE's Broadly Magazine as “Britain's Foremost Female Paranormal Investigator”, Jayne is Co-Founder of HD Paranormal Research, an organisation which specialises in investigating potentially haunted objects and Chairwoman of the Midlands Society for Paranormal Research (MSPR).

Jayne's fascination with the paranormal began at an early age with both of her great

grandmothers being spirit mediums, and she has spent the last 18 years studying and experiencing the various phenomena first hand. As a qualified Psychologist and member of the Parapsychological Association, Jayne tries to approach each new case with a view to finding a rational explanation.

Jayne is also a published author and a regular on Paranormal TV

and Radio worldwide with her most recent appearance being on the Travel Channels “Deadly Possessions” with Zak Bagans.

HD Paranormal are the caretakers of *Peggy the Doll*, considered the UK's most haunted object and one of the top 5 most haunted objects in the world.



“THEN I SAW HER FACE, NOW I’M A BELIEVER”

THOUGHTS FROM A BELIEVER
Why Science May Never Give us Proof...

By **Fiona Dodwell**

IF YOU have ever had a paranormal experience, the chances are, this has changed you in ways hard to describe. That moment – or perhaps many moments? – where you have been exposed to something of a paranormal nature is incomparable to anything else.

There really is nothing else quite like it, and if you have been witness to it yourself, you will know what I mean. The thundering heart rate, the feeling of being in touch with something unnatural, the hairs on the back of your neck raising, the room turning colder, the sense of not being alone, of perhaps even seeing with your own eyes the figure before you that really shouldn't be there.

It has been amongst us since the beginning of humanity, that pull towards something deeper, the spiritual side of ourselves, the search of life-after-death. Throughout history, people lay claim to seeing it for themselves – ghostly apparitions making appearances, voices reaching us through the ether, the touch of a hand that you cannot see.

I had a very chilling encounter of my own, about five years ago. Whilst staying with my in-laws, I awoke one night feeling very uncomfortable, and I saw a figure standing at the end of the bed, staring at the bedroom door intently, as if waiting for something. She was tall and broad, wearing glasses, with white hair amassed at the top of her head. I looked at her for a moment, my chest tight with nerves, and then reached over to grab my husband. I was afraid.

He aroused and looked over at me, and as I was about to point out the apparition to him, the figure had gone. Simply vanished. The next morning, over breakfast, I described the woman in some detail. Of course, the family were sceptical and offered rational explanations:

Was I not dreaming? Or had I simply imagined it?

It was during that breakfast discussion that my mother in law produced an old photograph album from her cupboard. In it, she showed me a picture of my husband's Great Grandmother. She looked exactly like the woman I had seen the night before - and she had died many years ago. I had not seen her before, had never seen those photographs - and I had never met her before she passed away.

It is moments like this that haunt the minds of those who witness something paranormal. A close relative of mine spent a week in an old house in Northern Ireland, only to find her nights there tinged with fear: lights that she'd turned off would be on when she awoke, a voice was heard humming in the night, and one morning, she awoke to find that even furniture had been moved around in the lounge. When packing her suitcase to leave, even her clothes were moved and rearranged. She left there hoping never to return - she never did.

We number many, those who believe they have experienced something of a paranormal nature. In truth, I

can understand the scepticism that people have. If you have never been witness to something like this yourself, then it sounds silly. Irrational, even. The answers are thrown at us all too easily: You're lying. You were tired. You imagined it. Sometimes, they are correct. Our minds are full of desperation to make sense, make patterns, of the things we are seeing. It's a true aspect of the human condition - we are almost 'predisposed' to seeing things that are, sometimes, not actually what they seem.

Aside from that, though, I believe lies a seed of truth, a foundation of something we are yet to fully understand. People the world over have been experiencing these things for as long as humans have been around - and I do believe there are simply too many experiences to discount them all.

So, what do we have left to do? How do we - if we need to indeed do anything - prove the existence of the paranormal? Can we?

Here is where the conflict lies. Whilst science is being heralded as the way forward to secure proof of the paranormal, I do believe it will always fall short of what people want to see as evidence. Think about the amount of equipment that people now use in ghost investigations - light sensors, electronic voice phenomena gadgets, electric magnetic field detectors and even toys that light up when movement or temperature shifts near it. These are all wonderful things

(things that I think are often well developed and useful tools, things that I like to use myself) but I do not think that evidence caught this way will necessarily be the trump card that believers wish they had to inform the more sceptical amongst us.

Why?

Because there will always be a "Ah, but it could be..." response. And maybe rightly so.

Did the impressive footsteps caught on EVP really capture a ghostly resident marching the halls above us, or was it Steve from the Ghost Hunting group grabbing tea on his break?

Did the lights flicker in response to the investigator's nudging questions, or because there was a fault in the electrics? I am not being antagonist here, or disrespectful - after all, I am a believer - but I do think even our best scientific evidence will often fall short of the explosive, definitive evidence we wish to find and present.

There is always a "Ah, but it could be..." moment, that can discredit or undermine even the most unusual moment caught during experiments or investigations.

Is there anything we can do about this? The most serious and ardent of those paranormal students amongst us can, of course, keep using and developing these important tools. Use them in strict settings, under strict guidelines, ensuring that all and anything

caught can be verified, can stand up to scrutiny and be ready to confidently refute those often frustrating, "Ah, but..." moments.

However, ultimately, when it comes the paranormal, perhaps it will always come back to this: the personal experience. Maybe that has to be enough - maybe it is enough. Through my years learning and investigating this subject, I have found myself absolutely amazed at many of the encounters described to me. People have felt their whole attitudes to life have changed after their encounter, some people so passionate about the truth of their experience that they dedicate their lives to studying the subject after. People have moved homes after seeing frightening apparitions; people have called in priests when frightened in their own home after what they have seen. Sometimes, and this is a big issue in itself, people long for the world after this one after their experience.

Maybe this is all we need. To be able demonstrate absolute proof to convince others of the reality of the paranormal is all too tempting a draw to us. We want to be taken seriously. Books have been written in their thousands, TV shows demonstrate the ultimate investigative techniques of capturing ghosts on camera, haunted locations open up to groups of people in the hopes of experiencing the truth for themselves. It is a hunt that we, as passionate paranormal enthusiasts, will likely never tire of. We may have to accept, though, that the paranormal encounter is a personal one.

Your moment was YOUR moment. You cannot rewind, you cannot change the circumstance, you cannot sit in a room or a science lab and replicate it for anybody. You cannot make anyone else see or feel what you did. It was your eye opening experience, your proof, the thing that has likely changed you and your outlook.

Whilst science certainly has its place in investigations of the paranormal – and I personally believe we should use as much of these resources as possible – it is perhaps worthy to remind ourselves that there will always be a different way to interpret results, to look at evidence. The only thing we can take from our experience is that we had it, and that it was enough to open our eyes to looking at things a different way.

Science, by nature, demands a quantifiable, measurable and demonstrative set of results in order to accept something. The paranormal does not work this way. If what we believe is to be true, then the energy/souls of those who have departed are a blessing when they reach out, but what they are not and never can be are puppets, waiting for us to act, to demand, to manoeuvre them to our ways.

In as much as we will always seek to show others why we believe what we believe – and this is a natural response, particularly to heavy scepticism – and we may even arrive at a point where this is possible, it's important to remember that the validity of millions of experiences of people the world over cannot be judged by our limitations of science and understanding.

Our lack of understanding certainly doesn't mean it never happened.

Fiona Dodwell is a published author who has released several paranormal titles including *The Banishing*, *Nails*, *The Ouija Trials* and *Obsessed*. She has been passionate about the paranormal since she was a child, when she spent hours engrossed in books about the subject instead of playing with friends outside. She has taken this interest with her into adulthood, and taken part in many notable paranormal investigations. She has studied the Exorcism and Possession course under parapsychologist **Dr Ciaran O' Keefe**, and also written articles for *Paranormal Underground* and *Supernatural Magazine* and NOW for **Haunted Magazine**....

You can find out more about Fiona and her work at:

www.studyparanormal.wordpress.com

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FIVE GO MAD IN CORNWALL



Yes five - that's C L Raven (technically that's TWO people), Laura, Neen & Neen's Mum!

In 1778, local Justices built three penal institutions in Bodmin – another County Jail, a Debtors' jail and a House of Correction. Sir John Call Bart, JP, MP, designed them, based on prison reformer John Howard's ideals. Bodmin Gaol's pioneering design was light and airy with hot water, under floor heating, a chapel, infirmary, individual cells and isolated areas for different crimes. Men and women were separated.

Old buildings were extended and new buildings added until 1850, when the gaol was deemed unfit. A 220 cell gaol was built, but there weren't enough prisoners to fill it, so in 1887, Bodmin transferred a wing to the Royal Navy. In 1911, the female prison closed. The male civil gaol wasn't used after 1916 as prisoners and staff went to war. The Naval Wing closed in 1922.

60 executions took place in 1735-1909. Eight were women. 35 were murderers. Earlier executions took place on Bodmin Common. In 1802-1828, drop gallows were used in the field outside the gaol's front. In 1834-1856, drop gallows were built over the main gate but the Inspector of Prisons deemed this illegal – it wasn't public enough. Following a new law stating executions should be private, an execution shed was constructed in 1878 in one of the prison yards. It's the only workable example of a Victorian execution shed and gallows in Britain. In 1927, Bodmin Jail closed its doors forever.

Some prisoners never left.



Selina Wadge was executed 15th August 1878 for murdering her two-year-old son, Henry. Henry couldn't walk, but he and his six-year-old brother, John were cared for. Selina claimed to have a relationship with a soldier, James Westwood, which he denied. On 22nd June, she met James with her children but returned to Launceston workhouse the next day, without Henry. She told her sister Henry died in Altarnun, but John told the nurses Selina put Henry into a pit. Selina claimed James drowned Henry in a well and threatened to kill her and John. The workhouse

master called the police and Henry's body was found in a well in three feet of water. His body showed no signs of violence and the well was covered – Henry couldn't have accidentally climbed in. Selina admitted murder, claiming James promised to marry her if Henry wasn't around. We found the workhouse master and his wife on the Census.

The jury took 45 minutes to find her guilty but requested mercy. The judge sentenced her to death.



"A night in jail is most people's worst nightmare. For us, it's a dream come true"

Hers was Bodmin's first private execution and the first to use the measured drop. Her ghost lays feelings of guilt and remorse on pregnant women on the 3rd and 4th floors. Children report seeing a crying woman in a long dress.

Visitors often feel despondent and a sense of desolation. Some complain of backache or splitting headaches. Ghost hunters report the most active part as the basement's boiler room. Is Freddy Krueger there? When we visited three years

journey was peppered with: "glad we're not on that side of the road," "pass the Red Bull," and "is that guy peeing in the bushes?"

After visiting Boscastle's Museum of Witchcraft, we headed for Jamaica Inn and the Daphne Du Maurier Museum. It was creepy being the only tourists, especially with the ceiling creaking from people in the rooms above.

Our base was the crew room, the site of the jail kitchens, where we met medium, Sonia Richards.

The jail's mannequins were a Tantalus, smirking smugly inside their cells, knowing we couldn't get to them. Like someone in Witness Protection, hiding from the Mob. We were gutted. Molesting mannequins is the only time we can be inappropriate and not be brought up on charges. We'll find you in your dreams, mannequins.

We reached the chapel and heard Uptown Funk playing in the disco, so Neen and Cat performed our Zumba routine outside the cells, proving what consummate professionals we are. We told Sonia about our crappy super power of being spirit blockers. She thought our scepticism was a barrier. Believers are more likely to experience paranormal phenomena, but we attribute this to them automatically suspecting paranormal causes whereas sceptics look for explanations. She suggested we try meditating, so we did.



Anne Jeffries also haunts the jail. After denying witchcraft accusations, she was reputedly starved to death, which took three months. In the Naval Wing, a warden who allegedly abused prisoners, pushes women aside to drag men into cells. Sadly, we had no men for bait. Another warden, George, who died of a heart attack, wanders the jail.

ago, a repulsive stench plagued the basement. Sonia said many ghost hunters report that smell and believe it's a ghostly tramp.

Laura Dixon from *Jack and Laura's Ghost Series* joined us, along with Neen's mum, Elaine. Neen and Elaine weren't leaving Cardiff until 6 p.m. but we fetched Laura at 1 p.m. for a Cornwall adventure. Our

A door opened then a toilet lid was lifted. Was this a visitor? Or a toilet ghost? If any show would feature toilet ghosts, it would be Calamityville Horror.

As darkness descended, we skirted the moors to Bodmin Jail. To discover a disco in the old chapel. We should have gate-crashed and busted classic Calamityville moves on the balcony. The barman guessed we were paranormal investigators. Did the cameras betray us or the crazed-eyes, drool-wiping excitement emanating from every pore?

The spirits avoided us like zombies avoiding the cast of TOWIE.

Our investigation started in the crumbling Naval Wing. We stood in a cell in a circle to do calling out. We heard murmured voices but the jail overlooks the town so voices could carry from there. We also heard rustling and stones dropping, but the wing's dilapidated state and resident bats makes natural phenomena a likely cause. Neen suggested separating and on our DVR, a male voice clearly says "careful." The cameras didn't hear it. Neither did we. We took a cell each until Neen legged it. She thought she saw a shadowy figure and sensed it wanted her to leave. Cat, Elaine and Laura entered her cell but didn't sense anything.

Neen and Elaine returned inside but Laura stayed with us to hunt the demon that apparently lurks there. A coven of witches created him to stop locals trespassing the gaol. He's harmless but feeds on fear to grow stronger. Like Popeye with spinach, only Hell-bound. We were looking forwards to adding 'demon'

as 'special guest' in our end credits. A pet demon might come in handy for hexing our enemies, getting us thrones in the palace downstairs, filing our tax returns...

Cat saw a light on the old steps at the far end, but this could have been a reflection. We regrouped on the third floor, where a bat fled a cell, over Neen's head. On the top floor, where creepy child mannequins loiter in the cells,



Elaine threw a stone for a child to throw back but they refused to join in. We asked them to trigger our motion sensor lights but they're ghosts, not moths, so the light didn't attract them. Laura felt something tickling her hand.

We tried contacting Selina Wadge on level 3, with the old execution site a few feet away. Our cuddly executioner, Ketch, served as a trigger object. Selina didn't show.

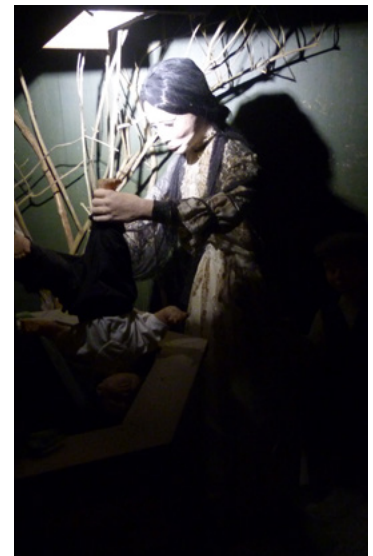
In the basement were two mannequins being hanged for impersonating human beings. We demanded rope imprints round our necks but they obviously decided we had enough necklaces. Neen thought she saw a grey figure

in our sleeping bags, before snacking on us like chocolate left in its wrapper. A jail floor is surprisingly comfy when you've been awake 'til 4 a.m. On the way home, we napped in services car parks like rock stars. Or tramps.

Due to the party and sleeping, we only had three and a half hours' investigation time, so didn't have time to separate, as we wanted to explore every area. There's only one thing for it – we'll have to get locked up again.

Till next time, DO have nightmares...

C L Raven xx



in the doorway, but wasn't sure if it was her imagination. We invited it to stroke her face and hair. She moved. In the boiler room, we positioned our old jail keys as trigger objects by the motion sensor lights.

Unfortunately, the jail was as active as a sleep clinic, so we asked Sonia to do glass divination with us, to see if she could rouse the spirits. The glass shifted, but none of us could keep still, so our slipping fingers could have moved it. After half an hour, we experienced slight vibrations and swaying sensations, which can be explained by tiredness.

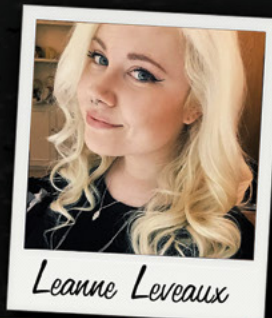
We called it a night and slept in the crew room for two hours. It was either that, our cars or the Moors. At least on the Moors, we could indulge in beast spotting. It would be undeniable footage if it dragged us off



**You can contact
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Twitter: @clraven
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YouTube: RavensRetreat
Or just type C L Raven into Google and they'll be there... somewhere!!

“I’LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT, WHAT I

REALLY, REALLY



WANT!”

Leanne Leveaux tells us what she really, really wants... and what she really, really does at ReallyTV!!

“Ever since I was young, I’ve always had an interest in horror, the unknown and the paranormal. There’s just something about the fear and the anticipation that I love.”

I had a couple of experiences growing up that I couldn’t explain that just helped to feed my interest in the paranormal.

As I got older, I began watching more programs on ghost hunting and going along to paranormal investigations to learn more about the field – often dragging friends along who were complete skeptics, who ended up running out of the location in terror.

People thought I was “weird” or “odd” for having an interest in the paranormal, but hey, we’ve all got hobbies, right?

In 2015 I began working on the **ReallyTV** channel and I found myself able to be fully immersed in two of my favourite things. True crime and the paranormal – I’d finally found my calling!

I found it fascinating how interest in the paranormal had grown and I was amazed at just how many paranormal investigating groups there were out there, spending every free moment they had trying to find evidence – videoing their experiences, uploading their findings to their **YouTube** channels and building their social media following with other like-minded individuals.

“It’s one huge community of truly passionate people doing what they love, and I really admire that.”

Working on all things digital for **Really TV** enables me to get to know our audience on a closer level through social media interaction across all of our platforms. It also allows me to find out what they like or dislike and pass this feedback onto the team. It’s interesting to see just how people’s paranormal tastes vary from program to program.

Most days I also receive photographs from viewers who want validation or feedback on what they have captured on film. It’s always interesting to see what people consider paranormal activity in photographs as it can vary widely from person to person.

Unfortunately, I’m not trained in the ways of validating paranormal photography, so I’m not able to offer feedback on the photos I get sent but it’s great to see that people’s interest in the paranormal is only increasing day by day.

On **Really** we show a broad range of paranormal content and it’s great to have the paranormal community come together each week to watch and tweet along together during our **#LockdownThursday** night. It’s one of my favourite things about my job, and it’s amazing to see everyone getting so involved and sharing their passion for the paranormal with each other.

I’ve met some great people within the paranormal field since I started at **Really**, and I love the real sense of community there is. Different groups might have different aims

“I’ve met some great people within the paranormal field since I started at Really, and I love the real sense of community there is.”



LOCKDOWN THURSDAYS are THE place to watch your favourite shows.
Left to Right: Ghost Adventures, Haunted Australia and Most Haunted

or beliefs, and have their likes and dislikes for different paranormal shows, but fundamentally everyone is working towards the same goal.

Whilst we hear a lot about female roles (or lack thereof) in mainstream media, I found it really interesting to see that for such a diverse community, such as those with an interest in the paranormal, there were very few females driving investigation groups to the forefront. It still appeared to be a very male-dominated arena. I grew up watching *Yvette Fielding* on **Most Haunted**, and even now she is still very much the only well-known woman working within the paranormal field on TV.

After some searching (and Twitter snooping) I began to discover small pockets of both all-female – led investigation groups as well as more women taking part in paranormal investigations. It was really refreshing to see.

As the interest in paranormal continues to grow, I can't wait to see more women getting involved with investigations, uploading their findings onto YouTube channels

and even fronting their own shows. There's a bit of a gap in the market for women in the paranormal, and it's something I have a huge interest in so I look forward to seeing more women shine in this area.

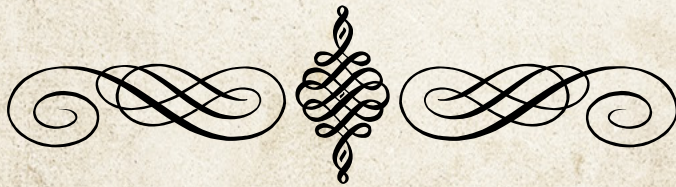
And if all else fails, who knows, maybe I'll even start my own paranormal investigation show.

Watch this space...

**Contact me on twitter
@LeanneLeveaux**

THE LIVING & THE DEAD

BY ASHLEY PHAROAH - WRITER OF THE ORIGINAL STORY



Point a camera at a field of wheat on an English summer's day. What do you see? A blue sky over yellow crop. A soft breeze moving the wheat like an inland sea. The murmur of a bee. It's pretty. It's comforting, nostalgic. But let's leave the camera running. Keep our attention fixed on that same landscape. Perhaps a cloud slides across the sun, slowly darkening the yellow. Or a stronger gust of wind makes the branches in the trees grind. A crow caws. Now the English landscape can feel unsettling, a place drenched in a history that includes war and death and unhappiness. Eerie, that's the word. And that was the starting place for *The Living and The Dead*, to see the skull beneath the skin of English pastoral.

The series is set in an isolated Somerset valley in 1894, a place where the implications of the industrial revolution are still being keenly felt, a place where centuries of living a certain way of life are coming abruptly to an end. Into this place comes Nathan Appleby and his young wife, Charlotte. Nathan charming, intelligent, is a brilliant London psychologist, a pioneer in that new science. Many of his troubled patients come to him as a result of that Victorian obsession with death and the afterlife, damaged by mesmerism, mediums, Ouija boards, automatic writing. Nathan is a man of science, and believes that everything

has a rational explanation. Charlotte Appleby is his vivacious, independent wife, herself something of a pioneer as a leading society photographer in London. When they inherit the run-down farm of Shepzoy House, none of their friends expect them to actually go and live there and learn to be farmers, but the Applebys have lived there for generations and his sense of duty and belonging is powerful.

The early weeks are a joy. Yes, there is a lot to learn, and yes, some of their ideas about modernising the farm are met with surly incomprehension from their workers, but the sun shines and the wheat grows and harvest beckons. They love it. When they are with their workers, the Applebys behave exactly as a Victorian married couple of their class and position would behave, but when the last servant leaves and they are alone in their house, they have a very modern marriage, equal, sensual, frank.

Then the parish vicar, Reverend Denning, brings his troubled young daughter Harriet to see Nathan. At first, Nathan thinks she is just having an especially difficult journey into adulthood, but she tells him things she couldn't possibly know, in voices that she couldn't possibly ever have heard. The voices of the dead. The Appleby dead. Even Nathan Appleby, man of science, is rattled.



Image Credit:
(c) BBC
Photographer:
Robert Viglasky



We caught up with Charlotte Spencer, who plays Charlotte Appleby, the vivacious, independent wife and something of a pioneer as a leading society photographer in London.

What attracted you to the role of Charlotte Appleby?

I was first attracted to *The Living and The Dead* because of Ashley Pharoah's writing. The way he's written Charlotte Appleby is just incredible, because you don't usually get that from a period drama. Women back then had to conform, whereas Charlotte Appleby doesn't so much, she's a modern woman.

There's a part of me that can relate to what she's going through when I'm playing her and she's just such a great character.

What's she like as a person?

Whatever situation she's put in, she tries to see the best in it. When they decide to move to Shepzoy House she thinks, 'Okay, well this will be a good place to bring up children, we can be farmers, it'll be fine.' She just adapts and that's why she is so amazing.

Tell us about Charlotte and Nathan's relationship

When you first see Charlotte and Nathan, the one thing you see is their love for each other. You immediately see that they are a team and are together in everything, including in all the decisions they make. They are fun and they love each other and it doesn't matter where they are, whether they are in London or in Shepzoy - wherever they are, they are going to be fine because they are such a tight couple.

Tell us about Charlotte's attempts to bring in modern technology to their way of life?

She thinks, 'Right, well the best thing to do is to buy this machine, it's 10 times quicker so let's do that,' and that upsets some of the more traditional people in the village. This sleepy English countryside is now being blown up and ripped apart by these two modern thinkers. That's what also makes it relevant to modern day - the feeling of 'what are they doing? What are they unearthing here?'





Behind the scenes: Filming “*The Living and the Dead*” presented several production challenges for both the crew and actors to deal with.



And then one of his most loyal and trusted workers inexplicably throws himself under the blades of a plough. Very quickly, the rural idyll is touched with darkness and fear.

Story by story, episode by episode, Nathan’s belief in science is undermined and finally shattered: one of the children on the farm is haunted by the ghosts of mining boys who died a generation ago; a haunted mill; a murder victim; a demonic visitation from Civil War ghosts. As summer moves through harvest to autumn and then winter, the stories get darker and nastier, until the entire community is involved and threatened. Charlotte’s response is simple: even if there are ghosts, our responsibility is to our marriage, our workers, the baby that is growing inside her. But Nathan is not built that way, and his obsessive need to understand, to explain, drives him deeper and deeper, darker and darker, into the jaws of the afterlife.

Nathan moves from the kind, loving, slightly reserved scientist of those sparkling early days to a driven, dark man struggling for his very soul. For as he investigates what seem to be arbitrary hauntings, he discovers a link between all of them, and that link is... Nathan Appleby.



What is a ghost? If time is not linear, but a tangle of worm holes, then perhaps we are all ghosts. That is certainly a possibility that Nathan Appleby is forced to contemplate, for - almost from the start - he starts to see and hear very strange things. A window smashing in the middle of the night with no smashed windows to be found; a jet-trail high in a blue sky; car headlights rushing towards him on a summer night; a woman with an iPad. Such sightings would be weird enough to rattle the sanest man, but Nathan begins to realise that the someone in the future is not an arbitrary apparition, but a dangerous energy as obsessed with him as he is with ‘her’.

What sort of man did he become that people are trying to reach back through time and threaten him and his family? Answer that question and perhaps - just perhaps - Nathan and Charlotte and their unborn child have a chance. *Eerie.*

It’s that something glimpsed out of the corner of your eye. That sigh in your ear. It’s the worm in a cider apple. The maggots in the dead deer. The sound of a crow on a summer’s day. *Is that someone crying upstairs?* Sleep tight.

DIXON

OF SHOCK, SCREAM

"Ello,ello,ello, what's going on here then?"



Ex-teenage Ghost Hunter, ex-history student and now 20-something Ghost Hunter, Laura Sian Dixon takes us on a journey of her TOP 10 HAUNTED LOCATIONS.

Laura has been ghost hunting since she was 15, her first investigation was back in 2010, some may say that she is now a seasoned veteran of the paranormal, she is part of the paranormal You Tube channels *Jack and Laura Ghost Series* and *Calamityville Horror*.

10: Drakelow Tunnels

I'll start off with Drakelow Tunnels in Worcestershire, which I went to last June. I've chosen to include this place in my top 10 not because of the activity we experienced (which was pretty much non-existent apart from a few odd noises), but because of the place itself. Built as a shadow factory in the Second World War and intended as a nuclear bunker in the threat of a nuclear attack in the Cold War, Drakelow Tunnels is a very eerie place. It has all the right ingredients for a horror film; miles of pitch black tunnels that all look the same, leaving you confused as to where you are, small empty rooms with the glass windows smashed in, and medical records still left in offices. It reminded me of the Slenderman game! Although our night lacked activity, (reports include cold spots, a strange mist, and the sound of 1940's music) I would still recommend it. But make sure you don't go off on your own, or you may find yourself lost and cowering in a dark corner!



9: Bodmin Jail

Last summer myself and the Camalityville Horror girls (YouTube/RavensRetreat) had the chance to have 18th century Bodmin Jail to ourselves for the night, just the 5 of us, and we even got to sleep there! It's the derelict naval wing, built in the mid 1800's to accommodate extra prisoners who wouldn't fit in the already over populated jail, which we found the most eventful. It's said to be haunted by an aggressive prison guard. We've caught an EVP in the naval wing of a man saying "be careful" just before we were about split up into separate cells. Soon after, a member of our group ran out of her cell saying she'd seen a dark figure in the corner. Could this have been the same person who told us to "be careful?"





8: Savoy Theatre, Monmouth

The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth is the oldest working theatre in Wales, built in the mid 1800's. In October 2014 I joined South Bristol Paranormal on an investigation. We didn't get much investigation time at this place, but it's a place I wouldn't mind going back to, to experience more! Whilst sat in the stalls overlooking the stage, we played 1940's music to try and encourage some activity. It wasn't long before something heavy got thrown from the stage into our direction, but after looking around on the floor and between the seats, we found nothing. I also took this strange picture.... There was no light coming from the stage, and no torch light shining onto it, so I have no idea of what this strange blue light could be...



7: Hellfire Caves

High Wycombe's Hellfire Caves have an interesting history, home to the antics of the notorious 18th century Hellfire Club and their extravagant parties and satanic rituals. On an investigation here in November I often felt like I was being watched whilst walking through these caves. It's an eerily quiet place, but this makes it somewhat relaxing.

In the banqueting hall where the parties took place, our group re-enacted one of the club's rituals by walking round in a circle anti-clockwise and chanting their motto "do what thou wilt". It was at this point that a member of our group said he saw a man watching us from the other side of the room.



6: St Briavels Castle

St Briavels Castle near Tintern is a great location for ghost hunters as not only is it a medieval castle, but it's also a youth hostel! The castle rooms are all equipped with bunk beds. You can even stay in the prison room, which has several hundred-year-old graffiti still remaining on the walls, and the oubliette room, where prisoners would have been thrown down a hole and left to die. Not everyone can say they've slept in a castle! My only regret from our night spent here in the summer of 2014 is the fact that I chose not to sleep in one of the most active rooms, such as the oubliette room, where guests have had their bed covers ripped off them. If I ever return, I may take up this challenge!



5: Kelvedon Hatch Nuclear Bunker

Built to accommodate up to 600 people in the event of a Cold War nuclear attack, Kelvedon Hatch underground nuclear bunker in Essex has a somewhat eerie atmosphere; with creepy mannequins, bunk beds in dormitories, and long dark tunnels. Although the building is only about 60 years old, spirits are said to haunt from occupied soil before the bunker was built. A group of about 10 of us spent the night here in July 2014. We did a successful planchette experiment, communicating with two children from the farm house who lived on the land before the bunker was built. We also heard knocking noises coming from the walls, and whilst stood in a circle joining hands at the bottom of a staircase, our arms began to lift up on their own accord. We slept for a few hours in the bunk beds in the male dormitory before leaving in the morning. Again, a unique experience!



4: Woodchester Mansion

The gothic and majestic Victorian Woodchester Mansion near the Cotswolds, is an extremely popular hotspot for paranormal investigators. The spirits include soldiers who died in an accident in the nearby lake during World War Two, a woman heard singing in the kitchen, the spirit of a stone mason in the chapel, and a negative entity in the cellars. The fascination of this horror film style mansion lies in the mystery behind it. Workers left behind tools, unfinished rooms and doors leading to nowhere; what you see of the mansion now is what it would have looked like when abandoned in the 1870's. It was here where I tried mirror scrying for the first time. This involves staring into a mirror where you can often see your face change into a different shape, with different facial features emerging. (This is supposed to be a spirit showing themselves to you). This definitely worked for me, at one point my face completely changed into what looked like an old woman, which made me jump back in shock!



3: Llancaiach Fawr Manor

I don't blame you if you can't pronounce this, I'm Welsh and I struggle! This Tudor manor house was home to the Pritchard family during the Civil War. As well as members of the Pritchard family spirits also include servants, children, and even cats! Ghostly cat's tails have been caught on CCTV running through a hallway, and on this same hallway I've heard cats meowing. Although the house hosts evening ghost tours, privately hiring the manor is unfortunately not possible. But, on just a few afternoon visits I've experienced quite a lot, including footsteps and knocking noises, and at one point seeing a white light hovering in a doorway. When I followed the light into the next room it disappeared. Mediums often talk about buildings being alive with 'energy', Llancaiach Fawr is one of these places. I'm not psychic, but I do believe that when you walk around this house you get a sense that past residents are still here.





2: Monmouth Shire Hall

The Shire Hall in Monmouth (just down the road from the Savoy Theatre) is one of the most paranormally active places I've ever been to. It played host to the famous Chartist trials in the 1830's. My friends Jack, Sarah and myself carried out an investigation in 2013, and experienced a lot of activity. Down in the cells, where the Chartist prisoners were kept before being transported, we heard heavy footsteps coming from above us, we've also heard disembodied voices, and once left a gate shut only to return a few minutes later to find it open. I think this place is massively underrated, so I would highly recommend it!

Down in the cells we heard footsteps coming from the courtroom above us.



1: The Skirrid Inn

The Skirrid Inn in Abergavenny is the oldest inn in Wales, built in 1110. It's also reported to be not only one of the most haunted places in Wales, but in the whole of the UK. The inn is famous for playing host to 180 hangings of criminals over the years. A rope remains on the staircase where these hangings took place. I've chosen this location as my favourite, firstly, because this was my first overnight investigation, in November 2010, at the age of just 15. But most importantly, I think this place is genuinely haunted! There are 3 bedrooms, and Room 1 is said to be the most active. During our overnight stay we turned the lights off and sat on the floor to do a séance; when we turned the lights on, we realised that two cupboard doors had been opened while we were sat down. What most impressed us that night is this picture taken from a member of the group. Look at the right hand side, it looks like a hooded figure stood in the doorway....

- 180 criminals have been here

Q: How do Welsh Ghost Hunters investigate the paranormal?

A: Why, Caerphilly, of course...

Links:

Twitter @LauraSianDixon

Instagram laurasiandixon

YouTube JackLauraGhostSeries

Youtube.com/RavensRetreat



Photography by **Paul McErlean**

By Victoria Anscombe

THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES:

spookier than the male

FAMOUS FEMALE PHANTOMS

The female of the species has a reputation for being deadlier than the male - and also, possibly, deader. We've taken a look at eight of the spookiest sirens around the world - let's hope you don't bump into any of these alarming ladies on a dark night.

Bloody Mary: Mary, Queen of Scots earned the nickname 'Bloody Mary' for a good reason - she conducted some fairly unpleasant practices, including burning people at the stake for being Protestants. Even in death, Mary continues to strike fear into the heart of her subjects; standing in front of a mirror and saying her name three times is supposed to summon the dead queen to appear. Another variant of the tale draws upon Mary's inability

to conceive; if you stand in front of a mirror and say 'I stole your baby, Bloody Mary,' Mary may well pay you a visit. Either way, it's not recommended - Mary had a temper, and it's unlikely that death has mellowed her.

The Phantom Hitchhiker: Motorists in the US are less likely to stop for hitchhikers at night, thanks to the tale of a young woman who's not all that she seems. The tale varies depending on who's telling it, but essentially, someone stops to offer a young lady a lift. She's described as fairly ordinary - tall, good-looking, friendly. However, when the driver stops the car to let the girl out, she's not in the back seat. It's a twist on the Blackwall Tunnel ghost story, which Londoners love to tell - however, that doesn't make this story any less strange.

The Slit-Mouthed Woman: Kuchisake-onna is a Japanese urban legend who first gained fame in the 19970s. She's a ghost whose mouth is, as you'd expect, slit from ear to ear. She doesn't bother with adults, just children - and approaches them when they're left unattended. Her deformity is normally hidden with a surgical mask, but she pulls it to one side, and asks the child if they find her pretty. Basically, they can't win; if they say yes, she slashes the child's mouth so they look like her. If they say no, she executes them with scissors. The Slit-Mouthed Woman frightened people so much that at one point, schoolchildren would travel home from school in groups for safety.

Anne Boleyn: Back to the English Royal family. Let's return briefly to Bloody Mary; her half-sister, Elizabeth



The Bell Witch: Kate Batts was a woman who had a disagreement with her neighbour, John Bell Senior, over land ownership. She wasn't particularly gracious about the whole thing - in fact, she used to curse him in public. It's fair to say there was no love lost between the pair. However, things became even worse when Kate died. John's children were pinched, poked and disturbed in their sleep - and objects around his house moved on their own. Mr Bell's death was no less mysterious; he was supposedly betrayed when he was ill, as the bottle containing his medicine was revealed to be poison. Kate supposedly couldn't let John's death even out their dispute; apparently, she even turned up at his funeral, singing a drinking song.

I, tired of Mary's monstrous ways and put her to death for plotting to overthrow her. Violence clearly ran in the family; Elizabeth's father was none other than Henry VIII, who was known for his own macabre wrongdoings. Henry beheaded his second wife, Anne Boleyn, because she couldn't give him a male child. Anne's ghost has been seen at The Tower of London, where she was killed, but also at Hever Castle, Blickling Hall, Salle Church, and Marwell Hall. A guard at the Tower reportedly saw Anne as a 'white, female figure'; terrified, he stabbed at her with his bayonet, before fainting with fear.

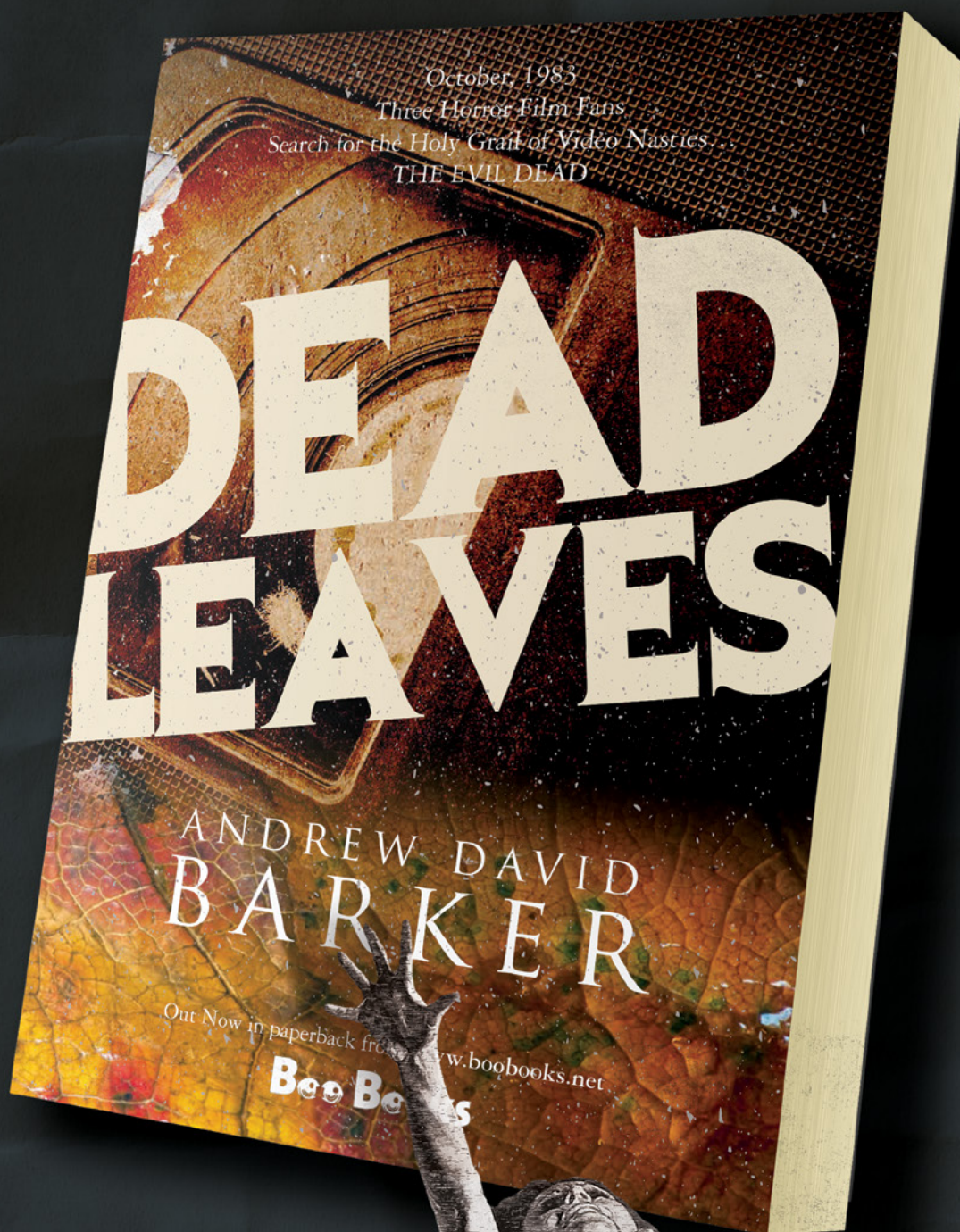
The Burned Student: In the early 20th century, a boarding student called Condie Cunningham was cooking over a gas stove with some pals when her nightgown caught fire and she suffered serious burns. She died from her injuries a few days later, but she wasn't ready to leave the school - or her friends. After her death, fellow students saw an image of Cunningham's burning face appeared on her bedroom door; she was also seen running down a corridor, charred black. Even now, she's rumoured to still haunt the school - people have heard the noise of panicky footsteps and a girl crying out for help.

The Headless Nun: Canada's French Fort Cove is haunted by a nun who lost her head - literally. In the 1800s, a kind nun lived in the town of New Brunswick, known as Sister Mary - a devout woman who wanted nothing but the best for her community. Reports of her death vary, but stories suggest that a madman hacked her head off - or two sailors, looking for buried treasure, took a dislike to her and wanted to silence Sister Mary for once and all. They ensured she kept quiet, but Sister Mary is still not at peace - her headless ghost is often seen wandering the town, searching for her missing head.

White Ladies: Myths about ghostly white ladies are a worldwide phenomenon, but what do they symbolise? Well, in medieval England, it was suggested they were a portent of doom, and signified death. In Scotland, a white female ghost was thought to be the ghost of a girl who threw herself from a tower, while in Portugal and the Philippines, she's the victim of a car accident. However, the stories surrounding white ladies are most prolific in the UK, as they're seen at plenty of castles and stately homes. The white dress is said to represent a wedding that never took place - and the cause of their discontent ranges from searching for lost family members to paying the price for killing their children.

Fancy travelling around the world and seeing these spectres for yourself? [Columbus Direct's travel insurance](#) can provide you with peace of mind while you're off ghost hunting. Our policies can give you the confidence you need to fully enjoy your break - no matter what you're up to!

OCTOBER 1983. THREE HORROR FILM FANS GO IN
SEARCH OF THE HOLY GRAIL OF VIDEO NASTIES.
THE EVIL DEAD.



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3 girls in the dark

THE VILLISCA AX MURDER HOUSE



SO LET ME AX YOU A QUESTION. WHAT'S A "REALLY GOOD - BAD IDEA"?

It's an idea you know you probably shouldn't do, it's unsafe, stupid, and there is no way it's going to work in your favour... but you do it anyway.

Because you know it's going to be awesome! It usually leaves you saying something like "that was cool, but don't do it again".

I had 2 "really good - bad ideas" during our investigation at Villisca Ax Murder House.

My first idea got me kicked out of the house, and my second resulted in ground shaking evidence! Literally!

Our trip started off as usual, another 3GD adventure. Check the equipment, pack the cars and road trip shenanigans. Villisca has been on our bucket list for a long time and we were all very excited to get there. Little did we know, it would be our craziest investigation to date!

A little history. On June 10 1912, in Villisca, IA, six members of the Moore family and two houseguests were found murdered. The murder weapon was an axe that belonged to the family. All victims had severe head wounds from the blunt side of the axe. Although there were many suspects, the crime remains unsolved.

The paranormal claims include: EVP's, full body apparitions, moving objects, chairs rocking on their own, balls rolling around, doors opening/closing, and severe mood swings.

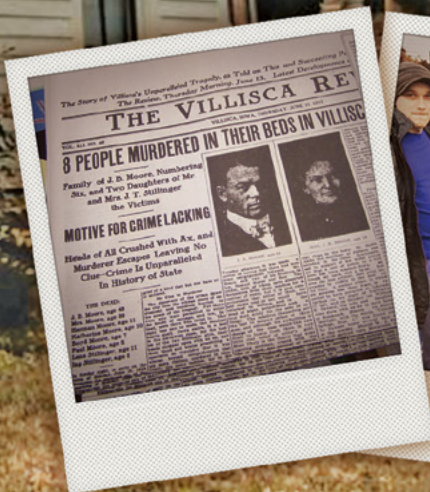
We caught a number of great pieces of evidence, including EVPs, equipment reacting, and even the piano playing by itself! But we have 2 in particular we would like to share thanks to my bright ideas!

REALLY GOOD/BAD IDEA #1:

BRING AN AXE

That's not going to piss anything off right?

Let me start off by saying we are a very respectful team and would never use a trigger object to disturb or upset any positive spirits at a location. The axe was brought in to recreate the crime scene environment. We planned to do an EVP session to attempt making contact with the killer.



The Villisca Ax Murder House



Some think the killers spirit also resides here due to guilt from his / her actions. In the crime scene report, the axe was placed against a wall. We planned on placing the axe there during the session, then remove it. There was a pan of bloody water, an uneaten plate of food on the kitchen table and a slab of bacon next to the axe.

Bacon? Yeah, we said bacon. Weird? Look it up.

However, this didn't go as planned. As soon as I picked up the axe, everything changed!

I apparently was twirling the axe like a professional lumberjack, like I had worked with this tool my entire life. My attitude, demeanour, and even my posture changed.

I became irritated and started irrationally arguing with Emily. I placed the axe down on the floor in the kitchen and stormed out. I went to base camp where I yelled at everyone, grabbed the bacon and stormed back in.

Christy and Emily were very uncomfortable with the situation and noticed I was acting differently. Emily and I like to



butt heads and can argue all day, but in this instance, Emily felt she needed to pull back and didn't understand why. She just had a weird feeling that she shouldn't be feeding into it. We then proceeded with the investigation.

At this point, I started to notice how I was acting and told the girls I felt a very "proud anger". That freaked Emily out and she had had enough of the weird behaviour. She yelled at me to get the axe and get the fu*k out of the house!



I went upstairs and sat in the chair next to the bed the parents were murdered in. I kept pointing my flashlight at the axe mark on the wall. Emily and Christy joined me a few minutes later because they knew something was wrong. They walked in and sat on the bed. This made me furious and I thought it was very disrespectful of them, despite the owners giving us the ok to sit on the beds.

I stormed back to base camp with the axe and took a break. I later came back without it, and I had completely changed. The weird part is, I barely remember what happened. When we went back to review the footage, the time frame was extremely different than what we remembered. What seemed like 20 minutes of arguing had really just been 6 minutes. It was almost like a time warp. We took a screen shot of

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the DVR footage and it doesn't even look like me in the face. It freaked everyone out!

This is one of the weirdest personal experiences I've ever had. Some people would say I was oppressed or jumped?

Is it possible the father was upset with me for bringing the axe into his home and wanted to express this? Or was it the killer? Who knows!

We are curious if anyone else has had these types of experiences?

The team made sure to lock that axe up when it came time to sleep! Nobody wanted to be chopped up during slumber.

REALLY GOOD/BAD IDEA #2:

SLAY UTTERLY

Did that actually work?

3GD Emily here!

Let me map this out for you. There was a series of events that led up to this ground shaking experience!

Christy and I were the only ones in the home, doing a session in the upstairs child's bedroom. The energy in the room had shifted and we could feel it. Basecamp radios in from the barn, informing us they saw a dark shadow in the attic on our live DVR feed. At this point, we were getting flashlight

the beds and walk toward the centre of the room, Gina radios in from base camp the infamous words "SLAY UTTERLY".

As she is speaking these words, the floor in the bedroom shakes violently! Christy and I froze in confusion and looked at each other.

SLAY UTTERLY

The morning after the murders, Reverend Lyn George Jacklin Kelly left Villisca on a train and allegedly told other travellers there were eight dead back in Villisca. Even mentioned, these people were butchered in their beds while they slept. However, the bodies had not yet been discovered.

The Reverend had suffered a mental breakdown as an adolescent and developed a reputation for odd behaviour. Kelly signed a confession to the murder, saying God had told him to "Slay Utterly"

Kelly recanted his confession at trial. The jury deadlocked eleven to one for acquittal. A second jury was immediately empanelled, but acquitted Rev. Kelly in November.

activity, a few K2 blips, and suddenly our handheld camera dies. A few minutes had passed since the activity, so we decide to end our session. We had been in the room for a good period of time and definitely needed a break. As we get up from

WHAT WAS THAT!? We assumed we experienced an earthquake! I, being our debunker, was unaware the rest of the house was still during this violent shaking, so I hadn't assumed right away that it was paranormal. We wrap up and head back to base camp,

and decide to review the DVR footage. Low and behold, that camera is the only one that shakes. We had 3 cameras upstairs, all within 10 feet of each other, which would make you assume they would all have shown movement with this occurrence. Not the case! We even went as far as checking online the next day to see any reports of earthquakes in the area, and found none. We also made sure there weren't any large trucks or a train passing through. We still can't explain what happened.

So, would you stay the night here? I hope so because it definitely delivered! Also, have you checked on the bacon story yet? Anyway, What a wild ride...

We can't wait to get this evidence out on our site along with everything else we caught for everyone to see! So check back soon. Until next time, happy hauntings.

*Gina, Emily and
Christy xxx*



WHO YA GONNA CALL? HAUNTED MAGAZINE!

HOLLYWOOD

PATTI NEGRI

A WHITE WITCH IN HOLLYWOOD!

I am fortunate enough to say that I've had the pleasure of meeting Patti while filming in Las Vegas in 2015 and I can honestly say she is one of the sweetest and most spiritual women I've ever encountered. But make no mistake, this lady is a go-getter, a force of nature and passionate about many causes not to mention being Senior Vice President and Chief Examiner for the American Federation of Certified Psychics and Mediums.

But who can explain the enigma that is Patti Negri better than the White Witch herself.

Patti took some time out from her busy schedule to tell us a bit about what it's like to be Hollywood's number 1 Psychic.

Patti, you're a woman of many talents, you're a Psychic Medium, Actress and White Witch. Could you describe a typical day in the life of Patti Negri?

Ha-ha, start with the tough questions! Fortunately, there is no "typical" day! Every day is like a new adventure! There is some consistency... I do always get up by 7am. I teach a free work out class outdoors at Lake Hollywood 6 days a week! It's the perfect way to start a day! Out in nature with the deer, wild birds, turtles, and literally under the shade of the Hollywood sign! Good for my body, mind and spirit! Most days I see a few clients at my home in the Hollywood Hills. Of course I also spend time each week "on the road" performing house or workplace clearings and blessings throughout the Southland.

Also, being in Hollywood, I usually have several meetings, interviews and auditions sprinkled in throughout the week, which means that my car is literally my "home away from home". It's filled with baskets of herbs, oils, bells, chimes, wardrobe changes, and even an emergency Ouija board just in case! Evenings are almost always devoted to Séances, visiting galleries, salons or classes (If I'm not teaching a class, I'm taking one!) I still have this never ending thirst for knowledge and desire to learn everything about everything in the metaphysical and spiritual world,



even things that don't fit into my cosmology or way of working I will always get benefit from knowing and learning! When I am doing a TV show or film, either as an actress – or as myself, all the above gets put on temporary hold though. Filming days are long – and always fun and different. Whether I am teaching Nicole Richie to "say yes" to life, clearing ghosts out on a home make over show, doing a celebrity séance or explaining Spectrophilia (ghost sex) on a talk show! I love the variety.

I also am very involved with my community and civic activism. I am on the board of the Hollywood Arts Council, work with several non-profit organisations and am even president of my neighbourhood association. I also try to find at least a few minutes each day to hang with my fabulous drummer hubby Kerry and our pup Dora.



Our moments are often short – but we go for quality time!

Your life sounds incredible! When did you first realize you had psychic abilities?

I knew when I was just a toddler that the so-called “imaginary friends” little kids have were not all imaginary! I could speak to and communicate with spirits as soon as I could talk! I did my first séance at age seven believe it or not! I went in my suburban hallway with my best friend Sherry, and came

up with one of my first chants. Immediately the windowless/lightless room filled with lights and orbs - we ran out screaming (we were seven after all) after that my seekers path had begun full speed!

How did your family react to your gift at such a young age?

My mom always said it ran in her family, and that her grandmother always new things before they happened and communicated with spirits. Even so, she was still

always surprised when we walked into a neighbour’s house for the first time and I would tell her in advance what colour all the rooms and walls were before entering! I think my dad just thought I was a creative kid, though I think I get some of my gift from his side of the family as well!

Being Hollywood’s Number 1 Psychic, can we assume that you have some celebrity clients? If so...can you give us any hints as to who they are!?

Yes, celebrities need guidance and help just like everybody else. Many of my most famous clients (from movie stars to musicians to politicians) have me sign an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) – so sadly, no – I really can’t tell you. And even if I haven’t signed, as with ALL my clients, confidentiality is of most importance. I would never betray anyone’s trust in me! But I can say that I have cleared some of the most famous ghosts out of some

of the most famous houses in the world and sat across the séance table with A list stars!

Ok, understood. Could you describe how it feels for you when a spirit is present?

I usually feel the energy first. A literal change in the thickness of the air around me, it’s almost electrical. It’s very similar to when you know someone has walked up behind you – but you haven’t seen them yet! My senses all get heightened. Then, once I decide it is “positive” I tune in and communicate. If I feel it is a “negative” spirit (and if there is no reason for me to communicate with it for some reason) I tell it to leave.

Can you explain to readers exactly what being a ‘White Witch’ involves?

I believe in “magic”. I believe we can truly change and improve our lives and the world around us with spells and rituals, and most of all, intent! I work with spirits, elements and nature. That



literally is what makes me a witch! (though I also believe it is in my blood.) In simple terms, “white” or “good” witch means I don’t do manipulative magic. I would never cast a spell directed at someone else without their permission. Even a love spell can be “black” magic if it is done on a certain person without their consent (plus it will backfire beyond belief) My specialty is in adjusting energy and flow – in people, spaces, situations, anything! I work organically by creating spells and rituals that arrange natural elements to the rhythms and cycles of the universe to bring about healing, change our lives for the better, and create balance.

Obviously you’re a very spiritual woman, what do you think about the increase in popularity of technical gadgets and electronic equipment as a way of communicating with the dead?

Technology is fun. Over the years I have been collecting and using it with some of my Ghost Hunts and séances a bit, but I am mostly an “old school” girl. I am most at home with dowsing rods, chimes and direct channelling to form spirit connections. Though some of the high tech equipment I have worked with on shows like Ghost Adventures is so amazing I wouldn’t mind having it along as well!



Apart from being involved in series 13 of Ghost Adventures, you recently also worked with Zak Bagans on his new TV series Deadly Possessions, how are you finding the experience?

I LOVE working with Zak, Aaron, Jay and Billy and their whole crew. They really do commit 100% to their quest and jump right in with enthusiasm and sincerity. I have worked with them on four different episodes now, and each and every one was mind blowing!

Have you ever had to refuse someone’s spell request?

I refuse spell requests almost daily! So many people want to “make” someone fall in love with them, or get revenge on someone or something. I spend more time explaining why that is a bad idea then I would have doing the working. But hopefully, I get them to understand the “cause and effect” – the karma associated. Sometimes I may suggest they have a “good” love spell to ask the universe to send them the right love (even if it isn’t the person they originally wanted the spell on!)

As an actress you’ve worked alongside some acting legends such as Jon Voight, Burt Reynolds and Sylvester Stallone.

Who did you most enjoy working with and why?



Wow, another tough question. So many of them were stellar!

Martin Sheen was an absolute joy to work with. The perfect gentleman, he made me feel so comfortable and safe. I was really nervous when I worked with him because it really was an “all-star” cast and Burt Reynolds was directing. One comforting word and look from Martin though changed everything. I will be forever grateful.

Is it true that your dog ‘Princess Dora’ is also something of a celebrity?

Yes, yes indeed! The showbiz bug hit her at an early age. I have never seen a dog be able to smell a film crew from a block away and play to camera like a seasoned movie star! They just released her film *Wiener Dogs International* which is a sequel to last year’s film *Wiener Dogs National*! She also just shot an episode of *Fab Life* and got to work with legendary “coochi coochi girl” Charol!

By the time she was three she had done film, television, calendars and live stage work. She’s just a big ham...I don’t know where she gets it!

Who would be on your dream dinner party guest list? either dead or alive.

John F Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe, silent film star Barbara

LaMarr, Jim Morrison and Rumi. On the living side, John of God, Meryl Streep and Shirley MacLaine... and of course, my hubby Kerry. I actually can think of dozens more but don’t want to get the party too big!

So what’s next for you Patti? Any new projects or ideas brewing (no pun intended!)

Yes, indeed! My hope is to have my own TV show. I want it fun, funny and most of all informative and empowering for those who watch it!

I am working with some top production companies on concepts but more than that I cannot say or I will have to have everyone reading this sign an NDA!

Are you in need of a little magic or guidance in your life?

www.PattiNegri.com

Email:

Patti@PattiNegri.com

You can also find Patti on **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

Let's look into the Haunted Magazine Crystal Ball and see what's coming next..
Ah yes, an interview with "crystal" lady Judy Hall!

Haunted Magazine Does Crystals?!



We didn't see that coming!



Judy Hall is a successful Mind-Body-Spirit author with over 48 books to her credit including the million selling *Crystal Bible* (volumes 1-3) and the very popular *Crystal Prescriptions A-Z Guide* series. She has four times appeared on the Watkins Review of the one hundred most spiritually influential authors this century and was *Kindred Spirit's* MBS personality of the year in 2014. A natural psychic, she has been a past life therapist, crystal worker and karmic astrologer for over 45 years. Judy has a B.Ed. in Religious Studies with an extensive knowledge of world religions and mythology and an M.A. in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology from Bath Spa University. Her mentor was Christine Hartley (Dion Fortune's metaphysical colleague and literary agent). You can read her blog and sign up for her regular newsletter on www.judyhall.co.uk. Crystals specially attuned for you are available from www.angeladditions.co.uk. Catch up with Judy on her crystal-judy-hall and the-crystal-bible-by-Judy-Hall Facebook pages.

Judy, what is it with Crystals, what makes them special, is it all some clever marketing or is there something going on with them?

Well, if it is clever marketing it's been going on a very, very long time! I've tracked the recorded use of crystals back for as long as writing has existed – well over 7500 years - and from the number of crystal artefacts found in even earlier ancient graves, it's been going on as long as humankind has existed. Crystals are special. Their energetic vibration is very pure and they are able to entrain (bring into harmony) other energies such as those found in the human body. Our bodies are actually full of crystals. In our blood, in our brain, in our lymph, and in our bones. In fact, you could say we are crystal. Certainly the ancient Egyptians thought so. Or, at the very least that their gods were. Ra, the sun god, was said to be of Lapis Lazuli, and Lapis Lazuli was said to be Ra. As scientists are now discovering, some crystals such as Malachite so beloved of the ancient Egyptians as an eye paint, actually have antibiotic properties.

What's your favourite Crystals? Do they all have individual powers and properties?

Yes they do all have individual powers and some are more appropriate for one use or one person than another because of their properties. My favourite crystal of all time, which does everything I ask of it, is the Brandenburg Amethyst from a sacred mountain in Namibia. I am never without one. And I always carry a small piece of Flint from my garden to ground me and bring me home. I wouldn't be without Celtic Healer Quartz either, I collect that myself from a very magical mountain and

am still exploring all its possibilities but it is amazing stuff.

Are Crystals the "original" mediums, or does it take a person to interpret their meanings and can anyone unlock the power and mystery of them?

I do think that anyone can learn to use them – and can hear them provided they listen. Some people are more sensitive than others, but my books and courses are intended to help people unlock their own innate abilities and the crystals are only too happy to cooperate and share their wisdom. They have their own meanings too. Crystal scrying is one of the earliest forms of mediumship.

There's several books going back to about 600BCE that share the divinatory meaning as well as the healing properties and they draw on even older books that have, unfortunately, been lost. I've been working a lot with crystal skulls recently as I have a book on them coming out in September. They are a receptacle for a very high consciousness. But, once again, crystal balls and mirrors are found in the most ancient of graves so our ancestors must have prized and used them from the beginning.

I picked a card from your website earlier and got number 34 MOLDAVITE which was created when a giant meteorite slammed into the earth some 11 million years ago. The card tells me to: detach myself from mundane issues, avoid sowing seeds of destruction and that fertility and good fortune await. I have bought a lottery ticket for Friday. Joking apart do they all give out positivity or is there a crystal that we need to avoid?



I hope you remembered to ask the card to assist you with actualising a lottery win? They do need to know what their task is! Those cards on my website are from *The Crystal Wisdom Oracle Cards* and they really do embody the energy of the crystal. Which has

to be experienced to be believed. I had someone on a card workshop at the weekend who was demanding as he came in the door, 'How can photographs hold energy? How can you say that?' I told him to wait and see what he experienced. As he left he was saying 'Ah, now I know. They do!'

Most crystals are very positive, provided they harmonise with your own individual vibrations. Moldavite sends people sky high if they only have a toehold here on earth. But it can help to raise your consciousness to a higher dimension if you are stuck in the mundane, pragmatic material world of the here and now. Some crystals will act as a catalyst to release your deepest darkest fears and emotions. They can induce a catharsis. So they may be experienced as extremely negative for a time. Ultimately however they are doing you a favour, although you may need other crystals to help you heal after the release. In this sense 'heal' doesn't mean cure. It means bringing back into balance on all levels.

Your book "Complete Crystal Workshop" seems to be more like a personal tutor on what to do with Crystals, if that's the case aren't you worried that you won't be needed if you're teaching people what to do?

My books, and my on-line *Crystal Basics* course, are intended to do just that. They are to teach the people who can't come to my workshops the basics of how to look after and use their crystals. But the exciting part comes after you're learned the basics. You can go journeying with crystals, visiting different dimensions. You can heal, you can scry. So many possibilities! That's

why I run so many workshops to take people into higher consciousness and soul work.

Do you believe in ghosts? Ever had any experiences that you can't explain?

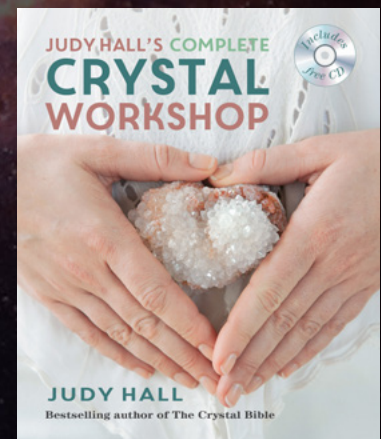
I've been seeing 'ghosts' since I was a child. Both the 'psychic imprint left behind' type and the 'stuck spirits' who need help to move on – which forms quite a large part of my work and about which I write in my more psychically orientated books. But crystals help with even this. In fact, I'm writing a *Crystal Prescriptions* volume on that topic right now. As a child I used to be terrified to go to bed because I'd see people walking up the stairs and into my bedroom. Fortunately my grandmothers were both psychic and told me what I was seeing and how to protect myself. That made sense while we lived in an old house. More difficult to get my head around when we moved to a new build though. And talking of old houses, the other day a monk said to me 'Are you aware that you're staying in the third most haunted house in Herefordshire?' 'Yes', I replied, 'it took me a couple of visits to realise that I could see through that old lady sitting reading a book in the corner of the library. But I've asked her and she doesn't want to move on. She loves the bustle of the place now it's become a hotel. So I've respected her wishes and left her to enjoy the company. She'll leave when she's ready.' Not so pleasing was the guy leaning over me in my stables bedroom in the middle of the night. But I soon sent him on his way. And the monk? He was on a pilgrimage. As he was a wealthy guy who was an outreach 'lay' monk who didn't live in a monastery, he spent his nights in comfort. We had a great chat!

I get that Crystals have been around for ever but do you know who was the first person / people to use Crystals, and why?

As I've said, the use of crystals way predates writing although they have their place in ancient oral traditions. What is fascinating is that right across the ancient world the same crystals were used to heal the same ailments, or to scry, and are recorded



in the very first documents in India, China, Mesopotamia and so on. They appear quite frequently in the Old Testament, for instance. The Roman historian Josephus, when describing how the Breastplate of the High Priest was used as an Oracle, says of the Sardonyxes that formed part of it: 'I hold it superfluous to describe their nature, since it is known to all.' Orthodox medicine still uses crystals today, although often ground up with their constituent minerals extracted. But if you have laser surgery, that laser is focused through a ruby crystal. And guess what, rubies have long been associated with healing the blood. There really is nothing new under the sun, especially when it comes to crystals.



Judy Hall's Complete Crystal Workshop by Judy Hall, published by Godsfield Press, £13.99, www.octopusbooks.co.uk

Picture Credits - From *The Crystal Wisdom Healing Oracle* by Judy Hall © Watkins 2016, commissioned photography by Michael Illas

Malachite: 'Powdered Malachite was used by the ancient Egyptians as an eye-paint due to its antibacterial properties.'

Crystal images c. **Jeni Campbell**/

www.angeladditions.co.uk



AN INTERVIEW with **CHRISTINA HENRY**

CHRISTINA HENRY is the author of the national bestselling **BLACK WINGS** series (**BLACK WINGS, BLACK NIGHT, BLACK HOWL, BLACK LAMENT, BLACK CITY, BLACK HEART** and **BLACK SPRING, Ace/Roc**) and the two **CHRONICLES OF ALICE** books, **ALICE** and **RED QUEEN (Ace Trade)**. She enjoys running long distances, reading anything she can get her hands on and watching movies with samurai, zombies and/or subtitles in her spare time. She lives in Chicago with her husband and son.

So, Christina, thanks for chatting to us, we want to start by asking about Alice, is this the Alice, the one who journeys to Wonderland, the one who went through the Looking Glass, or am I barking up the wrong Jabberwocky?

This is **an** Alice, but not **the** Alice. My **ALICE** is heavily influenced by Carroll's story but I take that influence in an original direction. In this version of the story Alice has never been to Wonderland, but she has been to a very corrupt and frightening place called the Old City, where she was kidnapped by a gangster called the Rabbit.

She manages to escape back to her home in the New City but no one believes her story and so she's locked up in a mental institution. **ALICE** begins in the institution, and Alice and her friend Hatcher manage to escape that hospital and into the Old City, where their nightmare/adventure begins.

BLACK WINGS, BLACK NIGHT, BLACK HOWL, BLACK LAMENT, BLACK CITY, BLACK HEART and BLACK SPRING, am I missing something or are they connected in some way?

I just like titles with the word "black" in them.

Actually, the heroine of this series is Madeline Black, an Agent of Death who has a gargoyle that loves popcorn. I decided to use her last name as

part of the title in the first book and since my editor liked it we kept right on doing it.

You're a lover of Zombies, Samurai and Subtitles, that would make a great book title, what's the thing with Subtitles then?

So many of my favourite films are Japanese, especially films by Akira Kurosawa. I'm also a little obsessed with the Criterion Collection, and they release a ton of foreign films. Finally, one of my favourite modern directors is Bong Joon-Ho, the Korean director of **THE HOST** and **MOTHER** and **SNOWPIERCER**. I always prefer to watch foreign films with subtitles instead of dubbing, which is almost universally terrible.

What advice would you give to any new and / or unpublished authors or those suffering with writer's block?

I used to say things like "Write every day" and "Keep working at it even if you don't want to" but I've come to realize that what you really need to do is find **your** way. Some people feel better if they write a little bit every day, some people prefer to think about the story for several days and then write in big chunks. The best advice I can give is to experiment until you find what works for you. Process is a very personal thing for each writer.

Going back to Alice, do you think Lewis Carroll thought that his stories would still be

around today? Is that the piece de resistance of an author, longevity?

The interesting thing about Alice as a character is that she's really become embedded in our cultural memory in a way that almost makes her seem like a character from myth. It feels like we've always had Alice with us, and because of that there's a level of comfort and familiarity with the character that's a great entry point for a writer.

There are a few other characters/ places like this - Peter Pan & Neverland, any character from Oz. There's something about these characters and places that strike a chord with us and become a part of our shared lexicon.

You're hosting a dinner party at chez Henry, you can invite five guests from any place in time, factual or fictional, who would they be, and why? Also, might as well tell us what you'd serve them, starter, main course and pudding (PLEASE)

General Ulysses S. Grant (because I am huge reader of Civil War history), Toshio Mifune (star of 16 of Akira Kurosawa's films including **YOJIMBO**, my personal favourite), Hercule Poirot (because I've read every Agatha Christie novel at least three times), Aerin from Robin McKinley's **THE HERO AND THE CROWN** (my

For more on Christina Henry, check out the website www.christinahenry.net



favourite book as a young girl because McKinley's princess is also a dragon-fighter), and John Carpenter (who has directed so many of my favourite movies).

What I would serve is easy – I'm Italian, and I'm told I'm a good cook – so we'd start with an antipasti platter with Italian meats and cheeses and lots of olives. Then I'd make lasagne, because it's easy and it serves a big crowd. And of course, for dessert we'd have cannoli and tiramisu.

Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever experienced anything paranormal?

I've never experienced anything paranormal. I have a pretty overactive imagination, though, which is great if you write for a living.

What's next for Christina Henry?

My next novel is a stand-alone title called LOSTBOY. It's an origin story of Captain Hook, and it will be released some time in summer of 2017.

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28th & 29th Oct.. St. Catherine's Mental Hospital £49pp
5th Nov . Stanley Palace, Chester £45pp

An Interview with **LORRAINE WARREN**

Lorraine Warren has decided to retire from active investigations regarding the areas of haunted houses and demonic infestations/possessions. We are honoured and humbled that she has taken the time to guest-edit Haunted Magazine and answer our questions.





HM: Hi Lorraine, thank you so much for talking to us today.

LW: It's a pleasure, I have been doing what all-good paranormal investigators should do – researching you and your magazine and if it weren't up to scratch I wouldn't be in it.

HM: High praise indeed, thank you. Firstly, we'd like to ask what got you involved in the paranormal?

LW: My husband, Ed, is the one who first exposed me to the paranormal. You see, Ed lived in a haunted house as a boy- from ages 5-12. I met him when I was 16 years old. When he got out of the Navy, he would take me to haunted locations that he had read about in "Fate" magazine.

HM: What's the difference between the paranormal circa 1950's and the present day?

LW: Back then we didn't use all that fancy gadgetry they use now. Ed used a reel-to-reel recorder to record interviews of pick up EVP's.

We relied on our experience, and my psychic

abilities to be able to determine what was haunting a family. And back then it was much more difficult to bring such things to the public's attention. People were less open to ghosts, devils or any supernatural occurrences.

HM: Did you have any input in the Conjuring 2? Do you think Vera Farmiga plays Lorraine Warren very well?

LW: Yes, we were consultants on the movie. (my son- in- law, Tony Spera, and myself). And we provided them with the actual recordings of the spirit voices that spoke to Ed in the Enfield house.

HM: What are your thoughts on The Enfield Poltergeist? What made you come to England to investigate that particular case?

LW: Actually, Ed had heard of the case. We decided to go and investigate it on our own. The church did not call us in on the case.

HM: You turn 90 next year, what are your hopes and thoughts on the paranormal in the future?

LW: I hope that people become closer to their faith; closer to God, because faith is one's protection from evil.

HM: Can I ask what you think about Paranormal TV shows like Ghost Adventures and Most Haunted?

LW: I don't watch them. I've lived it, breathed it. Suffered from the paranormal. I don't need to be reminded that there is evil in the world, or convinced that ghosts, devils and demons are real.

HM: You've been involved in many famous cases, Enfield, Amityville, Annabelle and others, which one stands out as being the most interesting case that you have ever investigated?

LW: Well, Amityville would have to be on the top. But, the "Donovan" case was very frightening. In that case, I saw a set of French doors "dematerialize" before my eyes. I remember thinking to myself, "if whatever is in this house can make doors disappear, then maybe it could make me disappear as well".

The Lindley Street case in Bridgeport was very weird. That's the house where a cat began singing "Jingle Bells". The phenomena that occurred there was intense. We had a priest with us, Father Bill. Police officers who came into the house saw things that frightened them so much that at the end of their shifts, they would kneel down in front of the priest, and ask for a blessing before they went home.

HM: I would like to ask about Ed, if I may, what do you miss about him most?

LW: I miss his companionship, and his gigantic heart. Ed was the first- and ONLY man that I've ever dated. He was a very special man. He was fearless, but also a gentle soul.

HM: You and Ed set up the New England Society for Psychic Research in 1952, was that because there were lots of cases at the time or was it to spread the word about the paranormal?

LW: We had lots of cases coming in. One day, we were both sitting on the floor, going through folders of documents and photos, spread all over the floor. Ed looked up at me and said, "This is crazy. We need some sort of organization, some way to keep track of all of this." That's how the idea of NESPR was born.

HM: The Warren's Occult Museum sounds amazing, if you had to take one item from the museum with you, what would it be and why?

LW: It would probably be the Annabelle doll, because I wouldn't want it to fall into the wrong hands. If I had it with me, at least I'd be there to keep an eye on here.

HM: Dark, evil cases never seem to make into the mainstream paranormal and just seem to end up being made into a film, is that a good thing?

LW: Yes, it's a very good thing, because these movies serve as a warning NOT to become involved in or dabble in occult practices. It's best to leave such things alone.

HM: If you could investigate somewhere were you've never been before, where would it be and why?

LW: Oh, I don't know. Maybe some underground ancient city somewhere

HM: Has the role of Women in the Paranormal changed over the last 60 years or so?

LW: Well, today, women are more accepted now. That wasn't the case when I first started. When I was growing up, it was unfathomable that a woman could serve as a police officer or firefighter or soldier and as for a paranormal investigator, you're having a laugh. Now, it's commonplace and there is a greater acceptance factor because of the changes in our society with respect to women's rights and value to the community and it's the same thing within the paranormal community, couple that women naturally seem to be more sensitive than men. And sensitivity is a good thing to have when investigating the paranormal realm.

HM: Thank YOU so much for taking the time to talk to us.

LW: You're very welcome, honey. Love and Prayers.



We cannot do a special **Women in Paranormal** themed issue of Haunted Magazine without mentioning one very special lady.

She is silent until she needs to be and she is by our side on most of our paranormal investigations, she can be in more than one place at the same time, she has the answers to our questions, she can warn us of danger and also have a joke with us.

Her name is ALICE, she doesn't need a Wonderland or a Looking Glass and we certainly know who the f**k she is!!

Joanne Saul, long-time Haunted Magazine friend, who is also Alice's guardian and best friend (aka creator) has kindly given 100 Alices' to give away to our readers, YES that's you.

All you have to do is to email your details to [**iwantanaliceplease@hauntedmagazine.co.uk**](mailto:iwantanaliceplease@hauntedmagazine.co.uk)

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"Why don't you come along tonight?" Lee said **"it will be a good night"** my husband, aka better-half, spouse & hubby Lee Roberts, owner of Haunted Events UK, (get the plug in, he said) had been trying to get me to go on a ghost investigation with him on a couple of occasions since he had started a private ghost group with a few friends and family Called **'TAPIT'** (*The Ashfield Paranormal Investigation Team*).

I would always find an excuse whether it be **'I can't sorry I'm working'** which to be fair was a good excuse because I work as a full time Nurse, or **'I'm washing my hair'** or **'I've got a headache'** (oh sorry, wrong excuse).

Truth be told I'm quite a sceptical person, even more

so when it came down to ghosthunting.

After months of begging, Lee asked me again and it just so happened that a) I wasn't at work, b) I wasn't washing my hair and c) I didn't have a headache, guess what, something happened that night, nothing paranormal that I can remember but I was hooked.

Whilst remaining fairly sceptical, the more ghost hunts I went on, the more I began to believe that there was something out there, was it a ghost, was it my imagination, was it paranormal, was it senses working overtime? I don't think anyone will ever know to be honest. The things I have heard and seen during investigations has definitely opened my eyes and made me question my sceptical eye.

My favourite ghost investigation so far has to be at Inveraray Jail, up in Argyll & Bute, Scotland, a stunning location which had a really spooky and eerie atmosphere. Myself and a co-investigator were sat inside an empty dark prison at around 2am. This cell, dating back to the 19th century would have been home to prisoners of all ages and possibly they'd have suffered torture and ultimately died in this cell. For most of the time we sat in complete silence, listening for any noises, occasionally asking out for any spirits to give us a sign that they were with us, to use our energies and "do something". During one of those call outs we heard keys rattling, I swear on my life, as if a prison guard was walking down the corridors

where the cells were. Then we heard beds creaking in the cells next to us and from time to time we both saw shadows in the corner of the cell that we were sat in. Freaky and very scary, however my sceptical outlook kept saying it's 2am, I am tired, it's dark, my eyes are playing tricks on me. **BUT I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW!!**

It was a really great location though and would encourage anyone who is visiting Scotland to take a look. I would love to go again in the future to see if the shadows still lurk and keys still rattle!!

One last plug, check out hubby's page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/officialleeroberts>

Maryanne Roberts X

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

“JULIET, JULIET, WHEREFORE ART THOU JULIET”

During the winter of 1923 Marcus Reid is forced to flee London and his gambling debts for the apparent safety of rural Gloucestershire. There, hidden in Mandrake Castle, he sets about attempting to catalogue the library of his father's childhood friend, Edward De Rooke, the Earl of Rookeham. Mandrake Castle is a strange and fantastical place, steeped in history and folklore, a place where the fabric of reality is stretched thin. The ghost of Juliet, a beautiful and tragic murder victim, haunts the halls and, much to his dismay, Marcus finds that he has caught her attention. Trapped in the castle by heavy snow, and torn between terror and fascination, he reluctantly embarks on a quest to uncover the truth about her untimely death.

Tracy Wray is a writer and ghost hunter who lives in a converted Victorian lunatic asylum on Dartmoor, in the United Kingdom. She spent several years working at the British Museum in London, and has a BA degree in Archaeology. She now divides her time between writing and hunting for ghosts with the Visions Paranormal research group. This is her first novel.

So, Tracy, let me get this right, you're a writer, a ghost hunter and you live in a converted Victorian lunatic asylum on Dartmoor? What made you choose a ghost story as your first novel.

I've always been a fan of ghost stories, ever since I was a little girl. I remember going to see *Ghostbusters* at the cinema when it was first released and thinking, “That's what I want to do!”. Ghost stories are also my favourite genre of story, so there was never really any doubt in my mind that that's what I'd be writing. All of my ideas and plots have a strong supernatural element to them.

I began writing *In The Bleak Midwinter* over twenty years ago, when I was only eighteen, and it was actually inspired by an old folk song called *She Moves Through The Fair*, in which a man describes being visited by his dead lover. Although superficially there's little similarity between the song and the story, other than the ghost of a dead woman, it was whilst listening to the song that I had an image of a ghost in a red cloak crossing the courtyard of a castle in the snow – a scene which was in the original draft of the book but which I later deleted. The rest of the story grew from there. I also love castles and snow, so I mixed it all together, wrote it, re-wrote it, and finally ended up with a version I was happy with.

And not content with that you also used to work at the British Museum and you have a BA in Archaeology, don't you ever sit down and just relax with a crossword?

I do! When I'm relaxing I love to read (obviously!), and I will watch pretty much any history documentary I can find. I'm still fascinated

by archaeology, so *Time Team* repeats get a lot of air time in my house. I also love watching cheesy American paranormal shows (*Ghost Hunters*, *My Ghost Story*, *A Haunting*). You name it, I'll watch it. I'm afraid I'm not a fan of *Most Haunted* though. I remember when it started out, and it was a really interesting and also pretty accurate (in that not much actually happened) representation of a paranormal investigation. Unfortunately, it's almost become a parody of itself, so I'm afraid I give it a pretty wide berth.

Tell us about your ghost hunting with the Visions Paranormal Group? Are you a believer, a sceptic, a sitter on the fence-er-er?

I joined Visions Paranormal two years ago. I'd been a member of the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena for several years, but their investigations tend to be in far-flung parts of the country so I was never able to attend. I'd been looking for a good local ghost-hunting group for a while, and was lucky to be introduced to Visions



An interview with Tracy Wray, author and ghost hunter living in a converted Victorian lunatic asylum on Dartmoor.



Tracy Wray

Paranormal by mutual friends. Since then I've been lucky enough to take part in a number of investigations, most recently at the Palace Theatre in Plymouth. Our investigations are mainly in Devon Cornwall, but we also venture further afield occasionally. Our emphasis is the scientific study of the paranormal, although we do also use a psychic for most of our investigations.

When it comes to paranormal research I'm definitely a believer, but I need quite a high level of proof to be convinced that what I'm witnessing is actually paranormal. I'm only prepared to consider something as paranormal when every other explanation has been discounted. I've been lucky enough to experience some things which definitely fall under this category, such as human shadows moving on walls when there is no one there to cast them

Going back to the book, there's a fine mixture of spookiness and humour, something which we believe mixes well in the paranormal, what made you choose that era, the 1920s, the idle rich, the class separation, etc.?

I chose the 1920's because I've always loved this era. My favourite author is PG Wodehouse, and so I naturally gravitated towards the Bright Young Things as I'd absorbed so much about them through the Jeeves and Wooster novels. Although the Victorian period is probably more widely associated with ghosts and hauntings, historically the 1920's was also an era that saw a huge increase in interest in ghosts and spiritualism following the First World War, with so many grieving parents and lovers hoping to contact their dead. I've also always felt that there was something doomed about this

generation; after the horrors of the War they threw themselves headlong into hedonism and pleasure-seeking, and it simply couldn't last. I tried to invoke something of this in the doomed relationship between Marcus and Maria.

You host a dinner party at Chez Wray and you can invite 6 people, past, present, fact or fiction, who would it be and why? And tell us what you'd have for starter, main course and pudding please.

Wow, this question turned out to be more difficult than I'd thought!

First of all, I would definitely invite both PG Wodehouse and MR James, as they are my two favourite authors. Two very different styles of writing, but both of them wonderfully evocative of their time and genres.

guest would be Elizabeth I, as she has always fascinated me. She defied the odds to survive to take the throne, and then turned England from a bankrupt backwater into the greatest country in the world, all with the threat of invasion and assignation hanging over her head. My fourth guest would be Merlin, because who wouldn't want to learn from the greatest wizard of all time? My fifth guest would be Marilyn Monroe, partly because she was much more intelligent than people gave her credit for and would therefore make an excellent dinner companion, but also because I'd love to know if she really was murdered and by whom. And lastly, I would invite Morrissey, because even though he has a reputation for being miserable, he's also incredibly witty, and the Smiths are still my favourite band even after all these years.

I would keep the menu simple, so that I could spend as much time with my guests as possible. The starter would be a simple goats cheese salad, the main course would be lasagne with crusty garlic bread, and for desert I would serve cheesecake which, if I was feeling particularly brave, I might even make myself.

Has the digital world and social media changed the face of publishing? What advice would you give to new and/or unpublished authors?

I think the digital world has definitely changed the face of publishing, and very much for the better. The bad old days of having to find an agent and/or publisher in order to have people read your work are long gone. There's still a certain kudos to finding a traditional publisher for your work, but the advent of self-publishing and social media marketing means that niche writers in particular can now go directly to their audiences without having to convince someone else of the worth of their novel first. We're also having to learn the basics of marketing and promotion in a way that we wouldn't need to if we had a traditional publishing deal, but I don't think that this is necessarily a bad thing. Again, it allows us a more direct link to our audience and fan base that simply wasn't possible before the introduction of platforms like Twitter, and allows both fans and authors to develop a more meaningful relationship.

To any new and/or unpublished authors, I would say that perseverance

is the key. It can seem like such a daunting business at times, both when you're writing the novel and then afterwards, when you're trying to get it published, but you should never give up in the face of rejection. If your work is good then there will always be people who want to read it, even if a traditional publisher isn't willing to take a chance on it. Always remember that mainstream publishing is rarely about the inherent value of the work, and is just as subject to trends and fads as any other market. If you're prepared for the hard work that follows, then go for it and self-publish.

So, this Victorian lunatic asylum, what made you decide to live there, is it "haunted"? Have you witnessed anything unusual / weird / paranormal? What's the history and mystery of this place?

My fiancé and I chose to live in the asylum mostly because it's a beautiful building, located in the most beautiful setting. Dartmoor is rich in myths and legends and I've always wanted to live here. The fact that the building also happened to be an old asylum was almost incidental, although I admit that for me it was definitely an added advantage! I've heard a number of stories about strange occurrences within the main building – screams echoing at night, the sound of heavy metal doors being slammed, lights switching themselves on and off for no reason – but unfortunately I haven't yet found anyone who's willing to let us come in and conduct an investigation. As the whole site has been converted to residential properties, most people are reluctant to let ghost hunters into their homes. I haven't been lucky enough to experience anything myself, unfortunately, but when the mist rolls in off the hills in the evening there's an incredibly eerie atmosphere to the place, and I'm sure it's just a matter of time before I experience something.

The asylum was built in the 1880's, and started life as the Plymouth Lunatic Asylum. In 1942 it was taken over by the NHS and renamed Moorhaven Hospital. It continued to be used as a hospital until the 1980's, and was finally developed as a residential site in 1994.

What do you love about the paranormal, what do you hate about the paranormal?

What I love most about the paranormal is the hope it provides that there is

more to life than just what we can see and touch. Having lost loved ones, I'd like to believe that death isn't the end, that I will see them again, and paranormal research is a way of maybe one day proving that.

What I hate about the paranormal is the tendency it has to attract conspiracy theorists and new age fanatics, the fake mediums and other such charlatans. It's easy for people like that to turn the whole field of paranormal research into a laughing stock, as we all end up getting tarred with the same brush.

What other authors inspire you? What's the best ghost story you've ever read / heard?

As I've already mentioned, my two favourite authors are PG Wodehouse and MR James. I love the humour on Wodehouse's work, and his beautiful use of language that makes even the humdrum seem hilarious. As for MR James, I don't know that there's anything I can add to his reputation as the greatest writer of ghost stories we've ever seen – it's a reputation that was well-earned. I also like more modern authors – Kate Griffin's *Matthew Swift* novels are a particular favourite,

The best ghost story I've ever read is *The Woman in Black*, by Susan Hill. I've read a lot of her work and her ghost stories are all excellent, but this one is head and shoulders above the rest, in my opinion. There's a creeping dread to the story, and it's such a simple plot but so well told. I saw it at the theatre in London many years ago, and I remember literally jumping out of my seat with fright! I also think the film adaptation with Daniel Radcliffe is superb.

What does the future hold for Tracy Wray?

The future holds more ghost hunting and many more books for me. I'm currently working on my second novel, and I've enough ideas to keep me going for the next decade or two!

Thanks Tracy for taking the time to speak with us today.

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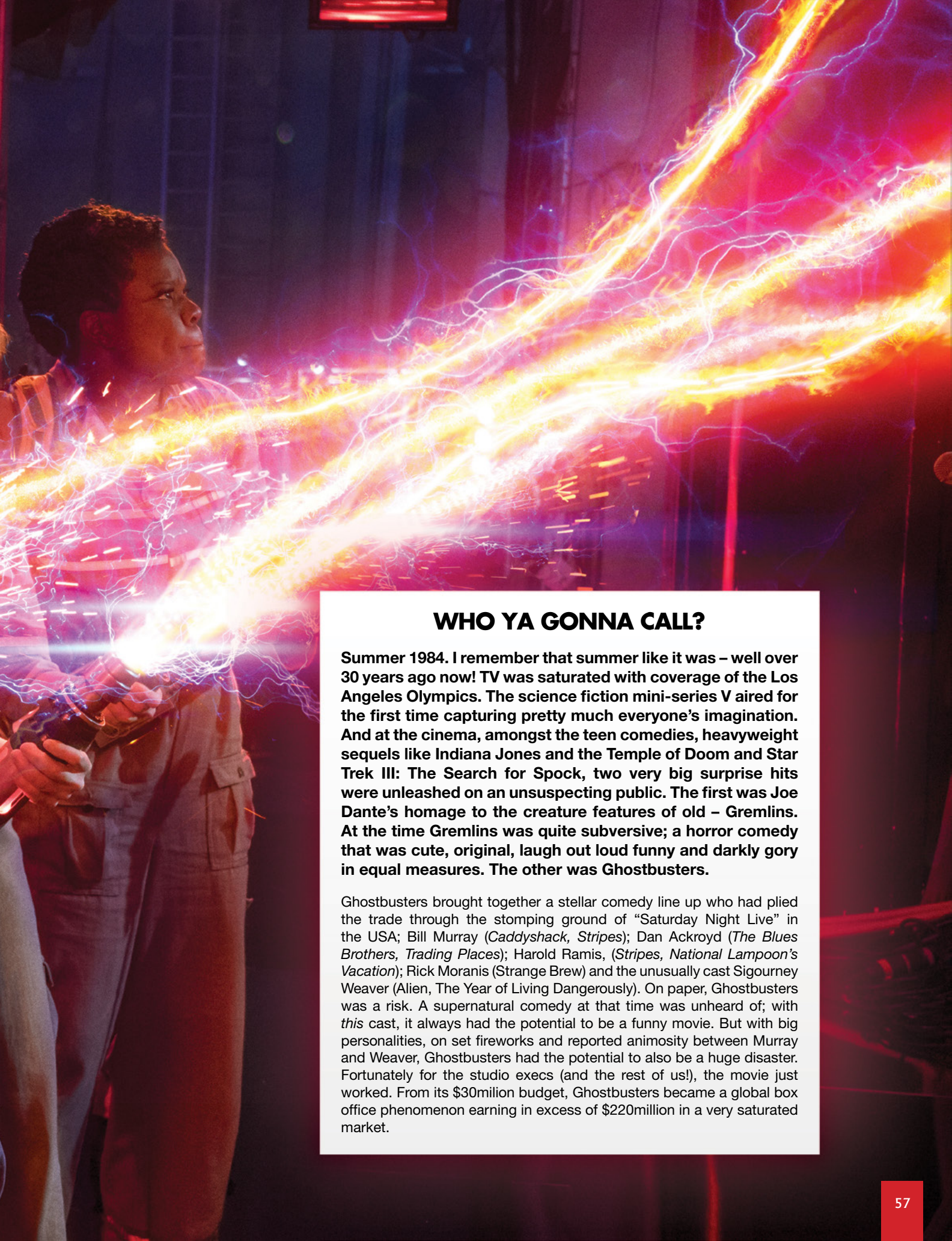


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SISTERS ARE BOOING IT FOR THEMSELVES!

WHO YOU GONNA CALL? GHOSTBUSTERS! WHAT YOU GONNA TO READ? THIS FEATURE!





WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Summer 1984. I remember that summer like it was – well over 30 years ago now! TV was saturated with coverage of the Los Angeles Olympics. The science fiction mini-series *V* aired for the first time capturing pretty much everyone's imagination. And at the cinema, amongst the teen comedies, heavyweight sequels like *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, two very big surprise hits were unleashed on an unsuspecting public. The first was Joe Dante's homage to the creature features of old – *Gremlins*. At the time *Gremlins* was quite subversive; a horror comedy that was cute, original, laugh out loud funny and darkly gory in equal measures. The other was *Ghostbusters*.

Ghostbusters brought together a stellar comedy line up who had plied the trade through the stomping ground of "Saturday Night Live" in the USA; Bill Murray (*Caddyshack*, *Stripes*); Dan Ackroyd (*The Blues Brothers*, *Trading Places*); Harold Ramis, (*Stripes*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*); Rick Moranis (*Strange Brew*) and the unusually cast Sigourney Weaver (*Alien*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*). On paper, *Ghostbusters* was a risk. A supernatural comedy at that time was unheard of; with *this* cast, it always had the potential to be a funny movie. But with big personalities, on set fireworks and reported animosity between Murray and Weaver, *Ghostbusters* had the potential to also be a huge disaster. Fortunately for the studio execs (and the rest of us!), the movie just worked. From its \$30million budget, *Ghostbusters* became a global box office phenomenon earning in excess of \$220million in a very saturated market.

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With Ray Parker Junior's instantly memorable theme tune reaching number one in the singles charts all over the world, and the iconic Ghostbusters logo plastered everywhere that it could be, Ghostbusters had a vibe about it before you even managed to see it. The mix of the



spooky, the silly, the nerdy, the sight gags and Murray's one-liners, the gloriously messy 'Slimer', Ghostbusters resonated with its audience, installing many of the tropes that would later become the benchmark for any supernatural comedy and

even spawning a sequel in Ghostbusters 2 (albeit at a lacklustre one), a couple of animated series and host of supporting merchandise.

Pan forward over 30 years. Ghostbusters is revered by many and a film that for a lot of people really didn't need a remake. It was part of the endearing memory for those who now research the paranormal, go on ghost hunts and even the cosplayers who just want to dress the part at festivals and conventions. So when news broke that Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*, *Spy*) was actively seeking to reboot the Ghostbusters franchise, reaction to the news was extremely mixed. "If it aint broke don't fix it!" But then let's just hold on a minute. A lot has changed since 1984. Social media has erupted. YouTube (lets come back to that), Facebook, Twitter – marketing a film in the 21st century presents

a lot of new avenues to explore. On-screen technology has also taken giant leaps with computer generated imagery (CGI) becoming the norm replacing the animatronics and animated cells of old, huge IMAX and X-Plus 3D screens with booming Dolby sound systems; and at a price that now resembles that of a trip to the theatre! So just how can you breathe new life into such a revered classic? Simple. You go back to the original and re-invent the origins of the group and how these four seemingly disparate individuals will bond together to ultimately save the world from an abundance of floaters.

Within the quiet hallways echoing only the footsteps of a group known as the Ghostbusters, three women enter a library to investigate if reports of paranormal activity are indeed true. Consisting of Abby Yates

(Melissa McCarthy), Jillian Holtzmann (Kate McKinnon) and Erin Gilbert (Kristen Wiig), the paranormal professionals aren't necessarily believers that there even IS a haunting in the building. But upon discovering a bride floating in the basement, Erin walks up to the spirit in hopes of a conversation and is greeted with a projectile river of ectoplasm vomit instead. Covered in its goo, Erin announces, "Ghosts are real!"

And that should be the birth of a surely an already proven pot of gold...

Except... something went a little bit wrong with the first trailer. Before it launched on YouTube there was a fair amount of negative press surrounding the choice of stars of the film and the decision to switch to an all-female cast. (Go check the box office numbers – they've been



cast for a reason). Swathes of misogynistic rose tinted bespectacled 40-somethings sharpened their claws to attack. And attack they did! From the moment “30 Years Ago” appeared on the screen, “Four Scientists Saved New York” – you could hear a chorus of keyboard warriors venting - NO, no, no, no, no, NO! Before any of the girls had even appeared, the “Thumbs down” button was tapped – and to this day currently is just shy of 900,000 dislikes. This was an unprecedented marketing disaster – even leading one of its’ main stars to come forward and describe the trailer as confusing.

“It’s a reboot not a remake,” Melissa McCarthy explained on The John, Jay & Rich Show. “I know it’s weird that they say [in the trailer] ‘30 years ago’, but in this movie it’s like the first one didn’t happen. It’s a great story but it’s told totally differently. It’s four unlikely heroes, it’s in New York City, ghosts are taking over; it’s that same classic story but it’s not 30 years later ... it’s not

dependent on the first one.” Melissa went on to explain that she did raise the issue with studio execs; “Believe me the question was asked,” she said. “I think that it’s very confusing. But then everyone said we don’t care what you think.”

Trailer 2 appeared very shortly afterwards. And *that’s a bit more like it!* This one seemed a lot fresher – a jacked up version of the Ghostbusters theme in the background, the new special FX are good AND we get our first chance to really see the girls in action with a couple of good old-fashioned, slap stick belly laughs. And wait a minute... That’s Thor! (Chris Hemsworth from the \$1bn+ grossing Avengers Assemble, Age of Ultron).

Could it be that we were all wrong?

We had the chance to grab a few questions with the stars of the movie – all of which were very careful not to reveal anything about the plot. (Bugger!)

HM: Thanks for taking the time to speak with us at Haunted Magazine. We don’t just write about the paranormal. We have our own team of investigators who visit supposed haunted locations on a regular basis. So what would be your definition of a modern day Ghostbuster?

Kate: A Ghostbuster is a scientist, but also an action hero; a Ghostbuster is a nerd and also a bad ass! When we did the camera test it was like we were all so giddy to be here and to be in these outfits and to have the equipment and the slime and all that stuff. You just get really excited every single day. It’s like a being a kid.

HM: Much has been said about the casting of an all women team in the Ghostbusters, with director Paul Feig working again you again Melissa (McCarthy). It’s the fourth movie you’ve worked on together. How important was it to choose the right cast based on their ability to improvise / chemistry etc.

Melissa: I think what Paul does better than anybody else is that he can take genres and put them together and make them work because he has done it with true dangerous action and it doesn’t hurt the comedy aspect of it at all. He can take all these things that don’t always work together and he puts them together and it just fits like a glove. I think he’s done it again with this one.

HM: So what (if anything) can you tell us about the plot?

The girls remain tight-lipped – looking at each other.

HM: Okay here's what we think we know! Erin Gilbert and Abby Yates are ex-friends who have gone their separate ways when it comes to the study of the paranormal. Yates is working with gadget genius, Jillian Holtzmann in a fringe lab trying to prove the existence of spirits in New York. When the city gets flooded with actual ghosts, the group, which also includes the hilarious Patty Tolan and the modern equivalent of Janine - Kevin (played by Chris Hemsworth), come together to fight the enormous demons' intent on world domination. Phew! How did we do?

Laughs!

Melissa: Abby from a very early age, always believed and has always known it's true. I have kind of been the eternal optimist and just fought the good fight even though no one has believed me and no one has really been behind me and always been kind of the oddball. So finally my character gets to see what she has worked her entire life towards. So it's pretty great wish fulfilment in that way.

Kristen: On the flipside is Erin (Gilbert) who comes back into the supernatural fold after denying her beliefs for so many years. Erin and (Abby) have been friends since high school and we believed in ghosts and sort of bonded over that. At some point, I couldn't really take people not believing us anymore and I just sort of like went into my education and my work and I just sort of left it behind.

Melissa: *She broke my heart!*

Kristen: I did. But then I came back. So it's also a story of our friendship and how that sort of comes together as we are fighting these ghosts.

Melissa: Abby introduces Erin to her go to tech gal Jillian Holtzmann

Kate: [My character] Holtzmann is the lady in charge of all the electrical equipment and making it better. Part of the journey of the movie is these women coming together to improve their equipment so that they can really fight these ghosts and I am in charge because I build the best machines!

HM: Okay Holtzmann sounds right up our street! We love all the gadgets and gizmos (although most of the real ones are a bit temperamental!) Probably one of the most iconic weapons that we remember from the original Ghostbusters is the infamous Proton Pack. Will we see any of those iconic "Don't cross the streams moments" again?

Kate: The new version (of the proton pack) includes cool variations that we've never seen before. We have got these Proton Wands that can trap a ghost and move it around and put it in a trap. It feels so neat because we have all seen the original movie where they do this and so the first time we

"THAT STUFF WENT EVERYWHERE, BY THE WAY. IN EVERY CRACK. VERY HARD TO WASH OFF." - ERIN

"OKAY, I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A RACE THING OR A LADY THING, BUT I'M MAD AS HELL." - PATTY

GHOSTBUSTERS (2016)

Review by Ann Sawyer

After spending a fair bit of time working on both the cover and this feature for the new **Ghostbusters** reboot, I finally had the opportunity to see the movie in full. After swathes of negative press pre-release (some quite hefty misogynistic bullshit and reboot bashing) I am very pleased to report that I was really very pleasantly surprised. After a weak-ish introduction, the film just finds its' groove. There's some really unexpected subtlety and more than a few affectionate nods to the original. The biggest surprise for me really came from the fact that Kristen Wiig and Melissa McCarthy take a step back and it's the ensemble cast that proves funniest. The CGI is fun and appropriate and I can quite honestly say that this film takes up the mantle and runs with it in a very fresh and imaginative way. Even the credits **AND THE AFTER CREDITS SCENE** (when will people learn to keep sat until the end of the movie these days!) are clever and inventive. Whilst it was never going to be the greatest movie ever made, it's really good family fun and sets up what could be a truly engaging series of movies. It's clear director Paul Feig holds the original film dear and it has to be said that this one has more than an influence of Scooby Doo about it - which is no bad thing. Go see it. Leave any apprehensions you have outside the cinema, and just have a great, light bit of fun for a couple of hours.

★★★★★

held them we were like oh my God, I can't believe this., *even though* they are fake, they have real power and real meaning.

HM: So tell us a little about Patty Tolan. She stole many of the best one-liners in the second trailer!!!

Leslie: Patty Tolan is a New York subway worker who encounters a big collective of underground spirits prompting her to join the Ghostbusters because she likes the way they work. That's where the black sheep home girl comes in. I ain't no scientist, but I know stuff for real. I think I might have always known that there was something out there crazy for me to do and then this happens and I am on board and just want to do some new stuff. I want an adventure because I don't have a life in the MTA booth.

HM: So – we know you're all gonna make us laugh and we know from the trailer that the new Ghostbusters are going to find themselves in all sorts of action packed sequences that usually aren't associated with this group. What can we expect to see?

Melissa: Yeah, it's pretty crazy and I don't think it's what anybody is expecting. It's pretty full throttle with the action sequences, and then the special effects with the ghosts and the level of how scary it gets really surprised me. So I think it will for everyone else.

Kristen: We did stunt training and were all surprised of how the fights were going to be. Every single one is shocking and we are so excited to do those scenes. It's going to be visually beautiful and just incredible.

HM: So would you say that the new Ghostbusters is offering a dynamic new take on a classic well-loved tale for a brand new generation?

Melissa: It's a pretty epic story. It's literally saving the world, good versus evil, by the four most unlikely people.

Kate: [This] movie is going to blow up the Earth so violently, that we don't know if anything is going to be left and we don't know if any plant life or birds will survive... hopefully some of the insects will carry on, but no...the movie is going to take on the world!

At this point a bloke with a clipboard starts circling his finger in the air and that is all the time we have together.

HM: Thanks so much for taking the time to talk to us today. We cannot wait to finally see what you have in store for us!

Ghostbusters is released July 2016 and I've got a feeling that it's going to be a lot better than a lot of people think. Certainly, this is a great cast who seemed to bounce off each other really well. So if there's something strange in your neighbourhood this summer... **ANSWER THE CALL!**

WWW.GHOSTBUSTERS.COM

"Crystals that
help you
more than
you think!"

Mercury
IS IN
RETROGRADE

Essay by Karen Rontowski-
Comedienne, Tarot Reader,
Reiki Master and Pest

THE DARKER SIDE OF CRYSTALS

Have you tried gathering information on what crystals can really do? If you search crystals on the internet you will find a lot of science, geology and chemistry sites but don't bother with those. They will just have facts, information and data and that is never helpful. I go out of my way to keep this type hooey out of my writing. I prefer to use unsourced material, legends, speculation, things I make up in my head and the concrete results of a game of Telephone. That being said let me clarify this giant topic in a few paragraphs.

A lot of people doubt the healing power of crystal and I would call those people scientists. I have been using crystals for years and I think you will find my guide to Crystals most informative. If you are not getting results it may not be the crystals themselves but the way in which you are using them.

Hematite is a stone that gets rid of negativity especially when you hit someone in the forehead with it.

Although size usually doesn't matter in this case it may. You want to really nail someone before you run off to your positively energized day so make sure it is large and hits them hard.

Amethyst is great for protection when you use it with lavender oil and a Taser gun.

Diamonds are known as the king of all crystals. They are used for the binding of male/female/MasterCard energy. Usually the MasterCard binding lasts the longest. It also enhances clairaudience which is hearing disembodied voices saying, "You spent way too much."

Opals have been given a bad rap with the superstition that they are bad luck. This rumour was thought to be started by the diamond miners. Quoting from the website *Opals Down Under*, "The folklore connected with crystals, gems, and precious stones is as old as it is varied. Much of this tradition dates back to the beginnings of civilization, when jewellery was worn not only as adornment but also as protection against occult forces and human foolishness."

It's true that to this day some people (like myself) still wear these jewels for protection but in America we have a new gem for human foolishness called Donald Trump. He certainly is a gem and is also considered a bad luck stone.

Although I don't have any opals I heard that the number of opal deaths have dropped drastically since they are priced at \$2,000 per carat. In fact, opal sales have dropped drastically as well.

Just recently the **petrified wood** has been added to the healing crystals list even though it is considered a fossil. It aides in the healing of

alcoholism although it works more symbolically to remind men of the last time they got drunk and disappointed their lover.

Jasper, amber, and clear quartz are all recommended for constipation or diarrhoea but I personally recommend toilet paper.

For those suffer fatigue I recommend Crystal Meth although you may need your protective **Amethyst** when going to buy it.

Even with this vast information I have presented there are still those out there that doubt the healing powers of crystals. I was wearing my crystal earrings one day when a little girl came up to me and asked, "What are those?"

"Those are crystals. They're a rock that vibrate and clean my aura."

Well, her mother became furious and yelled, "Why are you teaching my daughter that metaphysical crap?"

I pointed out, "Well you taught her that she was going to meet Prince Charming and live happily ever after. I think in 20 years she'll be much happier with my vibrating rock!"

Please, please, please check out crystal loving Karen at www.karenrontowski.com and you can follow-stalker-troll her on **Twitter** @rontowski

"Voice in the dark
is a must read for
all paranormal
enthusiasts as it
delves right into
the soul of
investigating and
doesn't hold back"

HAUNTED MAGAZINE
JULY 2016



Voice in the Dark

S h a r o n C l a r k e



Voice in the dark is a book that documents one woman's journey over the last two years working in the paranormal field both globally but mainly focused on cases and locations in Northern Ireland. It contains cases that were documented in the press such as the demon house in Armagh. It also discusses in depth paranormal investigating and the role of teams and the efforts of those involved in parapsychology.

- In depth interviews
- Full colour HD prints
- THREE fictional horror stories



EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION



Claire Barrand

Claire Barrand is a writer, blogger and paranormal investigator living in South Wales U.K with husband, four children and a menagerie of animals. A fascination with the paranormal began after since first seeing an apparition aged just 12, and Claire has investigated many haunted locations with her sister Linzi. Having developed skills in psychic counselling and tarot reading, Claire also has a special interest in capturing E.V.P. Fascinated by history and folklore and inspired by local legends, Claire is the resident paranormal expert writer for her local paper, the Abergavenny Chronicle. See more of her work on

www.clairebarrand.com

The Evolution of Women in the Paranormal Field

Women involved in the paranormal field are used to being typecast into a certain category within today's media and general society. If we tell a stranger that we are a spiritual medium, or a paranormal investigator, then we may not be "taken seriously". I once was singled out during a dinner party about my religious connotation, asked to clarify my beliefs in order to entertain a table full of strangers who all listened in amusement, exchanging not so subtle glances between them. The "Ghostbusters" theme tune has been played more than once in my presence, it is really very funny even after the tenth time.

Take a look at most women's magazines, for example, full of horoscopes, "ask our resident psychic", adverts for dial a medium and Tarot Card readings fill the back pages, whereas magazine features and adverts aimed at men focus on cars, gadgets sex and beer. There has always been a strong feminine influence in the paranormal

world, so I wanted to look at why is this might be. If we delve into the past it will be clear that women have played a vital role in the world of mediumship, and the investigating of supernatural phenomenon since the Victorian era.

Prior to the 1800's there was a widespread belief both in men and women, in folklore, fairies, witches, goblins and ghouls. Those times were thick with superstition, people that believed that a sighting of any of these, perhaps in the form of a black rabbit or dog, believed to have shape-shifting abilities, would bring bad fortune and even death. Witches were believed to be predominantly women, however, and they would be tried and hanged or burnt at the stake.

The appearance of ghosts, even those of loved ones, was rarely considered a welcome experience to anyone in those times, because the Catholic Church taught that the blessed were in Heaven, and the damned in Hell, they had to

provide a space within which ghosts could operate. It was taught that apparitions were the miserable souls of those trapped, unable to rest until they had paid for their sins... so unsurprisingly it was rare for anyone to publicly confess to seeing a ghost. The Church was in trouble when people began to turn their back on conventional religion in the later part of the 19th century, so theologians began to allow a belief in ghosts, and so Spiritualism was born, and the idea that the dead communicate with the living, became a fast growing trend, especially from the 1850s. Education and changed social structures did little to affect the belief in ghosts which became widespread amongst all the classes, even royalty.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert participated in Spiritualist séances as early as 1846. We know that on July 15 that year, the clairvoyant Georgiana Eagle demonstrated her powers before the Queen at Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight.



EVOLUTION NOT REVOLUTION

The modern Spiritualist movement, we believe, began on April 1, 1848, in the village of Hydesville, New York, when two teenaged sisters, Margaret and Kate Fox, claimed that they had contacted the ghost of a man murdered at the house years before their family moved in. Reports of this event first appeared in the *New York Tribune* and subsequently in other newspapers in America and Europe. The core belief of Spiritualism was that the living could communicate with the dead through the help of a medium endowed with a supernatural gift during mysterious and entertaining séance phenomena. Soon a number of women and men achieved an air of importance as skilled mediums. The occult was often practiced without qualification. Astrology, palmistry, tarot reading, crystal gazing, sorcery, and black magic, Ouija boards, table tipping and other practices became popular parlour games amongst women especially. Middle class housewives in particular considered clairvoyance and mediumship that were as a domesticated skill and to be able to communicate with the dead would be as feminine an art as embroidery or music.

Women perhaps formed a strong connection with the

paranormal world, because just as it suggests a world beyond that of our immediate senses, it appealed to women as it represented a potential beyond those manifested in their usual roles. Spiritualism also gave women opportunities which orthodox religion could not provide in those times, as women were not permitted to be ordained as priests. The Church along with politics, was male dominated. Women at the same time could not vote, or work in many roles so an interest in the paranormal certainly played a role in encouraging early feminism. The most gifted could earn a living, make progress up the class-ladder and even achieve a certain amount of celebrity.

There were several successful male mediums of course, but for many, women were seen as having the edge when it came to communing with those beyond the veil. The supposed 'passivity' of women allowed them to be more receptive towards spirit communication. Men who visited on a regular basis were regarded by their peers as effeminate, although many ex soldiers and miners did wish to contact those who had been killed in the pit. Miners would sit holding their lamps, anxious and curious, but keep quiet about it.

One of the most famous Victorian mediums was Florence Cook (1856-1904), who during her séances claimed to manifest as Katie King, the spirit-world daughter of a spirit called John King, (a seventeenth-century buccaneer). Cook practiced table turning, automatic writing and levitation. Once when she was in a trance, she was levitated above the heads of the sitters and her clothes fell off down on the floor, which provided additional excitement to the audience. As Katie King, she also flirted with her sitters, touched and kissed them. She was invited to many respectable Victorian drawing rooms. Her séances were reported in detail in Spiritualist journals.

In 1882, a change came about when The Society for Psychical Research was formed. This resulted in the numbers of mediums producing ectoplasm going down, and the numbers being prosecuted for fraud going up! All the leading mediums were, at one time, accused of fraud, and many rightly so, however, only one of them escaped a prison sentence.

One key case was one of a Sir William Henry Weldon, whose estranged wife was a Georgina Weldon. She

was an amateur soprano of the Victorian era, and also an active campaigner against the lunacy laws, but more notably she had an interest in spiritualism. The couple were childless and separated; Weldon gave his wife the lease to Tavistock House and £1000 a year as a financial settlement. By 1878 he wanted to reduce or stop this payment, and tried to use Georgina's interest in spiritualism to prove that she was insane in an attempt to have her confined in a lunatic asylum.

Georgina was seen by the necessary two (male) doctors, who obtained an interview with her under false pretenses, and they signed the lunacy order. Georgina realised that something was wrong and, when people from the asylum, arrived to take her away by force, she escaped and hid for the seven days that the order remained valid. She then went to Bow Street Magistrates' Court to press charges for assault against her husband and the doctors. The magistrate sympathised with her, and was certain that she was sane, but, under Victorian law, a married woman could not instigate a civil suit against her husband. However, having proved her point, Mrs Weldon publicised her story by giving interviews

The Evolution of Women in the Paranormal Field



to the daily newspapers and the spiritualist press in a deliberate attempt to provoke her husband and the two doctors into suing her for libel, so that she could counter sue.

In 1882 Georgina Weldon successfully sued her husband for the restoration of her married rights, but when he refused to return to the marital home, so after a change in the law shortly afterwards, she went on to successfully sue all those involved in trying to have her committed.

After the 1900's spiritualism then evolved in many different directions.

Helen Duncans story, is as sad as it is remarkable. Born in Scotland in 1898, her psychic skills were in demand during 1930's & 1940's. Using her special gift of physical mediumship she would hold séances both in people's homes & spiritual churches, where she would produce a physical manifestation of departed loved ones.

Despite claims of fraudulence, there are two instances of her mediumship which remain incredible. On two separate occasions she brought forward from spirit a man serving in the Royal Navy. No one who attended these séances was aware that the

man had passed over, and it would only be some hours later that reports of his ship sinking was announced.

Helen was accused of fraud in 1933 and she was found guilty and fined £10. Despite this, she continued her mediumship. Until in 1944 one her séances was raided by police. Despite no evidence of fraud being discovered, Helen along with three others was ordered to appear at Portsmouth magistrates' court charged with conspiracy.

With bail being refused Helen spent four days in prison. The case was transferred to the Old Bailey, where various charges were brought including vagrancy, conspiracy and amazingly the Witchcraft Act of 1735, which caused uproar with spiritualists. The trial lasted 7 days, during which many people testified to Helen's gift. One being Helen able to tell one of her visitors that a family member had just died, later it was confirmed, the passing had happened just two hours prior. Despite the testimonials, Helen was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment. After serving her sentence Helen once again returned to her spiritual work. Then in 1951 the Witchcraft Act of 1735 was repealed and substituted with the Fraudulent Mediums Act.

In 1956 another police raid took place at one of Helen's séances in Nottingham. The effect of this interruption caused great distress to Helen, (claiming this was caused by the shock of ectoplasm returning to her body too quickly). A doctor had to be called and she was so ill. 5 weeks after the raid she was dead. We may never know if Helen was a genuine medium, but the story reflects how the perception of female clairvoyants and spiritualists was perceived even in recent times such as the 50's and 60's.

We have certainly turned a corner as to how a woman involved in the paranormal is perceived, yet there is still a way to go. Many positive stories have boosted the acceptance that women take their role seriously. Notable women have made a name for themselves, such as Doris Stokes, who was one of the best known and loved clairvoyant psychic mediums. The stereotypical image of a crystal wearing female clairvoyant clothed in velvet, has been replaced by glamorous, intelligent, witty and gutsy females with many celebrity psychics such as Teresa Caputo, Kim Russo and Sally Morgan. Excellent role models for the next generation, but they are not without their

critics and still have to face much controversy as to the existence of their gift. Daphne and Velma of Scooby Do have done more more for the credibility of women investigators than the petrified screams of Yvette Fielding of Most Haunted however, it has to be said!

The image that male clairvoyants have a camp, showy, flamboyant stage presence, does still remain. The more scientific, technical image of the "serious paranormal investigators" as in Ghost Hunters International and the like, has still been considered a far more a masculine approach.

Less and less defined by gender, equality now sees women successfully managing their own paranormal events companies, writing and reporting in the media and conducting investigations with the most up to date equipment, whether this is being involved in serious research, or simply for entertainment, one thing is for certain, we will continue our passion regardless of the small mindedness of the minority, safe in the knowledge that we cannot be tried for witchcraft or locked up in a lunatic asylum like our predecessors!

Claire Barrand

MAN v WOMAN

If a ghost walks through a “haunted” forest chatting to himself and nobody sees or hears it, is it real, does it make a sound, is it a man ghost or a woman ghost? Are there in fact TWO rulebooks on “ghost hunting”, one for men and one for women?

At the end of the day, a ghost is a ghost, you either believe, don't believe, or sit on that rickety old fence, undecided. The boo is in the eye of the beholder, aint it? Some people don't like the word “hunt” as it sounds savage like we're all riding horses, wearing red jackets, black hats and blowing bugles. I love the word myself, we are hunting for evidence, hunting for signs, signals and messages from a world different to ours. However, does a woman see what a man sees in the paranormal world, CAN a woman see what a man sees, and vice-versa?

The only way to answer that was to ask a woman and we asked our good friend Hazel Ford to try to answer the question that is on everyone's lips, well mine anyway.

“Men don't think differently from women—they just make more noise about being able to.”

—Tamora Pierce

GHOST HUNTING

THE FEMALE EXPERIENCE

Whilst ghost hunting is a fascinating experience for everybody, male and female alike, I believe that there is a clear definition in the way that we investigate. I am female and the owner of Haunted Happenings, one of the largest ghost hunting experience companies in the UK and I have worked in literally hundreds of supposedly haunted locations with thousands of people all with different levels of ghost hunting experience. This ranges from none at all to those that profess to be the real deal where ghost hunters are concerned. What I find fascinating is how people proclaim to be experts and professionals in a field which is intangible and unknown. I feel that this declaration of expertise arises from how they see themselves investigating and the controls that they impose on themselves whilst doing so. From my perspective, nobody is an expert, in particular I am just a facilitator for somebody else's experience and it is my role to ensure that my team put adequate controls in place for people to investigate locations in the way that they wish to when they book onto a Haunted Happenings event.

One of the things that I have picked up on more than anything is the difference between

male and female ghost hunters. Women tend to investigate on an empathic and emotive level. This is where they communicate from the perspective of how they want the alleged spirits to hear them. This involves voice changing in accordance with the alleged spirit they are talking to, i.e. a child, somebody who is sad or angry, the vocabulary used and the equipment that women prefer to use such as Ouija Boards, Glass Moving and Table Tipping where there appears to be a clear level of communication involving emotions depending on what is being said

“Men, on the other hand, appear to prefer using technology in their quest for evidence. The image of a man all geared up with gadget belts and combat trousers is becoming quite a normal scene on our events”

Men tend to have a lot of equipment with them including cameras, gadgets etc and are less interested in the glass moving, Ouija Boards and anything that tends towards conversation. The way that they communicate with the alleged spirits appears to be less empathic and less emotional.

I am not saying that this is across the board, I am merely generalising but it is very interesting and the lines do cross frequently. What I believe constitutes a great ghost hunt is when men and women work together. This combines two ways of working which gives a more rounded and less biased experience on both sides. We need the empathy as this creates respect and reminds us that if all of this is true and there are ghosts and spirits haunting the building they too were once human beings with emotions and feelings. On the other hand we are also looking for clear evidence which is undisputed and not personalised or emotional. The male evidence gathering really helps with this.

Whatever the differences ghost hunting is definitely increasing in popularity and for whatever reason you decide to take part in this experience I would do so with an open mind and work with your co-investigators as there are definitely no rights and wrongs. Each person has their own reasons for being there and respect for each other and the alleged spirits around you is the main ingredient for any successful ghost hunt, BUT females are best at ghost hunting, and so say all of us, ahem, females.

Hazel





ED & LORRAINE WARREN

A LOVE STORY SANDWICHED BETWEEN GHOST STORIES



For over sixty years now, Ed and Lorraine Warren have been considered America's preeminent experts on the subject of spirits and demonology. Even more important perhaps, is the fact that they have also been the very same people for the past sixty years whom religious authorities have repeatedly called in to control some of the most profane outbreaks of diabolical phenomena in the country. Cases where priests become possessed. Cases where people are physically attacked. Cases where unworldly entities manifest and then preside. Cases where time is violated and the physical environment is completely rearranged. Cases where spirits don't just haunt a house, they visibly tear it apart.

Lorraine is a trance medium and until his death Ed was a demonologist but you'd never know it if you met them on the street. They are not occultists. They are not strange. They are essentially ordinary people who happen to do highly extraordinary work. And though the Warrens have no axe to grind, their orientation is distinctly religious. For in reality, they see that is the only way it is possible to function in this work. Because that which they confront are not vaporous, indistinct phantoms that simply come and go in the night. The forces they confront are religious entities that - by their own admission - exist for the sheer purpose of opposing the works of God.

Ed grew up in a Haunted House in Connecticut from the young age of five until he was twelve he reflects. "My father, who was a police officer at the time would often say, "Ed, there's a logical reason for everything that happens in this house." but he never came up with that logical reason."

When Ed was 16 years-old he worked as an usher at "The Colonial Theatre" in Bridgeport Connecticut, and it was there that he met Lorraine Rita Moran. "one night I walked her home and asked her for a date". And that's how it all got started.

Ed went into the Navy on his seventeenth birthday and four months later, after his ship sank in the North Atlantic he was home for 30-day survivor's leave. It was during that leave that the two were married. When Ed returned after World War II, he and Lorraine had a daughter, and Ed went to Perry Art School, which is a Subsidiary of Yale for about two years.

"I got fed up with that," Ed said. "I told Lorraine one day, "You know, I can paint better than these instructors. What they're teaching me is a lot of Geometry and a lot of nonsense that I don't need for painting." I said, "We'll have some fun."

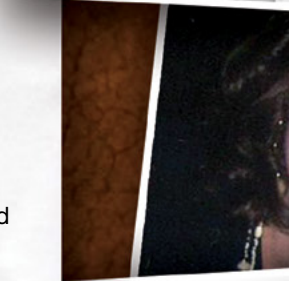
"So I bought this car for \$15 dollars, a 1933 Chevy Eagle, Deluxe. The guy gave me two wheels with it. I had to pay him off on time, five dollars a week. I said to Lorraine, "You know, if we go up to the new areas where they're opening up for tourists like Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire—I'll bet I can take a bunch of my paintings and put them out there when people are walking by and we'll sell some."

The Warrens **did** have fun, "We were making a fantastic living, selling the paintings for fabulous prices—three dollars, four dollars. But you've got to remember one thing, hot dogs were a dime, hamburgers were a dime, the theatre was a quarter, gas was 18 cents a gallon. So, when you made five dollars on a painting, you were doing pretty good."

It was through painting that The Warrens began their Ghost Investigations. If Ed heard of any place that claimed to be haunted, whether a haunted house, or a haunted location he would drag Lorraine to check it out. "Oh Ed, there are no such things as ghosts," Lorraine would say, Ed would then remind her of his days at his haunted home in Bridgeport & Lorraine would go.

How Ed & Lorraine would get into these haunted houses is especially interesting, "We were just kids nobody was just going to let us in, we were curiosity seekers, I'd go out in the middle of the road where they could all see me and I'd start to sketch the house and you'd see the curtains going back and forth "What's this kid doing?" they would be thinking. I would do a really nice sketch of the house with ghosts coming out of it, and I'd give it to Lorraine, she'd go knock on the door and with her Irish personality she'd say, "Oh, my husband loves to sketch and paint haunted houses and he made this for you." I made it special for them."

And then they would talk with the homeowners one-on-one. Basically, Ed just wanted to see if the same things happened to those families that happened to his family, through his art the lives of these two incredible people were formed.



Ed & Lorraine's thoughts on the Paranormal

Ed Warren: If you look at a fan and it's standing still, you can see the propellers very easily. But, if that fan starts up you can't see anything—it's invisible. Spirits are on that different vibrational field. They're all around us right now but you can't see them. But if you were like Lorraine, you could see them clairvisually, hear them clairaudiently. I can't. And it wouldn't pay for me to do that because as an investigator people would think I'm a little odd seeing ghosts flying around when they couldn't see anything. So, I have to see it, I have to feel it, I have to hear it, I have to record it before I accept it.

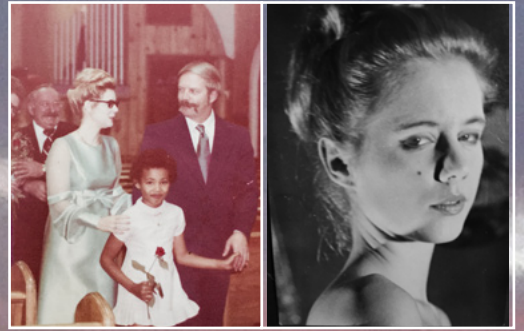
But, mediums and clairvoyants are very necessary to us because they tell us immediately if something is there. I wouldn't know—I could go into a building for a month and not know if there is something really there. I could interview the people, and maybe through my knowledge I could tell if something is there, but the clairvoyant is the draw. The spirits are drawn to a medium/clairvoyant like a moth is drawn to a flame. Many times we use three or four clairvoyants in one place. We take them into a house one-at-a-time, they don't know where they're going, what the case is about, etc. And if they all tell me the same thing, that they see a woman spirit in a certain room or a man or a child, then I know that we're on the right track.

I do think scientifically, we do have scientists working with us, and I think theologically and scientifically. There are organizations of atheists, so-called sceptical investigators that say, "There is no proof scientifically that God exists, that spirits exist that miracles occur. That's ridiculous, there's all kinds of proof. In [the Occult Museum] we have hundreds of items, we have thousands of cases between here and the other buildings out there that prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the supernatural exists and the pre-to-natural exists. When I say 'pre-to-natural' I'm talking about negative and 'supernatural' is positive. We have filmed the white Lady of Easton. We have filmed poltergeists, attacks on people; ghosts and we have taken many pictures of ghosts.

We work with any clergy that their religion teaches love of God and love of your fellow man. We are not stupid enough to think that because we are Catholics that we are the only religion saved—that's what the problem is with Ireland is today—and a lot of other places. We work with all people of all faiths. We have thousands of pictures of ghosts. And I'm not talking about filmy ectoplasmic type material; I'm talking about spirits that are as clear as you and I. You ask us for evidence; we'll give you that evidence. We proved in a court of law in 1989 that a woman and her young child driven out of her house by ghosts. She lived in Hebron, Connecticut. We went into Rockville court and we won the case. The Realtor that leased her the house was suing her for \$2,000. She begged us to go into the house and to get some evidence that would prove that there really were ghosts. Now, you don't walk into a court of law and saw, "Well judge, there was ghosts there."—You have to have evidence. In any court of law, they use photographs, recordings and credible witnesses as evidence—that's what we use. We won the case; we set a precedent here in the United States.

Scientists would say, "you didn't prove a thing, because you didn't take that ghost and put it in a bottle so we can open him up and examine him." That's stupid. They're saying that scientifically that you have to prove that God exists, that ghosts exist, there is no such thing you can't get scientific in a supernatural world. So, if we can prove in a court of law that ghosts exist and haunted houses exist I think that's good enough for anyone

"Diabolical forces are formidable. These forces are eternal., and they exist today. In a world that scoffs at ghosts and laughs at the unusual the message is this: The fairy tale is true. The devil exists. God exists. And for us, as people, our very destiny hinges upon which one we elect to follow"



(Left) A young Valentina with her family.
(Right) Valentina bears striking resemblance to her mum

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

WELCOME BACK VALENTINA LOMBORG!

**I bet you wonder where
I've been for the last year...**

**A lot has happened to me
in a year and I do mean a
lot!**

January 2015 I spent an entire month in bed with a really crazy influenza. I had no sooner been up for two days and well when I got the phone call that my father had collapsed from a heart attack and was in ICU.

So I drove three hours north east of LA where used to live to see my father and rushed his bedside two days later, he was dead. I was there for my mother as her health gravely deteriorated after.

And 14 days to the day, my mother left me as well. As an only child with no more surviving family members I was left standing and wondering if this is all been a sick joke, and people were going to come out of hiding point at me and say "ha ha ha ha oh my God the look

on your face! Got you good"! Only there were no lights. No camera. No audience. This was REAL life.

Not to go into the painstaking detail of how for the next three months as I tried to clean up my parents estate and all the loose ends they left me with no instructions or money whatsoever to take care of anything. I will just start from The fact that when all of it had finally dwindle down to a few more legal pieces of paper and phone calls to the good hard look at myself and my life.

My mother was my everything. She was by air. And now all of that have been taken away from me, as well as my entire family reduced to the number zero in 14 days.

Suddenly everything that I thought mattered and was a priority meant absolutely nothing to me. And the oddest thing was I wanted to call my mother immediately and complain and tell her about what it happened, but I couldn't because she was WHAT had happened!

It's took me a really long time to come to terms with everything and not be angry at my mother for leaving me. In fact, I played the scene over and over again in my head practically every second of the day! I finally realized that my mother couldn't live with my father, and wasn't leaving me, she was going WITH him. It all made sense and I couldn't be mad at her. It made me realize that at my age I'm single and have nobody. And that I need to get to finding somebody that I could spend the rest of my life

with too so that I can find that person that I can't live without either.

For nearly 45 years they had true love. Something must've a strive to find but rarely do. At least not in these times of texting and cheating.

So, I suddenly got the idea that I needed to leave Los Angeles for good. That was after all nothing left for me. With my family gone and my son barely talking to me, I realized I was free to roam about the country.





I had no responsibilities nobody expected me to be any place at any time.

It was a toss-up between Austin, Texas and someplace probably in Florida.

When I went over to the U-Haul company to check on the pricing, the man took me to a row of boxes and proceeded to explain that they could put all my things in a large wooden crate and then put that on a truck and ship it to the location.

Of all the crates he takes me to one on its way to Fort Myers, Florida. That was all the sign I needed. I thanked him and went home and packed everything up in three weeks and put it on a moving truck. As The truck pulled away I looked around one last time realizing that this was the end of 26 years in Los Angeles where my lucrative and crazy modelling career had bloomed to its fullest.

I shoved as much as I could into my tiny little sports car including the cat. And as the sun set one last time over the Los Angeles mountains I waved to my best friend in the rear view and hit the 10 freeway.



Along the way several Facebook friends called and texted me and kept me company on the road because 35 hours across 9 states on pitch black highways in the wee hours can get quite lonesome. I don't know how truckers do it!

It took me three days and I went in 3 stretches. 11 hours with a 4-hour nap. 9 hours with an 8-hour nap. And the last stretch was 15 hours with a brief nap for 30 minutes in my car in the parking lot of McDonald's.

By the time I had pulled into the leasing office of my new home I was exhausted, grimy, irritable and tired of spending three days living in a car and driving with a cat!

I live in Clearwater, Florida now. I have the beautiful Tampa Bay right in front of my house I have found serenity and peace.

I have gone more from paranormal investigations to helping people using my psychic gifts and abilities. I thought the ghost hunting was more a selfish thing, I still miss it and will gladly do it once I find some haunted locations around here. Because I get more pleasure of helping others.

I've been very blessed that I have been incredibly busy and am often booked weeks in advance. I feel that my mother has had a lot to do with it and that she's up there in the universe sending everybody to me. I guess she finally found a way to help me! I don't know how else to explain it.

Either way I am very grateful.

I don't mind pulling out a Paranormal story from my back pocket to share with you every now and then, be but warned, once you lose somebody it takes on a whole different perspective on life.

At least for me anyway.

I feel it's more important to help people understand what is happening after you die, so that I can help people lessen the pain you're going through. That is not why I dedicate my life 24 hours a day, seven days a week to helping the living by talking to the DEAD!

Am I still a paranormal investigator? Of course I am. But it goes way deeper than that now. I am a professional Psychic Medium, and I love what I do!

The last thing sadly my mother ever said to me before she passed was "Thank you, for everything". I thought she was thanking me for the visit that day and that I would go out the door and come back in the morning and talk to her some more.

Then she passed.

There was no morning talk. There was nothing ever again. Only silence. And an empty bed where is she had just been lying the night before.

Then it hit me. She was thanking me for 49 years of memories, laughs, adventures, and LIFE! Thank you for LIFE!

As I'm writing this now I'm fighting back the tears.

I already have 14 tattoos, and I really wasn't going to get anymore. But in memory of my mother it only made sense



to put one final thing down permanently on me. Not only as a reminder to be grateful for everything, but to take nothing for granted because life can be pulled out from underneath you just like that. With no warning.

So mum, this article is for you. And also daddy. Enjoy your afterlife.

Daddy 02-02-15 / Mummy 02-16-15

I love and miss you both more than words can express.

THANK YOU, FOR EVERYTHING.

Valentina

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LEONA LOW'S

Lowdown on Witches

The Top 10 Worst Witch Cases
Ever!

КАНОНЪ
НЕНЬН , ХРѢТОВЪ СЛАВНЫИ
ВЕЛИКОМѢНИЧЕ ОУАРЕ ВѢЧНОМЪ
ПОКОИ ТЕЗОНМЕНІТЕ , И ВЕЛИ
КИМНТИ СТРАДАНІИ НЕ ПРЕХО
ДИМОЕ И СВѢТЛОЕ ПОКОИТЕ ПРІ
ШЕРБѢТІИ . Ш НЕПРЕХОДИМЫА
ТЕМНИЦЫ И ТОМАЛЕНІА НЕПРЕ
СТАННАГО И НОЖДЫ , ПОТЦІИ
СА БОПРІАТНЫМИ ТИ МЛТВА
И ТИ РАБЫ ОУМЛЕН

БГОРО . ОУАРЕ
ЧИСЛЕННЫМИ СОГРѢШЕНІИ ДВО ,
ХОДЯТАИСТВОМЪ ТИ ШЕНОВІ
ОУВРАЧИЮЩИ МН ДШЮ , И СЛО
ПОДАЮЩИ ВОПИТИ , БАГ
ІАЖЕ БГА ПЛОТІЮ ПОРОЖА
ИЗ ПЛАМЕНЕ СТѢНЪ РО
ЧН , І ПРАВЕДНАГО
ВОДЪ ПОПЛАИ , В
РНИИ ХРТЕ СЛІ
ТѢМЪ ТА
ІА ДВО ВЪИИ

No 10

I have to give you my legendary Witch from Stromness in the Orkneys, her name was Bessie Millar, and such distinguished fellows such as Sir Walter Scott visited her back in 1814. The horrors of this case wasn't so much as what happened to her...on the contrary she did quite well.... her legend and fame was as a wise woman who after blessing her with silver coin, the fishermen of Orkney would receive a gift from her!

The fisherman would cup his hands.... Bessie would turn around....hitch her skirts up.... position herself nicely.... grab her ample bum cheeks.... and plant a huge fart into the fishermen's hands!

The fisherman would take this treasured aroma gift, in his cupped hands towards his boat and throw the wind at his sails! and indeed he got wind in his sails so he could venture off the land to cast his lines in the fertile fishing grounds.... what happened if she followed through is never mentioned!!!

No 9

1655 Kirkliston.....William Barton and his wife were to be strangled at the stake and burnt for acts of Witchcraft. During the trial information came that Barton's Wife had confessed to dancing in the Pentland Hills with the Devil who appeared as a tan coloured dog playing pipes.

The baying crowd awaited the Witches to come to the stakes and be burned.... the jail door opened and the executioner brought them forward...but he gripped his chest and fell forward.... dead! a sudden fatal heart attack!

The Kirkliston authorities

awarded the honour of now executing the Witches to the dead executioners Widow.... who delighted with the offer, jumped up and strangled the pair willingly as the crowd cheered her on, and then she lit the bonfires to burn them... she was a total celebrity for the day!

No 8

In Lincoln 1619, Three Women were to be arrested on Witchcraft charges. The Earl of Rutland had just lost two children to disease and in his grief blamed the women for bewitching his children.

Joan Flower and her daughters were thrown in jail.

They all looked doomed to hang, until Joan remembered the age old rule..." trial by ordeal" she demanded her right to take it...and by everyone's surprise it was granted!

Her ordeal wasn't very nice.... not nice at all!

A Priest would bless a loaf of bread. Then she had to eat it... eat it all up.... not so bad you might think...but the ordeal was the blessed loaf...if her body cast out the holy blessed loaf.... she was deemed "in the eyes of God" guilty!

It took a while and much leg crossing.... but she eventually shat out a loaf of her own!.....a guilty act!..... she was hanged! And her two daughters.

No 7

1544 Perth. The notorious Cardinal Beaton gave Perth a visit, it would be one to remember for a while...the murmurs of the Protestant movement were smashed asunder in a show of Catholic

power.... several Heretics were condemned and burnt to death....

One man for interrupting a Friar when preaching.

One for eating a Goose on St Hallows eve...a fasting day!

James Hunter a resident in the town and known halfwit condemned for having no credible knowledge of the Bible.

And poor Helen Stark. Good wife of Ronaldson. For the reason of "not crying out the Virgin Marys name during childbirth!" The new-born child was deemed innocent... but the men were burnt and Helen Stark was drowned!

No 6

In 1698 Kirkcudbright Scotland.... Elspeth McEwan was accused of Witchcraft.... her powers were to diminish her neighbour's hens' ability of laying eggs! On the tortures put to her by the Witchpricker Mr William Kirk who would not get his wages unless he provided a guilty verdict.... poor Elspeth begged to get put to death to finish off her pain and misery under his hands.....her wish was granted...she was strangled and burnt.

The final hefty bill for her burning was met and paid for by her husband.... on the bill was William Kirks fees.... on the day he burned poor Elspeth Mc Ewan he stood to near to the flames...it got rather hot.... he had a pint of beer to refresh himself and added the 2p to the husband's bill!

No 5

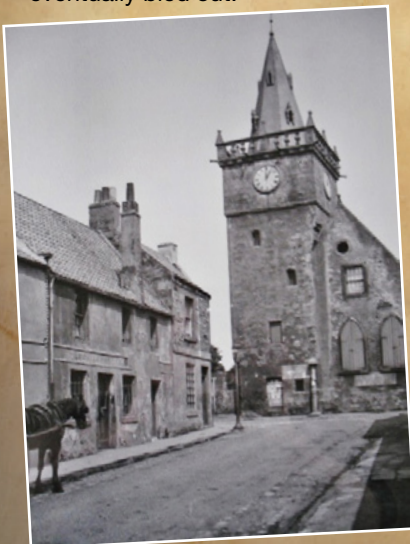
1644 Culross...Mary Cunningham and her daughter, under Direction of James Kennowie were arrested and put in the

Tollbooth jail to be tortured for Witchcraft charges.....her testimony is preserved...."When they put us in Jail they causit their officers and hangman to tie us up naked, then rape and search our bodies and secret members for Witch marks and when none were found they put sacks over us and locked our legs in irons...we were suffered no meats or drink, famine and cold brought great misery"...she was lucky to be wealthy and afford an Advocate who got them released.

No 4

Eyemouth 1629...Marion Hardie was arrested on charges of Witchcraft, the Parish council used torture in the interrogation to the point Marion never even reached trial...she was tortured to death! John Trinch her son wrote a letter to the council as a complaint...

"My mother was confined in a pit in Eyemouth on charges of Witchcraft, violent hands were put to her, her arms were tied with ropes and so when lifted they threw her so about they disjoined her limbs and mutilated her arms, made her sinews stretch lifting her off the ground and dropping her with great force. Her knees burst and she was so bruised she could not stir. A spear was thrust through her left foot as she was left hanging in mid-air on the ropes where she eventually bled out.



The Tollbooth jail in 1860 Authors collection

No 3

Janet Cornfoot was an unfortunate soul if there ever was one! Put on trial in Pittenweem with 9 others accused of Witchcraft in 1705. But in reality she shouldn't have been there!

Janet was living in nearby Anstruther which had two parishes of its own, her only crime was a bad name, being brought up to Pittenweem Parish to answer why she wouldn't live with her husband Mr Whyte in Pittenweem (a boat owner) who the church said was "an honest and sober man" this was a period where it was illegal for a woman to live on her own, they had to have male company of some sort or they could be charged with being a "hoary woman" this was a time when beating your wife was very legal. Today a measurement is declared when doing DIY "rule of the thumb!" that's an age old rule- the thickness of a stick you were allowed to beat your wife with???

It could be this reason Janet never lived with her husband, if there was a problem the local Anstruther Parish courts should have dealt with it... not Pittenweem!

Janet was heavily tortured in the local Tollbooth, pierced with pricking needles into her flesh, beaten and starved until she confessed. At this time the Government would read over confessions and declare if there was enough to condemn the Witch. (by this period England had stopped killing witches 20 years back but Scotland would still have another 20 years persecuting Witches to come).

The confession was denied! At this the Pittenweem minister went mad...denied his chance to burn Witches he set to torture the confessions back out of them again.... the screams in the tower started once more as the prickers started their work again.

Confessions came easily with torture....and they were speedily sent away for Parliament to look over.

Meanwhile a secret government official had requested an audience with Janet...she declared the

violence put to her by the minister, others had been raped, one killed during torture, and she threatened "that if she didn't confess the minister would put his staff through her skull!"

The government man appalled by the story confronted the Parish minister...and then set off to Edinburgh to relay the tale to the officials.

That very night somehow Janet climbed down the walls of her 60ft high prison.... got past her guards.... got past the guards at the walled entrance to Pittenweem.... somehow got them to open the gates and like that! She was gone... In the morning the minister was raging, the escaped Witch had a bounty of £10 put on her dead or alive. It took two days but she was found 10 miles away in the village of Leuchars. Brought back a captive to Pittenweem she made it through the gates when an arranged mob suspiciously with 11 of the ministers grown kids making the most noise. Assaulted Janet pulled her by the feet through the town while beating her with sticks...dragged 200 yards to the harbour, where now she was tied by a hanging rope from the ships mast.

Was it just coincidence that the boat belonged to a Mr Whyte! Wrapped in ropes Janet was swung by the mob and dipped into the freezing winter sea. It carried on for five hours! hundreds of locals jeering and throwing sticks and stones at her. The tide by now had gone out, and Janet was thumped onto the sands, someone released her and tried to take her indoors and bandage her wounds.... the minister disliked this -he ordered her brought out! The mob broke the door down fetching her, the door was placed on her and as one the locals fetched big stones to place on the door crushing the Witch. But with Janet now dead the fun hadn't ended...a metal sledge was brought pulled by a horse to slice with its metal runners, dice up the Witches body. Everyone cheering as it cut another piece away...then they ran amok with pieces of Janet as the madness continued into the night..... more intimate details of this trial can be read in my book

"THE WEEM WITCH"

No 2

"All Hail Mc Beth Thane of Calder" the three Witches of William Shakespeare's play, cry out a greeting when meeting him on Forres heath.....the play itself loosely based on the history of the Scottish King.

But although Shakespeare took a few liberties with the story of Mc Beth "the three Weird sisters" indeed were real enough. Shakespeare was a guest of King James I when he was with his royal court in Aberdeen 1601 October, it was here he found the information for his play.

In 962 King Duff was the 78th King of Scots. He was in the North of Scotland travelling through an area called Forres where suddenly he was seriously ill, the suddenness of the illness was thought to have been brought on by Witchcraft. His men scoured the countryside and three women were taken. A mysterious waxen effigy thought to be of the King was found... conclusive proof the King was bewitched.

A quick trial was had; the women were condemned as Witches. Three barrels were brought up to the top of a high gradient hill called "Cluny" The women were lifted and dumped alive into the barrels.... then the lids were nailed shut with them in.

Next, 12-inch iron nails were driven into the barrels all the way around, some must have pierced the poor souls inside the barrel. The barrels were toppled over and pushed rolling down the hill, the 12 inch nails mincing the meat inside!

When the barrels stopped rolling, the remains were piled high with sticks and the barrels burnt.

Three stones remain today for the tourists to visit on Victoria road, at the bottom on Cluny hill in Forres.... with a metal plaque to commemorate the three weird sisters.

No 1

And after much research, to find the most wicked treatment of Witches I could find in my first edition files.... I bring you The Mc Lean Witches of Strathglass.

The MacLean's had lived and rented the Strathglass lands for two hundred years, but the Chisholm clan chiefs decided they wanted the land back for more of the Chisholm people to settle. Gentle persuasion never produced results -so other more devious means were sought and brought to bear. Before long the Parish was pointing with accusations of Witchcraft at the McLean's.

Before long 26 MacLean's were imprisoned and a professional Witch Pricker was brought with his two servants to find the Witches marks on the bodies of the McLean's. A four-inch brass pin was used to insert into the muscles and find "the Devils mark" a mark supposedly insensible to any pain, all the Pricker had to do was keep stabbing until the victim could take no more...a confession would end the suffering. But would be conclusive proof a Witch had been found.

This Pricker was called John Dick a burgess of Forfar, his reputation was of utter destruction...leaving bodies in his wake along the Parishes of Inverness...many Witches found and confessed but half as many killed outright in his overzealous torture process.

The Mac Leans were hanged by the thumbs and burning fires put to their feet, others dragged behind bolting horses, some had shirts dipped in vinegar and forced to wear them topping up the vinegar in regular soakings.... then after a few days the shirts were ripped off them ...taking all the skin from the bodies also. Half the Mc Leans died in the jail tollbooth of Inverness. The rest confessed and were to be burnt as Witches.

Funny thing is Mr John Dick was unmasked.... he was actually a woman in disguise with a terrible hatred of her fellow kind. She was found to be Christian Caddell, she was taken to the Tollbooth in Edinburgh and after 10 months transported to the colonies of America.... on the day this wicked imposter left the country...her last victims, the Mc Leans of Strathglass were burnt as Witches.



A Witchpricker used in the Pittenweem Witch trials Authors possession



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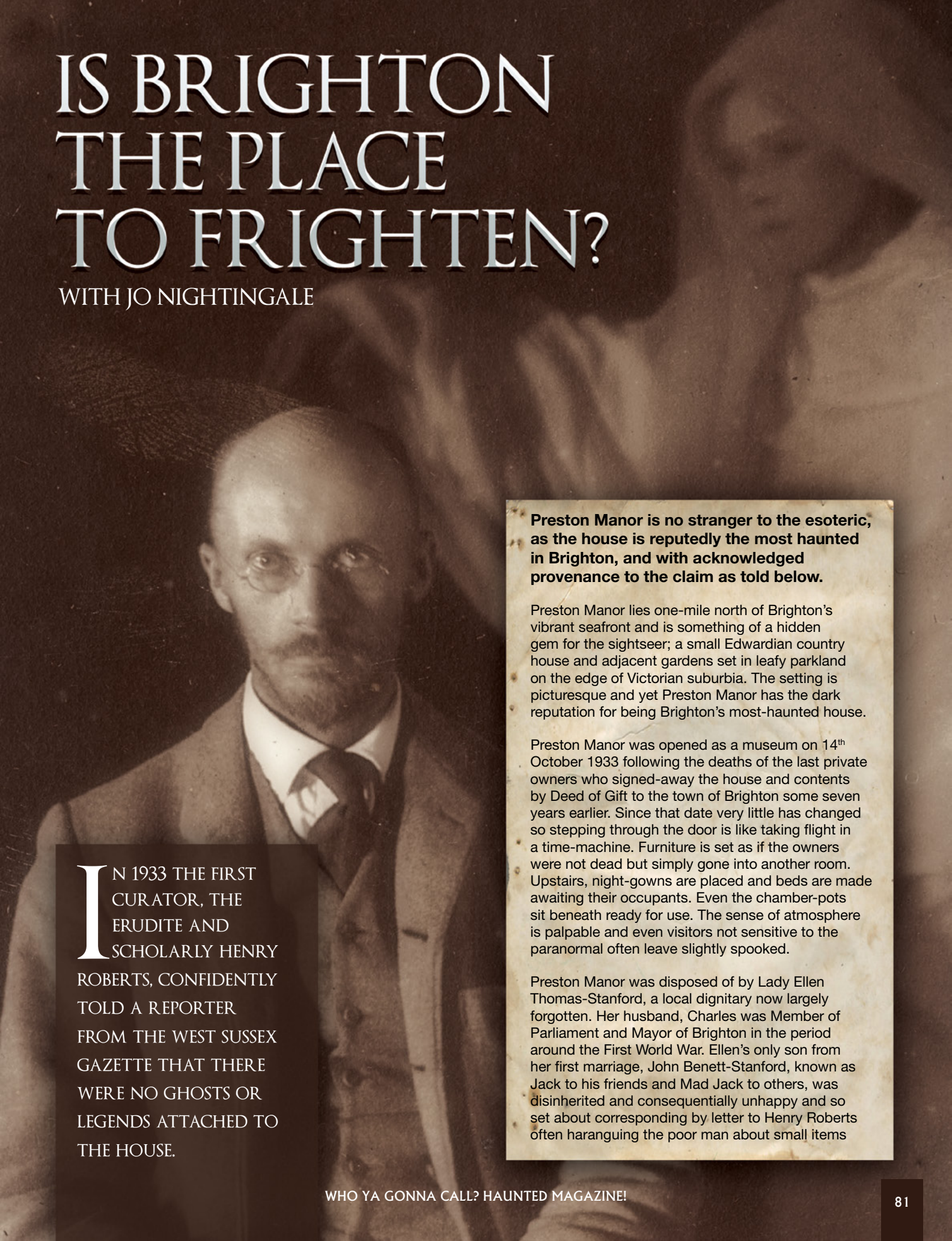
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IS BRIGHTON THE PLACE TO FRIGHTEN?

WITH JO NIGHTINGALE



IN 1933 THE FIRST CURATOR, THE ERUDITE AND SCHOLARLY HENRY ROBERTS, CONFIDENTLY TOLD A REPORTER FROM THE WEST SUSSEX GAZETTE THAT THERE WERE NO GHOSTS OR LEGENDS ATTACHED TO THE HOUSE.

Preston Manor is no stranger to the esoteric, as the house is reputedly the most haunted in Brighton, and with acknowledged provenance to the claim as told below.

Preston Manor lies one-mile north of Brighton's vibrant seafront and is something of a hidden gem for the sightseer; a small Edwardian country house and adjacent gardens set in leafy parkland on the edge of Victorian suburbia. The setting is picturesque and yet Preston Manor has the dark reputation for being Brighton's most-haunted house.

Preston Manor was opened as a museum on 14th October 1933 following the deaths of the last private owners who signed-away the house and contents by Deed of Gift to the town of Brighton some seven years earlier. Since that date very little has changed so stepping through the door is like taking flight in a time-machine. Furniture is set as if the owners were not dead but simply gone into another room. Upstairs, night-gowns are placed and beds are made awaiting their occupants. Even the chamber-pots sit beneath ready for use. The sense of atmosphere is palpable and even visitors not sensitive to the paranormal often leave slightly spooked.

Preston Manor was disposed of by Lady Ellen Thomas-Stanford, a local dignitary now largely forgotten. Her husband, Charles was Member of Parliament and Mayor of Brighton in the period around the First World War. Ellen's only son from her first marriage, John Benett-Stanford, known as Jack to his friends and Mad Jack to others, was disinherited and consequentially unhappy and so set about corresponding by letter to Henry Roberts often haranguing the poor man about small items

"THREE YEARS LATER MR ROBERTS GAVE A LUNCHTIME LECTURE ENTITLED, 'THE GHOSTS OF PRESTON MANOR' TO A LOCAL ROTARY CLUB SO WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKE MR ROBERTS CHANGE HIS STORY?"



such as silver spoons and backgammon boards he believed were his by right. In time they came to discuss the subject of ghosts.

Henry and John were exact contemporaries both born in 1870 and in their early sixties at the time of their correspondence. John was a terrific snob, an old-fashioned country squire type with inherited money to keep him in comfort. In contrast Henry came from modest beginnings working his way up from lowly librarian in Newcastle to Director of the majestic palace, the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.

"How is the ghost? Have you met her yet?" John writes, perhaps somewhat mischievously, in one letter.

"I have a sneaking hope she will come and share your whisky and soda last thing before you go to bed".

In those days museum curators lived-in, and so was John Benett-Stanford, resentful disinherited would-be heir to Preston Manor, hoping to disquiet the humble museum employee who slept in the family mansion now snatched from his hands?

John's letters, held in the Preston Manor archives, go on to detail his family's experiences, principally from the 1880s and 1890s; events that were so disturbing séances were held in the house. The most fascinating document is a transcript of a séance held on 11th November 1896 in a small anteroom known as the Cleves Room. The séance was attended by three female householders; Mrs Eleanor Macdonald and her twin daughters, Diana and Christiana, plus a female medium, almost certainly Ada

Goodrich Freer going under the pseudonym, 'Miss X'. One male attended this and other séances, the family friend, Douglas Murray.

It seems the women of the household were most troubled by the paranormal. Mrs Macdonald frequently saw the ghost of a White Lady, and Diana and Christiana who was known as Lily, also encountered the spectre. The transcript makes clear a 'talking board' was used to communicate with any spirits

who might make themselves present. Freer's credentials seemed impeccable. She was a member of the Society for Psychical Research, a competent writer on the paranormal and blessed with clairvoyant skills. However, she was later discredited and this fact throws doubt on her findings at Preston Manor. Freer claimed the White Lady was a ghost of an excommunicated nun who sought to prove her innocence following some unmentionable misconduct. The tale, as per



the transcript, is rather too Gothic Horror to strike one as anything but story-telling on Freer's part and indeed, 'cheating at a séance' was an accusation later thrown at her. However, the family were satisfied and when a fortuitous skeleton was unearthed during drainage repairs in 1897 the wronged nun was believed found. The bones were duly laid to rest and the hauntings at Preston Manor were expected to cease; only they didn't.

If anything the presence of phantom women escalated; a Grey Lady seen by fire-watchers during the Second World War and then regularly by grand-children of the live-in caretaker. In the present day a Lady in Black is seen with increasing frequency all over the house; on the bedroom landing, exiting a door off the old Servant's Hall, seated in Lady

Ellen's Morning Room and going about her work in a maid's first floor bedroom. This last manifestation, one year ago, caused a blind visitor's guide dog to whimper and tremble and was seen with perfect clarity by a member of Preston Manor staff who was accompanying the woman and her dog.

Most sightings and paranormal experiences occur at Preston Manor during daylight hours. Some are full apparitions, such as the Lady in Black, and others are less tangible although no less disturbing. A woman visiting with a respectable church group one Christmas some three or four years ago felt and then saw a strand of her long hair tugged and lifted high into the air. She laid her hair flat only for the unseen hand to approach her again with the same action. Some weeks after her visit she reported her experience. 'That'll be Mad Jack' we at the house said in unison, known as he is for teasing females in this manner.

So perhaps John, who died in 1947, got possession of his house after all, if not in life then in the after-life and one only hopes he enjoys the ghostly feminine company therein.

Preston Manor is currently hosting a display, 'Folklore, Magic and Mysteries: Modern Witchcraft and Folk Culture in Britain'. The collection of rare artefacts, manuscripts and documents are from the collection of Doreen Valiente who made the posthumous history in 2013 by being the first witch to be awarded a blue plaque in her home in Brighton.

SO, JUST WHO IS DOREEN VALIENTE?

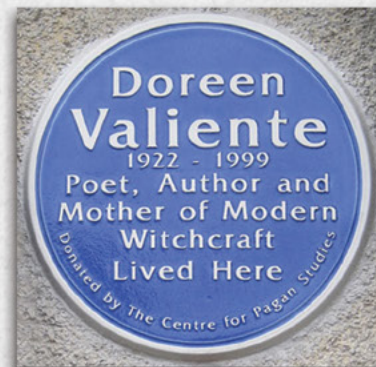
Poet, Author and Mother of Modern Witchcraft, that's who!!

Doreen Valiente is not a name familiar to people outside the Pagan community. However, Ronald Hutton, Professor of History at the University of Bristol, calls her "the greatest single female figure in the modern British history of witchcraft".

In the 1950s, called by an inner vocation, she sought out Gerald Gardner, a pivotal English Wiccan and joined his coven and honed her craft. At this period in British history witchcraft was very much underground, and punishable by imprisonment before the 1951 repeal of the Witchcraft Act of 1735. Doreen's re-interpretation of the old ancestral religions and rituals now form the core of modern-day Paganism as a practiced and fast-growing religion.

Doreen Edith Dominy was born in Mitcham, South London on January 4th 1922 to parents Harry and Edith.

Harry was a draughtsman described by Doreen in later life as a "failed architect" the family moved about the South of England somewhat during her childhood living at various times in Surrey, Exeter and Southampton which is how she was to acquire her characteristic soft west country accent. She had her first magical experiences at the age of 7 and she recalls playing at riding a



broomstick up and down the street, behaviour that led to her parents fears that she would be attracted to the occult in later life, how little they could have known. As a teenager Doreen had begun to practice simple magic, once making a poppet to prevent the harassment of her mother by a local woman, an act of magic that worked very well as the woman was subsequently stalked and



**THE 2011
CENSUS
SHOWED
PAGANISM AS
THE SEVENTH
LARGEST FAITH
GROUP IN THE
UK**





**"AT SOME POINT
DURING THE
SECOND WORLD
WAR DOREEN
WORKED AS A
TRANSLATOR
AT THE FAMOUS
BLETCHLEY PARK
CODE-BREAKING
CENTRE."**

harassed herself by a blackbird! Doreen's parents had sent her to a convent school and must have been dismayed when she walked out at the age of fifteen and refused to return. Doreen wanted to work in a factory (again to the consternation of her parents) but she eventually settled to office work, her typing and language skills being most useful. There is no doubt that Doreen had a rebellious questioning nature and a powerful personality.

Perhaps it was her nature, her personality and ability with languages that found her working in various places during the war, the matter is rather mysterious as Doreen remained tight-lipped throughout her life about her work. She was certainly in South Wales in 1941, where she had a number of short-term jobs, possibly cover for her intelligence work. She also met and married Joanis Vlachopoulos, a merchant seaman of Greek descent in his thirties. The marriage did not last long as Joanis was lost at sea, presumed drowned, within six months. After October 1943 she was transferred to the intelligence service's offices in Berkeley Street in the Mayfair area of London, where she was involved in message decryption, it was during this time she met Casimiro Valiente, marrying in 1944.

After the war Doreen continued her interest in occult matters, describing herself as a "student of the Golden Dawn" but fate was to play an important hand when she read an article in Illustrated magazine from her local newsagent describing a museum of Magic on the Isle of Man. She wrote to the proprietor, Cecil Williamson, who passed her letter to fellow director of the museum and "resident witch", Gerald Gardner. Doreen's letter elicited a reply from Gerald and the two met in the autumn of 1952. *It was to be a meeting of monumental importance for modern Paganism.*

While a fresh wave of freedom and exploration of all things social, sexual and spiritual washed through the 1960's Witchcraft and Paganism saw itself attracting more attention from the outside than ever before. Doreen, pragmatic as ever, managed to find honourable middle ground, never denying her Paganism or fearing to speak out in defence of the Craft. Doreen continued to represent Paganism and Witchcraft, having by now become a published author with her book "Where Witchcraft Lives" ostensibly about Sussex folklore but packed with additional information about the subject of great interest to anyone from anywhere.

In 1972, Doreen's husband, Casimiro, passed away. Doreen eventually felt ready to step

back into the limelight somewhat, she began writing in earnest and published "An ABC of Witchcraft" (1973), "Natural Magic" (1975) and "Witchcraft for Tomorrow" (1978) all of which are now considered authoritative standard works in the field. Doreen also found time to involve herself with establishing an organisation initially called "The Pagan Front" (which later transformed into The Pagan Federation) to fight prejudice against Pagans in both the media and society at large and this pioneering work is considered by many to be the basis of the modern acceptance of Paganism as having a dignified and valid place in society.

During the 1980s Doreen embarked on some remarkable research into the roots of the modern Craft. While she had herself doubted many of Gerald Gardner's claims she was a great supporter and admirer of him as a person and a leader and she uncovered the evidence that supported his claims to have been initiated into a tradition rather than the notion that had been going around for several years that he "made it all up". Doreen's discovery of the real identity of "Dorothy Clutterbuck" and her logically concluded reasons for Gerald maintaining the anonymity of his initiators silenced the critics.

Doreen passed from the mortal world at 6.55am on 1st September 1999, aged 77

In 2013 Doreen made posthumous history by being the first witch to be awarded a blue plaque commemorating her life and achievements. The plaque, on a council tower block in Doreen's chosen home-town of Brighton, reads 'Doreen Valiente 1922-1999 poet, author and Mother of Modern Witchcraft lived here'. Appropriately Doreen's unique collection of manuscripts, ritual objects and artefacts have been made publicly available in Brighton. These never-before-seen items are on display at Preston Manor, an Edwardian country house museum one-mile north of the city centre. The small exhibition, created by the Doreen Valiente Foundation and entitled 'Folklore, Magic and Mysteries: Modern Witchcraft and Folk Culture in Britain', runs until 30th September 2016.

**"There was a young lady called Freeman
Who had an affair with a demon
She said that his cock
was as cold as a rock
Now, what in the Hell could it be, man?"**

*"An Unsolved Problem of Psychic Research",
an example of Valiente's poetry*

NUMBER OF THE BEASTS



"HERE IS A CALL FOR WISDOM: LET THE ONE WHO HAS INSIGHT CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST. FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES. AND THAT NUMBER IS 2"

"Beast: Genesis – A Dark Ethology Volume One" and "Beast: Revelations - A Dark Ethology Volume Two", are two original anthologies of all new horror and dark fantasy fiction in all of its many and magnificent guises by those devoted to the dark side.

The anthologies brings together masters of the macabre from across the world in this cornucopia of classic chills and modern menaces all concerning animals. Within the pages of "Beast: Genesis – A Dark Ethology Volume One" and "Beast: Revelations - A Dark Ethology Volume Two", readers will discover the most successful and exciting writers of horror and dark fiction of today.

"Anything that features two of our magazine writers, Jason

White and Fiona Dodwell, is bound to be good."

Paul Stevenson, Haunted Magazine.

With a spine-

chilling selection of stories and poetry across the diversity of the genre from classic pulp style to more contemporary psychological tales, to cutting-edge terror fiction that will leave readers looking uneasily over their shoulders.

"A deep and dark anthology that is ready to take the world by storm."

Paul O Zelinsky, New York Times

We caught up with a lady called Pamela, one of the contributors to "Beasts" and we prodded and probed her, feeding her Pork Scratchings, until she agreed to be interviewed.

Thanks for talking to us Pamela, I have always wondered by authors have pen names, is writing as Pamela Townley different to writing as Pamela O'Herlihy, can you explain, please?

I'd say it's generally about authors writing in different genres, so readers know what to expect: you don't want Granny going for a nice saga from the library, and then to keel over and spill her gin and tonic when she realizes this author also writes explicitly about sex, or some such! For me, I began writing as Pamela Townley before I married so carried on for continuity. I was writing romantic thrillers and sagas back then which are very different and were popular at the time. Now I am writing in the dark psychological fiction genre which I love to read myself, so using my current name. And this does then fall into the 'different genre' category.

What can you tell us about "The Dark Behind the Window"?

I'm very interested in the ambiguous line between the known and accepted,

and the unknown. People worship gods all over the world, even distant rainforest tribes who had never met a white man till quite recently in evolutionary terms, and yet these gods are unseen. What a concept. To me, this means any belief is possible, and especially the unknown where our mind can take huge imaginative steps. Again, what is progress? To me it can seem like a step backwards as we overdose with electronica and health and safety. We need to be able to dream, and to believe; and if this means we can believe in the seemingly impossible, well then great...let's go there, let's explore...

So this book is mainly about the unknown, the supernatural, possession; dark forces developing in sexual and animism forms and the old order coming alive in a modern city. I want to say that if an elemental force did evolve in a city like New York what would it learn, with crime, grunge music, murder, overt sexuality, anger and greed: in fact, the seven deadly sins alive and kicking, so who would really be responsible for a learned demon? Us? I wanted to create a force from another world, and to challenge our perceptions of what is real or unreal. I like edgy reading, and I think sexuality works well set next to horror. Personally I like books where you are presented with the recognizable 'everyday', which then develops into something very unnerving. I like that feeling of being asked to believe and get involved in the writer's imagination and be led somewhere that is beyond belief, but you find yourself believing. Because who knows where the boundaries really lie between fact and fiction? I find telepathy and the supernatural, what we can imagine as well as know, to be fascinating;

also it's about western culture versus primitive. Who got it right? It's fun to explore the rights and wrongs of society and preconceived ideas. So *The Dark Behind the Window* is a story of a normal girl living in New York, and her grandfather has some connection with a distant tribe living in Borneo who have strange death rituals; and once the grandfather dies, this far-off tribe start to affect her daily life, reaching out to her through group telepathy, and affecting all her relationships. I aimed to bring east and west together, with ritual and retribution, asking the question: who is right really, and what do we actually know: perhaps this....?

You've been writing for many a year now, has social and digital media made a difference in any way to writing?

I believe so. The electronic and digital media has affected us all, with the internet and smart phones actually leading us away from personal connection, as opposed to the anticipated reverse. I think it has created an isolation, especially in many young people who seem to find mobiles the way they communicate, rather than talk to each other. As for writing, I like Kindle. It's so easy for travel. But nothing beats the feel of a good book, the density, the correlation to feeling and enjoyment.

Oh my lord, you worked for Hammer Horror, please do tell us what that was like and did you get the chance to work with anyone famous?

Yes, that was fun. I was quite young when I worked for British Lion. The two Hammer Horror producers, Simmy and Sammy Vegoda, came into my office and asked me to screen test for a vampire movie. I was to be the fainting long-haired girl being carried up the wide castle stairs, in my nightie, by the vampire. I did meet a lot of famous people, and worked with them: I next worked for Michael Klinger, and his director for the movie, *Repulsion*; Roman Polanski. Then he directed Michael Caine. And I went on location with David Hemmings Vanessa Redgrave in *Blow-up*, and on tour with Richard Harris (the Professor in the *Harry Potter* series). Later I married into the film business, and through my husband Gavan O'Herlihy (*Willow*, *Superman*, *Death Wish*) met lots of people after that.

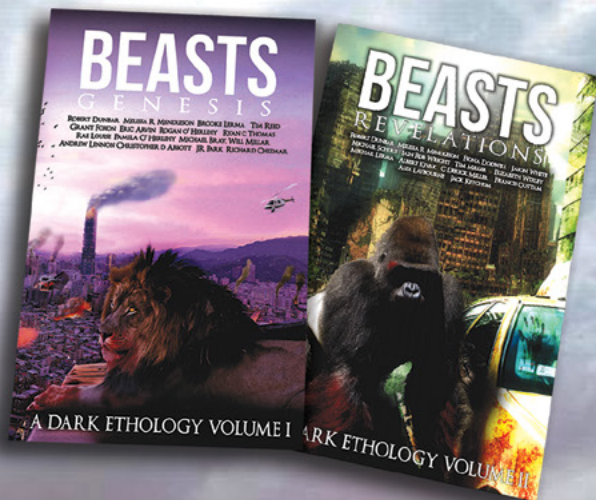
Can you shed some light on the two volumes of "Beasts", are anthologies easy to compile, do writers like them, is it the book equivalent of the CDs Now that's what I call Music?

You could say that they match NOW compilations in style, and it's an interesting thought. I think compilations are very useful for author and reader, and listener, alike. It gives us a chance to write something tighter, shorter and different; it's out there faster and so a good and interesting challenge. Plus, they generally have a theme, and so authors can try something new. Also readers get to know authors this way, and it works for both,

as they would with the NOW music compilations. My agent, Keith Chawgo, asked me to write a short dark story about animals, and my immediate reaction was that I love animals, don't see them as 'dark'. But then when I thought about it I could see that they could be portrayed as winners, with us humans as the greedy losers. And in that way, changing focus, the story could work. Reading through the two books I would say many authors felt that way. It's a nice break from the longer novel as well, which can take months to formulate and write. I did not find it hard to write *Remember the Stars*. Once I had the idea it rattled out in about a week or so. Personally I do like this idea: the way the stories have been juxtaposed also help each one to stand out. And in that way anthologies work for everyone, authors and readers. It's a win-win.

Any tips for new and / or unpublished writers, or writers who have writer's block?

Hmm, writer's block! I've heard of it, don't get it. I would say the best thing that was ever said to me was right at the beginning: keep writing, every day. I got my first TV script into the Head of Scripts at the BBC, and he was more than kind about the content, but also gave me a strong tip for writing. He said – "don't wait for inspiration, that will never make you a writer: writing is a business like any other; write Mary Had a Little Lamb on your bus ride home, over and over - just write every day, give yourself the time and the routine...one day you will be describing Mary, her bus route, how she looks, and the behaviour of the lamb and why it's there, etc., etc., and it will become a story...only writing to routine creates the necessary flow for the real writer". Those that say: "I would



write if I had the time," are fooling themselves. Writers *make* time; they get up at 4.00 a.m. to write if they have a day job. The only other thing I would say is presentation is very important; publishers are busy, and if you submit as they ask, with a smart layout, grammar and punctuation that show that you care, you will at least have their warmer attention before they start on your story. And my old favourite is 'show don't tell'. Be brave, be honest, reveal and give to the story as you feel it, don't dictate to your reader, involve your reader, and then they will feel that they identify with and want to know what happens to your characters. Keep an open mind. Don't lose your sense of wonder. Forget society's grown-up rules; remember the child in you, the monster under the bed, and let him out. We all love to be frightened. Stick with that and keep writing every day!



"THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO SAY SPIRITS, GHOSTS, ARE IMAGINARY, BUT IF YOU HAVE AN OPEN MIND, AND SHOW YOU'RE NOT TOO AFRAID AND ARE VISIONARY, THEY ARE ALL AROUND US. FOR ME, ANYWAY." - PAMELA TOWNLEY

Do you believe in Ghosts? Ever had any "paranormal experiences"?

Absolutely. I have first-hand experience of ghosts, so totally believe in them. I don't watch the television programmes of haunted houses, because I personally doubt any self-respecting ghost is that commercially minded. There are a lot of people who say spirits, ghosts, are imaginary, but if you have an open mind, and show you're not too afraid and are visionary, they are all around us. For me, anyway. Many years ago we bought a small thatched cottage in Gloucestershire. It was fifteenth century. In the third week of the first month I was alone there with my three-year-old son, Rogan. It was dark, silent, very rural, middle of nowhere; and at night the countryside is very quiet.

And suddenly as I lay in bed dozing with my child beside me, alone, husband away, the atmosphere changed. I felt it immediately. It seemed to squeeze as if it condensed and froze, yet it was very static. I was without doubt aware of the change and woke up fast, very alarmed. Almost at that moment my son woke and said he wanted to go to the bathroom. It was

downstairs. He went alone. He always did. This time he got no further than the stairs and came back, eyes very wide and frightened. Asking him what was wrong, he said there was someone out there, and it felt like 'air'. His reaction confirmed it for me. The whole room felt as if it held its breath, a very 'dense' feeling, where the air had seemed to 'stop' as if there was a presence to be aware of. I thought of long skirts on the staircase sweeping, or the radical change of air that I felt too. I was frightened, alone in the middle of nowhere. Eventually I slept. It did not happen for the following nights, although I was anxiously awaiting it. But nothing. My husband returned the next month, and being a non-believer in spirits of any sort, laughed and said there was nothing there other than my imagination.

The following month, third week in, again, I was alone in bed, with my son. And again, aware of the room in the half light, the atmosphere changed, squeezed and tightened, as if it held its breath. It was literally as if the pulse of the room was frozen, as if in a photograph. The air thickened, seeming to squeeze to a halt. It was odd, but now recognizable. And I sat up in shock.

Because on the left side of my bed was a small woman, about four foot, in a long cloth dress, a working woman, I would say. She was clear enough. And on the right side of my bed were four men, taller, but not that tall, and they were indistinct. I took it in, and then she spoke. I have never forgotten her words: she said, "we're sorry, we didn't mean to frighten you, we only meant to welcome you..."

And then she faded away, disappeared; so did they. The air softened and lightened again, moving as air does, not stationery or 'squeezed' as if on pause, and now released, as it had been before. And I lived there for another six years without incident. I actually rather missed her, wishing she would return.

But she did not. She'd said her piece; thought I couldn't take it.

At one time I had an attic flat in central London, again in an old building. And it had been suggested that I was clairvoyant and so I was practicing some things, and turned out to be very successful at mind-reading, telepathy and visual contact: in that I could read people's surroundings over the phone never having been in their homes for one thing. I handled a friend's Crowley tarot cards which she read for others, and could not herself: being open minded, I took them up and immediately had powerful visions of her that morning in her garden with her cat and turned out to be absolutely right. I do have premonitions, did then about her, and have often since. Then I thought to take it a stage further, and some friends were doing a Ouija board the other side of the room. I sat in my power spot (learned from American Indians who believe in spirit guides and power spots) and wondered if I could move the glass. So I thought of an answer to the next question and there it went: spelling out my thoughts. I practiced a bit more of this 'magic' but not much; it didn't seem right to be controlling people's beliefs so surreptitiously.

Around this time, I fully believed in a presence, a spirit I named Ada, who I thought lived in the rooms with me. And then my stepmother turned up, stood next to my 'power spot' and suddenly stumbled forward, turned shocked, and said, "what was that...!?". She said it was as if a hand had thumped her in the back. She left quite quickly. I felt that 'Ada' did not like her, nor her interruption. There was another incident that was extreme, a violent image ahead, I saw it as an elemental and Ada had to protect me which appeared to weaken her (I was very in touch with her) and after that I thought I would stop, as I seemed to be straying over an invisible dark line which neither of us could cope with.

Move on thirty years, my children are late teens, and I am living in a 12th century mansion complete with narrow leaded windows and panelled rooms. However, there was one room where the daughter of the house had been imprisoned, pregnant by the local shepherd, which was apparently a disgrace to the family. And eventually she had thrown herself out of the window and died.

When we viewed the house for three nights I had a dream about a baby crying, and a door off the bedroom upstairs: I did not know this story, but the previous owner took me upstairs and showed me where my 'door' was. It was now a cupboard. But clearly at the back there had once been a door and it led into this room where she was imprisoned. Strange, huh? This room was degrees colder than the rest of the house, very dark, and the fire curtains at the hearth made of steel used to move and close on their own. Plus, small stones and leaves would be laid in lines on that hearth. Nobody ever went in there, because everybody felt its atmosphere. And I suppose they also knew the legend. If you turned off the upstairs corridor into the short corridor that led to the black oak door of this room, everybody felt the drop in temperature. Nobody would go near it.

One summer night my children were playing cricket on the lawn down below and right outside, and both were as sceptical as their father. Suddenly there was a power cut, and all the lights in the whole big house went out, top and bottom. But, as they told me, all except this one window, in this bedroom, where there was a soft light, like candle light, flickering. And yet nobody ever slept in or entered this room. Of course they came running in and told me. I didn't go to check because I knew.... she was there again, there was no candle, the room was empty.

So yes, I believe in ghosts! I am always conscious of sensations when I enter an old house, some a bit more unnerving than others. But I don't think they mean us any harm, nor should we be scared of them. They are just locked in to us as receptors, or our homes somehow, perhaps through tragedy, both sepulchral and sad, even lonely I would say. It's up to those of us who want to understand them, live with them, accept them, and not to be frightened. We should all open our minds a little more. There is so much we don't comprehend and perceive, so much that is spiritual and part of

our primal being which is an integral part of us, but which our fast society ignores – and that is why I wrote *THE DARK BEHIND THE WINDOW*, a tale of supernatural and telepathic powers, and will cover this subject again, because I can believe in anything, given the opportunity – can't you...??

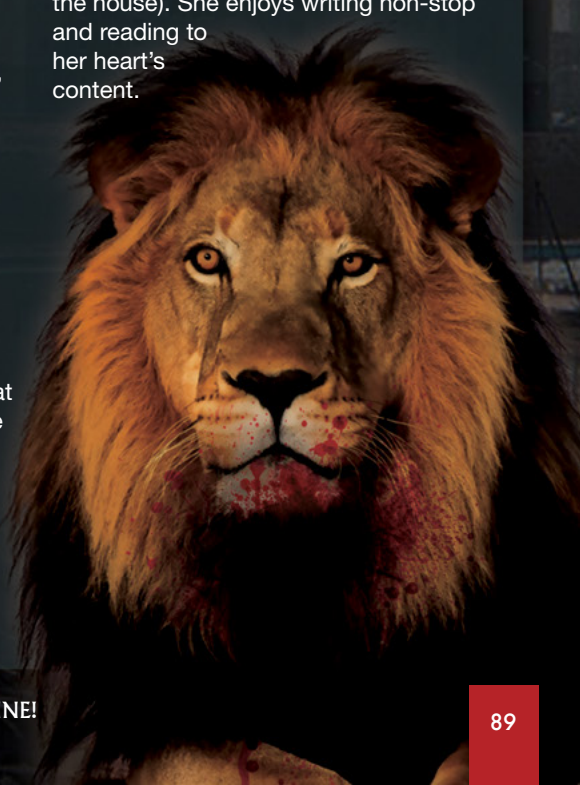
What does the future hold for Pamela Townley and for Pamela O'Herlihy?

Writing, and more writing, would be it for me, if I'm lucky enough to keep it going for the next two decades and more. I may go back to Pamela Townley if I change genres. But certainly for this, my absolute favourite, the horror/dark psychological fiction market I will stay as Pamela O'Herlihy. I would like to be writing an edgy, scary, dark psychological story with lots of twists and red herrings to keep you on your mettle - the sort that keep us awake until 3.00 a.m. when we know we have to get up for work but *must* read on - for a couple of decades ahead. I'm always open to change though; fashions change, and so does the publishing marketplace. I love what I am doing now and am never short of ideas. I'd like to help others by opening some writers' workshops. I paint portraits, so will continue with that as a side-line. But writing is and always will be my main focus.

Pamela O'Herlihy is a prolific writer of different genres. She has an excellent grasp of setting a scene and characterisation within her exciting plots. This is a name to look out for. Starting her career working with various film companies that included British Lion Films and Hammer Horror, she moved to Compton Pictures and worked on the classic films of Tony Tenser, Michael Klinger, and Roman Polanski, which included *Repulsion* and *Study in Terror*, and with David Hemmings on *Running Scared* and *Blow-Up*. Entering the world of modelling, she started to develop her sense of the written word by writing poetry. After a reading of her poetry, it was suggested that she try her hand at writing and her life has never been the same since. She started writing under the name Pamela Townley to great acclaim with the novels *The Image*, *Winter Jasmine*, *The Stone Maiden* and *Nearest of Kin* which were international bestsellers. Taking time off to raise a family and pursue other



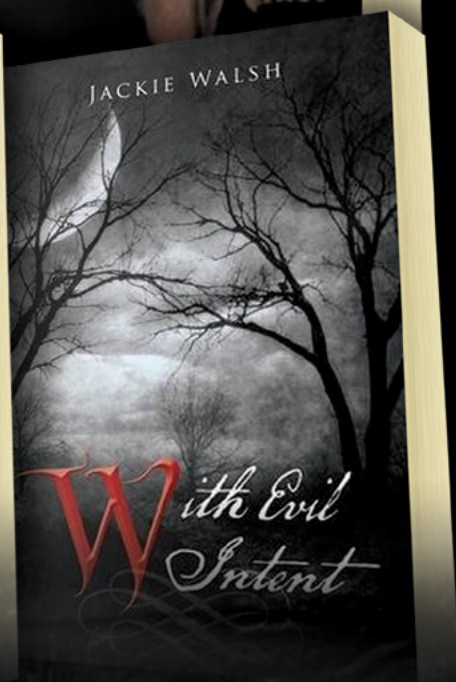
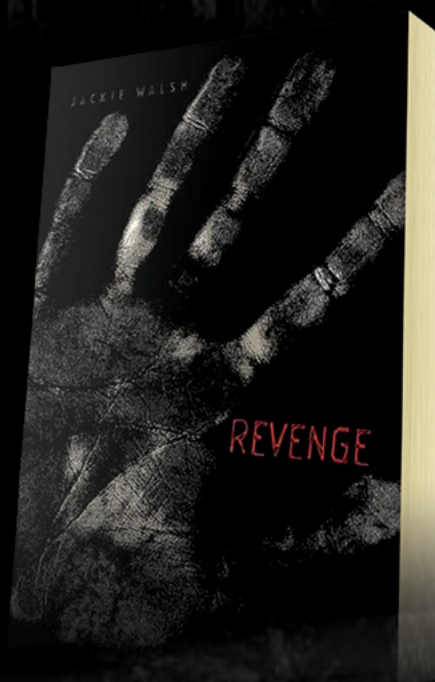
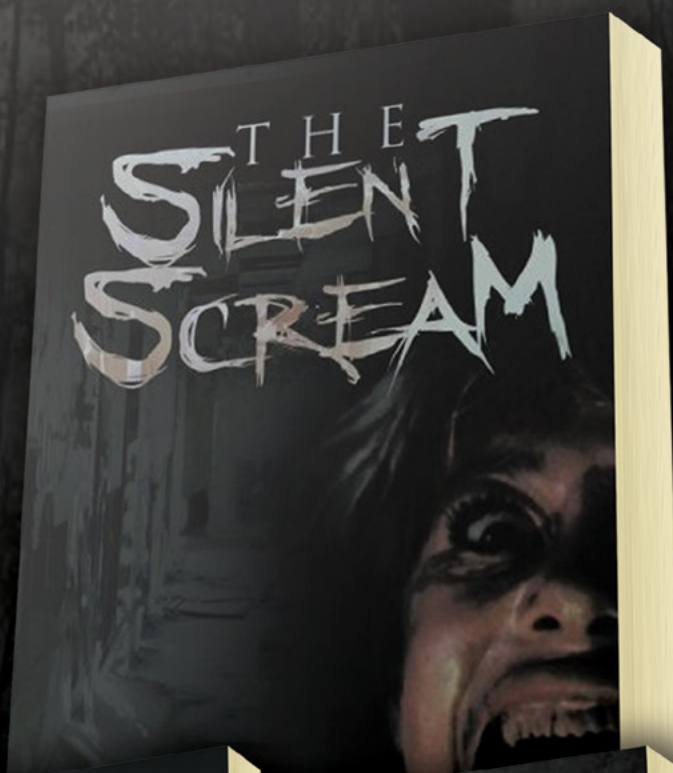
interests such as portrait painting and designing gardens, she has returned to the literary world with new work that will show the darker side with her love of the dark fiction genre. Her ability to write and change genres will make her exciting for all book lovers. Writing under her married name, Pamela O'Herlihy, Media Bitch Literary Agency is proud to be representing her new novel *'The Dark Behind The Window'* and future works which we are very excited about. She is also an amazing scriptwriter for film, theatre, and television, and you will be hearing more from her in all aspects of writing soon. She is the proud mother of two sons and currently lives near London with her three dogs and her cat (who rules the house). She enjoys writing non-stop and reading to her heart's content.



JACKIE WALSH

"THESE SUPERNATURAL
THRILLERS ARE FILLED
WITH MYSTERY, THRILLS
AND UNFORGETTABLE
HAPPENINGS. THEY WILL
LEAVE YOU ON THE EDGE
OF YOUR SEATS....
WAITING FOR
SOMETHING TO HAPPEN"

Haunted Magazine
July 2016



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Jayne Harris brings you

TopFear

Ghost Cars, Phantom Drivers...Yes it's things that go HONK in the night!

Something most people don't know about me is that I am a petrol-head.

My Father is a Mechanic and one of my earliest memories was as a 4-year-old little girl with my head under a car bonnet with my Dad. In all honesty throughout my early childhood there was more chance of me being in the driving seat of my parents VW Golf MK I pretending to rally around a race track, than there was of ever finding me playing with ponies or dolls! That kind of love for the automobile

runs through the blood like Castrol through a sump. By the tender age of 20 I had already owned 6 different cars, averaging a change every 6 months. The reason? I knew then that I loved cars and after the initial buzz of a new set of wheels had worn off, I was eager to move on. So after cruising around in a Nova GTE (oh yes my

first car was a well-oiled dream machine), a Peugeot 106 Quicksilver, a Peugeot 306, a Vauxhall Corsa, a Vauxhall Tigra and a Renault Megane sport (there really was no accounting for taste at such a young age!) it became something of a running joke with my family.



However, I didn't just use these cars to get from A to B. I loved them and nurtured them like they were my children, each of them different but equally loved in their own special way. I dare say I was the only one in my female group of friends who religiously tuned in to watch Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond! But then I was unusual in so many other ways too, being obsessed with ghosts and spiritualism for one, that being known as a bit of a car geek was probably the least of my worries!



Over the past 18 years, I've investigated and researched countless suspected cases of haunted objects, from pocket watches to oil paintings, grandfather clocks to dolls, so I know that this type of phenomena can exist, although it's still not fully understood, there is strong evidence to support the theory that spirits and ghosts can be found not only in buildings, but sometimes in the most unexpected of places, usually around something they once owned or cherished, in the form of energy.

Imagine my excitement therefore on discovering that there were cases which seemed to combine 2 of my greatest passions in life; Cars and Ghosts. Ghost cars!

Surely not, in the name of all that is Holy, this was cooler than driving an Aston Martin DB9 through an Arctic blast – well maybe not quite THAT cool...but close!

Now most of us have probably heard about JFK's haunted Lincoln Continental and James Deans cursed Porsche 550

Spyder, a quite browse online will bring up these, but there has been another vehicle, much closer to home, that has been in need of an 'exhaustist' (see what I did there?) for quite some time now.

Ladies and Gentlemen I present to you...The Haunted Capri 'ARK 666Y'.

No your eyes are not deceiving you, this Capri is believed to be inhabited by something quite demonic and is considered by those who have experienced it for themselves, to be a direct portal to Hell.

The owner KJ Tagliaferro had always aired on the side of scepticism and rationalized explanations when it came to the paranormal, that is, until the car came into his life.

He now blames it for a relentless string of bad luck and strange events, including being struck by lightning!

"Once I parked the car outside my house and got hit by lightning when I was inside" he says. "When I looked out at the car it appeared to be glowing with a strange sort of mist around it".

A glowing car surrounded by mist? Goodness me this has Hammer Horror written all over it!

KJ has apparently also seen ghostly faces appearing in the rear view mirror and says rust has been known to appear on the bodywork overnight, and when he takes it to local garages for repair, some mechanics will not go near it claiming they get "a bad feeling" from the car. He has also witnessed countless phenomena at each of the homes he has resided in since having the car including poltergeist activity and what he considers 'evil' ghostly apparitions.

"One of the most frightening experiences I've had happened one night after I'd taken the battery off the car and bought it inside to charge overnight" he told me.

"I was asleep in bed when I was woken by the sound of the front door. I thought someone was breaking into the house. I heard the chain rattle, then footsteps coming up the stairs. They came into my bedroom, walked around the bed, and stopped at the foot of the bed. I suddenly felt this rage take over and I jumped up onto the bed and started shouting asking what it wanted but nothing happened".

According to KJ, anyone who takes even a remote interest in the car seems to suffer bad luck...usually car related! Paranormal Historian Richard Felix was one such sufferer with his own car suddenly breaking down 2 days after visiting the Capri. Was it coincidence? Or were dark forces to blame?

You might think that all one need do therefore is to keep a safe distance from the bewitched vehicle, but it seems you don't have to even visit the car itself to be affected by the darkness that lurks within it as KJ explains:

"I made some business cards out with the number plate ARK666Y on the front and started giving them out to people. One woman's pub flooded after having the cards so she burnt them, and another friend had 2 of their 3 cars breakdown the same day as receiving the cards so gave them all back. People really do seem to be affected by something".

TopFear

The purple Capri seems to have a specific hatred for journalists, and most who have come into contact with either KJ or the car have had something horrible happen to them shortly after, including their house being burned down...one was even the victim of a grizzly car accident!

Many people believe that the cars registration plate is a clue to its ghastly true nature. 'ARK' is believed to signify purity and goodness and is a reflection of Noah's Ark in the bible, somewhere safe, a sacred place. "666" on the other hand is of course the mark of the Beast and so the car is believed to be a meeting place, or a battle ground, for Good Vs Evil.

Not convinced? Well the more you learn about this Ford Capri, and the more you hear from people who are absolutely terrified by it, the more you will begin to wonder. Could this really be Satan's set of wheels? If so, then surely some religious intervention would be the only way of helping?

Reverend Lionel Fanthorpe, president of the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP) visited the car in 1998 as part of an episode of the Fortean TV series, to perform a blessing. What happened, according to KJ was quite unexpected:

"Lionel came and I asked him to perform an exorcism on the car. I was stood with him and as he sprinkled the Holy water onto the car, it instantly started to boil as it the car was red hot..."



but it wasn't. Apparently it was the only time that had happened to Lionel and he believed it was as if it was meeting with some resistance. On another occasion, Lionel was using Holy water and no matter how much he used, the bottle remained at the same level as if, he told me, the forces of good were creating more and more!"

Revered Fanthorpe is not the only person to attempt to rid the creepy car of its un-Godly associations. Mr. Kevin Carlyon, High Priest of British White Witches (known as 'Kev the Witch') performed an exorcism ceremony live on channel 4's "The Big Breakfast" TV show in 1999 however it seems that rather than help, it only served to increase the level of activity,

with a hooded black figure subsequently making regular appearances inside and around the car.

A friend of KJ's, a lady named Sue apparently saw the cloaked figure exit the car quickly into a hedge when parked and has since refused to go near the car since.

Up until a few years ago it was possible to hire out the haunted Capri, and it was quite popular as, believe it or not, a quirky and quite sinister wedding car!

KJ told me that he even had one couple, part of an Occult group, ask if they could borrow the car to use as part of ritual

in which they were going to attempt to conceive the child of Satan! Try explaining that to any passing Police Officers!

The Capri has been in retirement from the open road for a number of years now after failing its last MOT, owner KJ decided to let the car sleep for a while. The sinister figure has continued to be seen however and rumour has it that there are plans afoot to get this retro beauty in working condition again – but does KJ dare? Would you drive the haunted Capri?

Find out more about ARK 666Y by visiting Kevin's website <http://www.ark666y.com/>

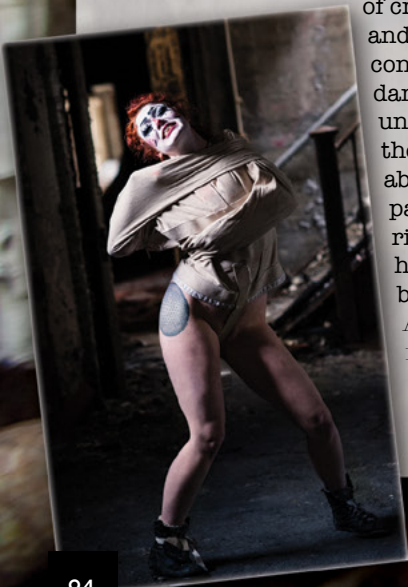
Once Upon A Time...

IN AN ABANDONED

Abandoned places are undeniably spooky; long forgotten, crumbling derelicts of another age, often haunted by painful memories, violence, and perhaps even ghosts. Among these decrepit, feral locations, perhaps the spookiest kind is abandoned insane asylums. These are places that even in life were infused with a thick air of suffering, madness, loneliness, and despair, and when they pass on into the realm of desolate abandonment, with maybe some ghosts thrown in for good measure, they transcend merely spooky to become terrifying places echoing with the pain and spectres of times past. Already naturally haunting places, insane asylums metamorphose into frightening, dark locales of dread in death. There are many abandoned asylums in the world, but perhaps the one that reverberates with the most sinister sense of hanging, unbearable evil is a place by the name of **Letchworth Village**. It is a place with a horrifying history that seems to have imprinted itself onto its now cracking, crumbling walls, and rates as one of the most haunted abandoned places there is.

Letchworth Village Rehabilitation Centre opened in 1911 and was originally created for the purpose of housing the physically and mentally disabled and the feeble minded of all ages, from very young children to the elderly. Letchworth was initially lauded as one of the nation's most prestigious and top-notch mental care facilities. However, this was sadly not to last.

It started with rumours of mistreatment; whispers of cruelty towards the patients and horrific experiments conducted within the dank basements and underground tunnels of the facility. Stories of staff abusing or mistreating patients were rampant, riddled with tales of harsh punishments, beatings, and rape. All of this was merely rumour and hearsay at the time.



MENTAL INSTITUTION

The staff and doctors presented a face to the public that all was fine and the institution was operating without any problems.

In 1972, ABC News featured Letchworth in a report titled "Willowbrook: The Last Great Disgrace," which was an investigative piece meant to look

at the treatment of people with mental disabilities at institutions around the state of New York, particularly children. The footage from the report shows a miserable picture of naked children curled up on the floor, children wailing and crying, children in wheelchairs or with other disabilities looking decidedly underfed and gaunt, and children staring forlornly out of windows, perhaps wishing they were free or perhaps wishing they were dead. These were poor souls that were in a sense already ghosts.

In 1996, Letchworth finally closed and since then nature has come to reclaim much of the old institution, with vines, poison ivy, and overgrown brush creeping around weathered walls, windows and doors. Visitors to the area have reported hearing furniture scraping across floors, heavy footsteps, disembodied whispers, and tapping, knocking, and rapping on the peeling, stained walls. Some rooms become suddenly and remarkably

cold, even in the dead of summer, and there is a wealth of EVP phenomena recorded here. The spirits of children seem to be particularly active, with reports of mysterious giggling, pattering footsteps, and playful poltergeist activity such as personal belongings flung across rooms or electrical equipment turned on and off common. Orbs or flitting lights are often seen. There are also more ominous signs of haunting. Some have described being pushed, shoved, or even held down on the floor by some unseen force. One group of thrill seekers reported seeing something horrifying while exploring the grounds when they came across a 7-foot-tall apparition with legs bent backward and piercing, glowing white eyes that walked towards them. One of the rooms of the old medical building allegedly has a prominent pentagram on the floor and is the reported site of Satanic activity.

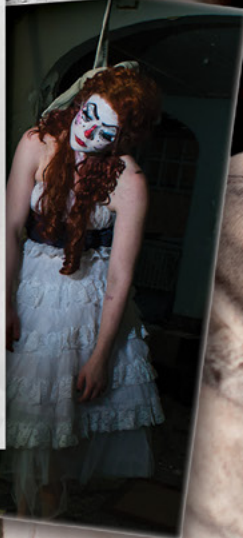
The institute's hospital seems to be particularly haunted, with intense sightings of apparitions, anomalous sounds, or even phantom physical assaults happening here with frightening frequency. Numerous mysterious photos, videos, and audio recordings have been made of alleged ghosts at Letchworth.



Perhaps the most famous investigation was made by the TV show Ghost Adventures. While undoubtedly played up for scares and dramatic effect, the crew allegedly experienced all sorts of weird phenomena, from unexplained noises to EVP, and allegedly one interviewed witness was even followed home by one of the ghosts.

There is no denying that Letchworth is a spooky place encumbered with an agonized history of strife. But is it haunted? Do the spirits of the mentally disabled and forgotten still prowl these crumbling halls, just as abandoned as the buildings they stalk? Is this all mere folklore that has sprung up around this eerie place? Or is it that the agony, torture, and despair that pervaded this place for so long has lingered and somehow imprinted itself onto its very being, like an image onto a photograph? Can the suffering of the past impose itself onto the present? Whatever the answers to these questions, if abandoned, haunted places are scary, then Letchworth Village has to rank up there as one of the scariest.

Photography by **Lori Foxworth** and Paul Cofield of [Black, White and Raw Photography](#)



Clown Babe: **MacKenzie Molto**
Styled by **Stephen Michael Quick** (Ann Archy Artist) of Philly Aids Thrift
Location: **Letchworth Village**





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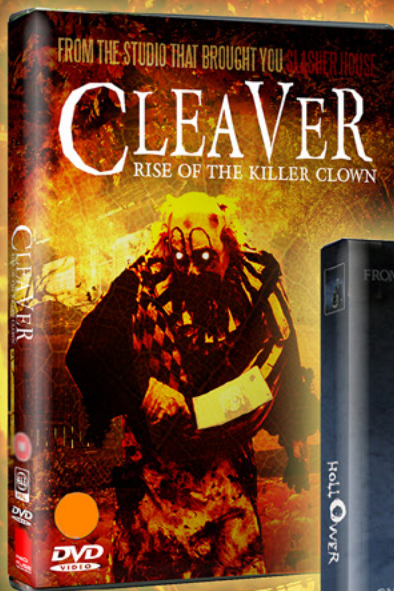
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