



## GHOSTS • Ghosts and Hauntings

How easy it is to take for granted the simple things in life. You're healthy, you have food to eat, and on a daily basis, you don't see dead people. Or do you?

- I. Can you ever remember a time you felt a strange presence, or had a nagging sense that you weren't alone?

### Alleged Encounters with Ghosts

"Ghostly Indian Head" by John Source:

*My cousin and his new wife had just moved into a new apartment. After they had been living there for a period of about a month they started having strange stuff happening, like things disappearing from places they had been put. Then the next day the stuff would appear in a different place.*

*In the bedroom of the apartment they told me had had a lot of strange things happen. Like in the middle of the night a shadow would appear over their bedroom window in the shape of an Indian head. We looked out side too see if anything could be doing this but there's nothing out there that could. Anyway the shadow would disappear fast and only happen at Midnight. They also had a chair that would swing back and forth by it self from time too time without a breeze blowing through. Anyone that sat in the chair would get really cold when the room would be nice and warm.*

*When I was over there I had a very strange experience in that room. When I walked into the room by myself the door behind me shut by itself. The really strange thing about this the door was propped open. All of the sudden the temperature in the room dropped and the chair started to rock back and forth by itself. At that point I decided to leave this room I could tell what ever it was didn't want me in there. So I decide to make it happy. When I turned to head towards the door it was already open. I was alone so I know no one could have opened it.*

From [www.spiritconex.co.uk](http://www.spiritconex.co.uk):

*It was 1976, I was 19 years old, my interest in the paranormal had been with me since as far back as I could remember. So when my best friend at the time said there were some strange goings on in her mother's house I was intrigued to say the least. I stayed over one night and we lay there for quite some time talking about the events of that night. I think I drifted off first. I remember waking up with a start, thinking I had heard a scream coming from somewhere in the house, and judging from my friends reaction she had too.*

*We both shot out of bed and into her mothers bedroom, only to find her on the floor, sobbing. When we finally managed to calm her down she explained what had happened. She had gone to bed not too long after us, and being a devout catholic had lay there for a while with her rosary beads wrapped around her hands saying her prayers, when suddenly out of nowhere she felt somebody grab her hands very roughly and physically pull her from her bed. She started to scream, and that's when we came rushing into the room.*



*My friend's mother was a very down to earth lady, not at all neurotic and this episode shook her up very badly. There was no other physical person in the house that night let alone the bedroom, yet somebody or something forcibly pulled her out of her bed.*

2. Do you think things like this are for real, or are we just looking at lonely people with a lot of time on their hands? How can you tell if it's real?
  
3. Do you want to believe this is real? Why? What's attractive about either believing this, or dismissing it?

Miami Sun-Sentinel, Staff Writer:

*PARKLAND ~ The woman who called Jerrod Zelanka's house early Sunday was crying and her voice was faint. "I'm at the bottom of a dark hole," the woman said. Then the line went to static. Zelanka hit \*69, a code used to automatically trace the call, but the number could not be pinpointed.*

*Now, Zelanka and others think that call somehow was made by his friend, Leah Jean Ash, 20, after she and a friend had an accident on an all-terrain vehicle late Saturday. Ash, of Boca Raton, was a passenger on the three-wheel vehicle driven by Kenneth Coppolo, 33, of Deerfield Beach. Both were found dead early Sunday on the bank of a drainage canal after an accident.*

*The strange part is, neither Ash nor Coppolo carried a cellular phone that night, Parkland Police Chief Steve List said. Divers from the Broward Sheriff's Office checked the shallow canal on Monday to see whether there was a telephone, but found nothing, List said. Police are getting a subpoena to obtain the telephone records of calls made that night to Zelanka's house, List said.*

*The accident happened toward the end of a rainy evening during which six friends took turns riding the Yamaha Banshee 350cc at a construction site for Heron Bay north of Holberg Road between Pine Island and Nob Hill roads in Parkland. Coppolo, whom friends said was an experienced all-terrain vehicle driver, apparently was blinded by the rain and made a turn while traveling about 30 mph. When the two didn't return, Mike Taylor, Ash's boyfriend, began to worry. He and the others called police and tried looking for them in the dark. Finally, about 6 a.m. on Sunday, Zelanka, 20, of Boca Raton and a schoolmate of Ash's, found the bodies after a two-hour search in his four-wheel-drive truck.*

4. If these ghosts are real, why just hang around? Why can't they just admit they're dead and, you know, move on – get over it? Why do you think they linger around?

"Dead as a Dog":

*My name is Cyndi Napolitan. I recently moved from Lancaster PA to Kenosha WI. I have been in greyhound adoption for the last 10 years and I owe it all to a dog that changed my entire life. His name was Jack-B-Good and he raced in southern Florida. He came to be with leukemia and I took him in to live with me – I was going to show him what a pet home was really all about. I was going through a bad marriage at the time and Jack was the only one that showed me love. It was a wonderful one year and 9 months. When Jack died, I had a gravestone made; we even had a funeral with eulogy. We had him cremated and buried him in the backyard.*



*I moved to Kenosha because I also race greyhounds at Dairyland Greyhound Park. A long distance business is too hard to manage. I packed up all the dogs, took Jack's gravestone and off I went on 2/26/02.*

*My next-door neighbor is watching the house till it sells. Last night while walking his dog, he took his flashlight and raised it to all the windows finishing with my bedroom window. He dropped the flashlight immediately when he saw Jack! This is the same bedroom where Jack died as well.*

*The house has been empty now for three weeks. Jack is looking for me and probably doesn't understand why I am not there. By taking his gravestone, did I disturb his place of rest? Should I have dug up his remains and taken them with me? Would he have shown up in the house regardless?*

5. Alright, this woman definitely has some serious issues. But do you think animals live on after they die?

### Haunted Houses

"The Four Ghosts of Crescent Hotel" by Martin:

*A ghost story was recently submitted about the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. I read this story with interest because my wife and I (Elise & Marty Roenigk) purchased the legendary Crescent Hotel, along with the other large National Register hotel in Eureka Springs, the Basin Park Hotel, early last year. Since the purchase we have learned a lot about the ghosts at the Crescent, and in fact we have made the hotel more "ghost friendly" in terms of being more than willing to talk about our long time ethereal guests.*

*There are four ghosts that have been well "documented", or at least well reported on over an extended period of time, at the Crescent Hotel: Michael is a workman who died during the construction of the hotel in 1886. His room is number 218, and a lot has gone on there over the years. I'm not sure why that is his room, although one report says that he fell from the roof to that room during construction. He is often seen walking the grounds also.*

*There is a nurse who is seen pushing a gurney down the hallways of the second floor. The hotel was a hospital for about four years around 1940. No one knows her story.*

*There is a young woman who reportedly jumped to her death from the roof or upper balcony of the hotel. She was a student. For quite a few years during the 1910-1930 period the hotel was a school for women during the off-season.*

*Other stories, including the details of a later sighting, suggest that this young student was actually pushed rather than jumped. There is a man, in very formal dress and top hat, circa 1890's, who is seen in the lobby from time to time. In addition to these four, there are reports of a group of people seen dining in a corner of the Crystal Dining Room (and being served) at a time when the dining room was closed.*

6. Besides the obvious question, "Why not haunt a condo or trailer park, why a house?" Why do you think ghosts would just stay around a particular place?
7. In the movie *The Others*, the proposed answer to this question is that the dead people don't realize they're dead. Do you buy this explanation?



8. As in this last story, ghosts are often traced to some kind of horrible death. Additionally, there are often traces of involvement in the occult. This has led some to speculate these things aren't people at all, but evil spirits. What do you think?
  
9. The writer C.S. Lewis, after an apparent vision of his deceased wife, Joy, felt that sometimes God grants such appearances (but not hauntings). Where do you think God, Heaven, or Hell plays into all this?

### Two Ghosts Stories Found in the Bible

I Samuel 28: 5-17, 19-20:

*When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said.*

*So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name." But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?" Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this."*

*Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" The woman said, "I see a spirit coming up out of the ground." "What does he look like?" he asked. "An old man wearing a robe is coming up," she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.*

*Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" "I am in great distress," Saul said. "The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do." Samuel said, "Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done what He predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors – to David. The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me.*

*Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel's words.*

10. God is speaking to Saul through the ghost of Samuel. But God has chosen this forbidden means of communication, for irony. What is God saying?
  
11. Why do you think the Medium is shocked?
  
12. Why do you think God inspired Saul to drive the Mediums from the land, and set-up a boundary, declaring summoning the dead as "off-limits?"



13. Is there anything to be learned here about ghosts, God, or summoning the dead?

Luke 24:36-43:

*While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

*They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."*

*When He had said this, He showed them His hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate it in their presence.*

14. Any insight to be gained from this passage? Why would Jesus want to make it clear He was not a ghost?

15. Do you know anyone who is now deceased? Where do you think they are?

16. Where do you want to go when you die?

End

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