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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,000

On this edition of Sightings, this Midwestern family helped a spirit cross over to the other side.

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00:00:10,000 --> 00:00:14,000

Harriet, it's time for you to go into the light. It's time for you to believe this earthly crime.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000

It just might be the worst mistake they ever made.

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00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:20,000

In the name of God, you're going to leave these people and this house.

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:28,000

Beginning with World War II, soldiers all over the world have witnessed mysterious flying balls of light.

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00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:31,000

I spied something out there. It was kind of bright.

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00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:34,000

Didn't know if it was an aircraft or what it was.

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:37,000

Is there an explanation for these so-called food fighters?

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00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:43,000

The only reason I went out to check the pool was because I heard the voice of my father saying,

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00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:44,000

Go check the pool.

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00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:49,000

More and more people are being helped by relatives after they've passed away.

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Father had died 33 years earlier.

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:56,000

And will the millennium bring greater enlightenment?

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,000

But you'll save the rest.

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:28,000

Welcome to Sightings. I'm Tim White.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:35,000

The family featured in this first report say that they had grown quite attached to the ghost in their historic Illinois house.

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00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:40,000

They called her Harriet and they believed she was a protective force operating from the other side.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:47,000

They grew so attached, in fact, they asked a paranormal investigator to perform a cleansing to help Harriet move on.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:52,000

Well now, Kathy and Gus Johnson say that that may have been a big mistake.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:09,000

The house was a wreck when they bought it, but Kathy and Gus Johnson loved this Civil War era mansion in rural Illinois

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00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:14,000

and set about restoring the historic home to its original Georgian splendor.

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:21,000

In June of 1990, work began and as the Johnson's pains taking the peeled back the layers of paint and time,

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:26,000

something strange emerged, the feeling that the family was not alone.

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00:02:26,000 --> 00:02:32,000

We would be scraping wallpaper or whatever we were doing and we would set our tool down

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00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:35,000

and then we'd come back and we wouldn't be able to find it.

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00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:40,000

And it was a joke at first because we never even imagined about ghosts.

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00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:50,000

But then a lot more started happening. The spirit started walking the hallways, making noises, slamming doors.

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00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:55,000

The Johnson's gradually began to believe that something or someone was trying to make contact.

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00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:03,000

I was laying on the couch, I was ill and I was asleep with my dog laying with me.

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00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:12,000

And I immediately wakened and the bright light came through the room and into the kitchen and my dog jumped up

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00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:20,000

and he chased and then I chased after him. It was a bright white light and very warm and good feeling.

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00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Kathy's daughter Jody was the first to see the presence in human form.

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00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:35,000

I would be coming downstairs in the middle of the night and I saw a silhouette sitting in the den

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

and I'd see the long, straggly hair.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:45,000

I could tell she was an old woman. I couldn't tell any distinct features.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:51,000

It was just shock to see someone sitting in your den in the middle of the night.

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00:03:53,000 --> 00:03:58,000

Gus Johnson was the last family member to accept the paranormal forces at work in his home.

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00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:07,000

Although he was reluctant to appear on sightings, Gus did agree to let us show you home video taken

shortly after his first ghostly encounter.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Then there was the night that I woke up, set up and she had already entered the room.

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:22,000

I was facing toward her, she was walking across the end of the bed at a diagonal heading to the master bathroom.

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00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

She walked to the bathroom, was gone.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:30,000

I immediately woke my wife up and told her, this is the strangest thing I've ever seen.

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00:04:30,000 --> 00:04:34,000

Immediately I thought, this is a real ghost, this is no dream.

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00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:38,000

Gus's sighting was enough to turn him from skeptic to believer.

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00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:46,000

It was also enough to encourage Kathy to research the rich history of the house and interview former residents who still lived in the area.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:55,000

There was a family that lived in the house, they had four boys and the youngest boy had to sleep with a pup tent over his bed

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,000

because he said that the old lady kept bothering him at night.

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00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Kathy dug even deeper into the home's history and learned that it was originally built in 1862 by Robert and Harriet Dickerson.

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00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:20,000

Kathy intuitively felt that Harriet, who was born in 1828 and died in 1913 at age 85, was still haunting the house she had helped build nearly a century and a half before.

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00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:30,000

The Johnsons began calling the ghost Harriet and found her antics non-threatening, even endearing,

although at times Harriet could be a little annoying.

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:37,000

She liked to bother me at night. She would walk up and down the hall, which there was a squeaky board in front of my room.

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00:05:37,000 --> 00:05:40,000

So you'd hear her walk up and down, up and down.

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00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:47,000

And Kathy says Harriet was also in the habit of putting her two cents in when it came to family business.

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00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:54,000

My husband Gus has a developmentally disabled son and he lives with us and his name is Mark.

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00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:57,000

And Mark is 13 and he's six foot tall.

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00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:03,000

And Mark got into trouble on the school bus and so he had to be punished.

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00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:06,000

So we punished him and then sent him to bed.

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00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:12,000

That night Harriet just drove us insane.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:15,000

She was very upset that we punished Mark.

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00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:21,000

The rest of that night after we went to bed, she bumped the bed, she walked the halls.

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:26,000

She did everything she could do to let us know that she was very upset that we had punished her.

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00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:32,000

She is standing looking at me, arms down.

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

I would say screaming but there is no noise at me.

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:42,000

She just kept mouthing and finally she stopped and like that was gone.

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00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:49,000

We came to find out through investigating that Harriet had 11 children.

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00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:57,000

And we believe that Harriet was a motherly type person and that she was always watching out for the children.

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00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:04,000

The ghostly activity became so omnipresent that the Johnson's contacted Rob Conover,

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00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:08,000

a paranormal investigator who has documented numerous local haunting cases.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:14,000

In addition to his research work, Conover also claims to be able to communicate with ghosts.

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:22,000

The reason we called Rob was because Harriet had been here quite a while and we all loved Harriet.

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00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:27,000

And I loved her enough that I felt like Harriet deserved to go to the light.

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00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:31,000

When people have to understand about spirits, the spirits are just a person without a body.

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00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

And that's the way I speak to them as a person.

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00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:38,000

And I explain to them what's on the other side of the light and why they should go through the light

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00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:42,000

and why they'll be happier there. And that's when they go through the light.

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00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:49,000

But before communication could begin, Rob and his partner had to assess the level of haunting activity in the house.

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00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:54,000

The pair canvassed each room, noting a variety of environmental factors.

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00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:59,000

Electromagnetic field readings were particularly high in the master bedroom

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00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

and Conover felt that this was a prime location to set up a surveillance camera

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00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:07,000

in case Harriet decided to make her presence known.

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00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:11,000

The camera was backed into a far corner and left on to run by itself.

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00:08:11,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Later, when the video was played back, the team found strange noises and movement on the tape.

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00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:26,000

Probably the best thing that happened was on the one tape, you hear three breaths.

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00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:30,000

Sounds like an exhale of air into the camera microphone.

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00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:36,000

Then a little while later, the camera zooms in onto a bed post and then zooms back three times by itself.

86

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:41,000

In order to zoom the camera, you have to push the buttons. You can't do it otherwise.

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00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:44,000

I had set the camera up in the corner of the room.

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00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:51,000

You would have either heard someone come in the room because when you walked into the room, the dresser drawers, the latches would rattle.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:56,000

Two, when I did set it up, there was no possible way to get to the camera without being seen or heard.

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00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:06,000

I believe it was a paranormal experience with the camera and I believe that it was Harriet's ghost that did it.

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00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Convinced that there was a ghost, Conover proceeded to the next step, an attempt to communicate with Harriet and lead her to the light.

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00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:17,000

We were in the living room of the residence.

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00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Kathy had come downstairs to join us. I called Harriet to see if she would come into the room and she did come into the room and manifested herself.

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00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:29,000

And that's when I began talking to her about the light which was behind her.

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00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:37,000

And Kathy began talking to her also and explaining why she should go through the light, her children waiting for her family.

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00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:42,000

I just felt so strongly about Harriet being able to be with her 11 children.

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00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:48,000

And so I told her, Harriet, go to the light and be with your children. And she did.

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00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:58,000

When Harriet went through the light, it's like an immediate change in atmosphere from cold to warm and peaceful.

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00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:04,000

After that incident happened and Harriet went to the light, we've never seen or heard from her since.

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00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:08,000

We're happy for her, but we do miss her.

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00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:15,000

That wistfulness soon turned to terror because the Johnson's tell sightings as soon as Harriet went to heaven.

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00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:19,000

All hell broke loose inside their house.

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00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:26,000

When sightings continues more of our investigation and the psychic impressions of investigator Jory Anne Defray.

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00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:31,000

Next, the Johnson family's uninvited guest goes from bad to worse.

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00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:36,000

I awakened to someone saying, die you bitch.

106

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:49,000

After a cleansing ritual designed to rid their house of a ghost, the Johnson family of La Roy, Illinois had a problem.

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00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:55,000

While the ghost, as Harriet, a sweet and well-meaning spirit by all accounts, did seem to have moved on,

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00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:59,000

she forgot to close the paranormal door behind her.

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00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:06,000

And as soon as Harriet was gone, a new spirit began to make its presence known, and it was anything but sweet.

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00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:20,000

I was talking to a friend on the phone, and all of a sudden, the dryer started agitating really bad.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:26,000

I unplugged the dryer, and it wasn't on. I opened the door, and the drum was not rotating.

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00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:30,000

I mean, it was agitating like a washing machine would, but this was the dryer.

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00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:36,000

I was getting frightened. I felt like there was another spirit in the house, and it was not Harriet.

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00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,000

There was an evilness to it.

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00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:42,000

It was the first sign that something was wrong.

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00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Kathy called Rob Conover, the paranormal investigator who claimed to have helped the benevolent ghost,

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00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:50,000

notice Harriet, move into the light.

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00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:55,000

As soon as Conover arrived this time, he sensed an evil presence.

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00:11:55,000 --> 00:12:03,000

I knew instantly that Harriet had been here to protect this house from another spirit, which was not a good spirit.

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00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:06,000

Everyone in the family is being affected.

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00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:11,000

The Johnson's 13-year-old son, Mark, has been particularly traumatized by the new entity.

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00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:16,000

Mark's not sleeping well. He will not sleep in the room. He is scared.

123

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:21,000

Every night, he asks to sleep with my father, which makes me mad that he's bothering my brother.

124

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:34,000

I was sound asleep, and I awakened to someone saying right in my ear,

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00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Die, die, die, you bitch.

126

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:43,000

I believe that it was the same entity that moved the dryer, and he was trying to frighten me.

127

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:49,000

That was about the point that we started figuring out that it was a male.

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00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Because I heard the male's voice. He was frightening me, and I'd never been frightened before.

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00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:01,000

Again, Conover surveyed the home, documenting environmental factors.

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00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:09,000

But this time, he also enlisted the help of two local psychics who independently determined the identity of the evil spirit.

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00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:11,000

They came up with the name John Grady.

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00:13:12,000 --> 00:13:18,000

And through the psychics, they learned that he had been a border in the house,

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00:13:18,000 --> 00:13:22,000

and that Harriet had, and through the research found out Harriet did have borders in the house,

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:28,000

and that he was an alcoholic, a woman-beater, and had been killed while trying to strangle the woman.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:36,000

And this time, the family permitted sightings to document Conover's unique form of exorcism.

136

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:39,000

And you're going to leave this house before I do.

137

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:46,000

I went down into the basement where John seemed to be emanating from, and I challenged him to scare me or to show me something.

138

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:51,000

And I called him a coward and told him the only people he could scare were women and children.

139

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:58,000

But when we came back upstairs, my assistant proceeded to make a derogatory statement about delivery.

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00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:03,000

There was a loud bang on the floor underneath my feet, and we all heard it, and I felt it.

141

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:07,000

And it was at a part of the house where there was no basement, just crawl space.

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00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:11,000

So it wasn't, you know, somebody down in the basement trying to play a trick.

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00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:20,000

The spirit of the man that we grew to know as John Grady was always in the house, but Harriet had control and kept him in place.

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00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:24,000

And once Harriet was gone, then he came out and took control.

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00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:28,000

Conover could not dispel the evil force known as John Grady.

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00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Word of the haunting spread throughout the Johnson small town, and newspaper reporter Jeanette Kendall was asked to investigate.

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00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:44,000

I had heard a lot about the house before I arrived there, so I was kind of a little tense and nervous and not knowing what to expect.

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00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:49,000

As soon as Jeanette began her interview with Kathy, the bizarre activity started up.

149

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:57,000

All the electricity went off in the kitchen, and she had to go down in the basement to change the fuse and left me sitting alone in the dark in the kitchen.

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00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:00,000

So that was a little eerie for me.

151

00:15:00,000 --> 00:15:06,000

She came back up after changing the fuse, and everything was fine.

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00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:08,000

Okay, where were we?

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00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:11,000

About five minutes later, everything went off again.

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00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:19,000

While Kathy, her daughter, and Jeanette Kendall waited in the darkness, Rob Conover arrived and immediately went upstairs,

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00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:23,000

prepared to do battle with John Grady once again.

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00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:31,000

He said that the spirit was trying to get away from him, running from room to room, and he had to spill the wall that the spirit was going through,

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00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:36,000

and it felt cold to the touch, colder than normal.

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00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:42,000

And then we all went downstairs, and that's when we heard a loud thumping noise upstairs.

159

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:45,000

Jody, put your hand on the rail, block the staircase.

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00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:48,000

John Grady went down the stairs in front of me.

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00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:54,000

I felt Jonathan coming down the stairs, and I said, Kathy, watch me, because I was starting to feel sick.

162

00:15:54,000 --> 00:16:03,000

And all of a sudden, Jody starts turning beet red, tears are coming out of her eyes, and she grabs her chest like this, and she can't breathe.

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00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:07,000

I was bending over, having chest pains, and it really hurt.

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00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:13,000

I felt him just run right into me, and I could just feel the electricity running through my body.

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00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:24,000

Her reaction was so bizarre compared to anything that we've seen that she felt like, and we all felt like, that Jonathan went right through her.

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00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:30,000

The family is terrified and adamant that another cleansing must be done.

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00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:37,000

They want Conover to force the evil entity from the house, but there are fears that John Grady will not go without a fight.

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00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:46,000

John Grady is kind of a thorn in a paranormal investigator's side, because he doesn't respond to the normal things that we do.

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00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,000

Clearly, paranormal reinforcements are needed.

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00:16:49,000 --> 00:17:00,000

Sidings has asked that psychic investigator Jory and Afray come to the house and attempt to communicate with the spirit, and then assist Conover in what he hopes will be the final cleansing.

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00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:03,000

It's very special to me to put an end to this.

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00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:11,000

Conover and Defraze assault on the spirit presence of John Grady will continue on the next edition of Sidings.

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00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:21,000

Next, lunar exploration for the masses. A good luck cat gets married.

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00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:25,000

Later, mysterious fireballs confound pilots.

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00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:32,000

Here are some of the stories Sidings is following in the news.

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00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:41,000

The American family has moved one step closer to becoming the Jetsons, with the unveiling of a new program designed to make public space exploration a reality.

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00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:47,000

Soon, you might be able to fly to the moon, but unfortunately no one's offering a frequent flyer miles yet.

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00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:04,000

The moon is the source of inspiration for a Washington, D.C. based company that believes that mass lunar travel will one day be a reality.

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00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:13,000

Lunacorp is a consortium of scientists, engineers and business people who see the privatization of space as the final frontier.

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00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:19,000

We had to find some way to get into space that didn't depend on huge amounts of tax dollars.

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00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:30,000

David Gump is the president of Lunacorp and in association with Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, his company is working on two lunar rovers to be launched at the turn of the century.

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00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:40,000

This mission is the first time that a private company has taken the lead in space exploration and it's the first time that the public gets to participate in space exploration.

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00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:54,000

Lunacorp sees this as the first step towards public space travel. Until then, the lunar rovers will be equipped with cameras so people can watch not only the rovers progress, but also control them from remote stations on Earth.

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00:18:54,000 --> 00:19:01,000

Then, Lunacorp hopes to add motion platforms at the remote stations so people can be virtually on the moon.

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00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:10,000

This mission goes beyond the traditional motivations of science and exploration to incorporate the experience of being there and entertainment.

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00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:22,000

Red Whitaker, director of the Field Robotics Center at Carnegie Mellon University, is part of the team responsible for creating the vehicles and hardware that will be sent to the moon.

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00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:28,000

NASA has had a huge role in the creation of the technology and bringing it this far.

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00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:33,000

But making hands-on space travel accessible to the public is Lunacorp's ultimate mission.

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00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:43,000

I think the core experience of being able to transport your senses to another planet and do exploration firsthand is what's most appealing to me.

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00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:49,000

It's the first time that the millions of the rest of us can actually take part firsthand in space exploration.

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00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:55,000

We're going to move from the era of watching astronauts on television to becoming explorers ourselves.

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00:19:55,000 --> 00:20:00,000

Lunacorp also plans on making their ventures accessible on the World Wide Web.

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00:20:00,000 --> 00:20:05,000

The company already has a website that outlines their goals and project status.

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00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:13,000

And while the lunar rovers are still in the testing stage, Lunacorp hopes to have them up and running in time for the next millennium.

195

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:21,000

In Bangkok, Thailand, Luck and Omens are a national obsession.

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00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:29,000

When this Thai businessman made a financial killing recently, it wasn't hard work, he said, but his cat's unusual eye condition that caused a success.

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00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:37,000

When you look at Thai culture in particular within the context of Asian cultures in general, the cat is seen as being lucky.

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00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:49,000

The cat is seen as indicating prosperity, the potential to make money, the potential to do good in business or in marriage or whatever endeavor somebody starts.

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00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:55,000

Fett has what the Thai call a diamond eye, actually a rare form of feline glaucoma.

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00:20:55,000 --> 00:21:06,000

A diamond eye is considered lucky, so to increase his prosperity, Fett's owner found another cat with the same condition and spent \$28,000 to unite the lucky cats in Matrimony.

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00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:11,000

There's probably a foundation in Thai culture to say that yes, cats are lucky and cats are good for business.

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00:21:11,000 --> 00:21:18,000

So it's not surprising that somebody would have a big party and wedding for two cats that they think helped their business.

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00:21:18,000 --> 00:21:26,000

Diamond eye is a curable condition and Fett's owner has promised to treat the condition now that

the wedding has taken place.

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00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:35,000

We'll have more stories in the news next time. Now here's what's coming up as sightings continues.

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00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:42,000

What could be the source of these intelligent balls of light that pilots have reported seeing for 50 years?

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00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:50,000

There's a possibility that Foo Fighters still are guided and controlled, created by an advanced intelligence, not of this planet.

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00:21:56,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Professional pilots, both commercial and military, do see UFOs, but the culture of silence within their ranks means the public almost never hears about it.

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00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:11,000

There was a time, though, not long ago, when pilots who saw UFOs did talk to anyone who would listen.

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00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:17,000

They were the fighter pilots and gunners of World War II, and they saw a lot of very strange things up there.

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00:22:23,000 --> 00:22:27,000

World War II was the first great air war.

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00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Weapons of mass destruction were airborne, and technology was moving forward at an unprecedented rate.

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00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:38,000

Axis and Allied powers were constantly on alert for the latest secret weapon.

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00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Germany had the V-1 rocket, England had advanced radar, an unblinking eye in the sky, and America was hard at work developing the ultimate weapon, the atomic bomb.

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00:22:51,000 --> 00:23:02,000

And, says research scientist Richard Haynes, the belief that the other side could have developed just about anything may have concealed the largest mass UFO sighting in history.

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00:23:03,000 --> 00:23:12,000

There were sailors on ships, there were GIs on the ground in artillery battalions, there were German soldiers on the other side of the line.

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00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:18,000

People from all sides of the war were involved and reported the same thing.

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00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:23,000

Pilots described them as seemingly guided balls of light.

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00:23:23,000 --> 00:23:29,000

Bob LaRoy, a member of the 11th Airborne in New Guinea, remembers his first sighting of the mysterious craft.

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00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:41,000

Suddenly I saw this ball about this size, that thing there about three feet in diameter, following this Japanese Betty bomber, and it started changing colors.

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00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:47,000

I thought I had seen a new secret weapon. I had to agree with the rest of the guys because that's what they all thought it was.

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00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:52,000

They didn't know any better, and nobody had ever heard of a UFO in 44.

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00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:58,000

They were spotted around the world and became known as Foo Fighters, from the French word for fire.

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00:23:58,000 --> 00:24:06,000

According to Haynes, who has investigated hundreds of newspaper and eyewitness accounts, the descriptions of the Foo Fighters are disturbingly alike.

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00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:18,000

Pilots would report glowing luminous balls of light that would come up from the ground, often orange or red, anywhere from one foot to six feet in diameter,

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00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:25,000

would accelerate up to their altitude and then level off very quickly and then stay beside the airplane.

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00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:34,000

They would fly either singly or in pairs or in trio or four objects, oftentimes in rigid formation, which is important,

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00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:44,000

and all of these flight dynamics point in one way or another to a fairly high intelligent level of guidance.

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00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Robert May was the tail gunner on a B-24 for the last two years of World War II.

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00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:56,000

He vividly recalls a dangerous top secret mission to drop guns and ammunition behind German lines,

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00:24:56,000 --> 00:25:02,000

but it wasn't the nature of the mission that has stayed with Robert for more than a half century. It's what he saw up there.

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00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:08,000

I spied something out there. It was kind of bright. Didn't know if it was an aircraft or what it was.

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00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:16,000

I would say it was probably traveling at a fairly decent speed, maybe 200 miles an hour, 300 miles an hour,

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00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:20,000

and it was coming toward us, but it was coming in a bright light.

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00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:28,000

That's what made it so odd that we could not identify. We all knew exactly whatever enemy aircraft was there.

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00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:32,000

We knew who it was. It was very easy because that's one of the things we learned real quick like.

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00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:38,000

The Allies thought it was the Nazis, the Nazis that it was the Allies. Then the fireball showed up in Japan.

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00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:47,000

And here from the November 1944 issue of the New York Times is a very interesting case of a B-29 flying over Japan,

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00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:51,000

and the flight crew saw several Foo Fighters.

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00:25:52,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Intelligence services for both Allied and Axis forces were hard at work trying to figure out where the Foo Fighters were coming from,

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00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:03,000

says Mark Birdsall of UFO Magazine.

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00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:13,000

British intelligence was interested as well. They released reports. They tried very, very hard to put a category on it to classify it as a night fighter

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00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:19,000

or an enemy bomber or something other than that, but it proved useless. They couldn't do it.

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00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:25,000

To this day, no one has figured out what they were or who made them.

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00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:37,000

I don't think there's any way that in 1943 or 44 or 45, terrestrial technology was advanced enough to produce the kind of flight dynamics,

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00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:42,000

the containment of energy, the luminous output for as long as we're talking about here.

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00:26:42,000 --> 00:26:50,000

And Foo Fighters did not go away when World War II entered. Military pilots reported seeing them during the Korean War,

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00:26:50,000 --> 00:26:56,000

and were it not for the code of silence of modern-day pilots, there might be continuing reports today.

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00:26:56,000 --> 00:27:02,000

Take the case of this former Soviet fighter pilot who claims to have had an encounter with a Foo Fighter.

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00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:13,000

I gained altitude of 3,900 meters, and I saw a ball in front of me about 20 degrees to the right.

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00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:21,000

In 1991, Maxime Trubikov was at the top of his class, fast on his way to becoming Russia's top gun.

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00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Then, on a training flight, Trubikov said that he was chased by an aggressive UFO that sent his plane into a nose dive.

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00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:35,000

My altitude began to drop rapidly. I had to pull the plane out of the nose dive.

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00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:40,000

At the altitude of 1,000 meters, I finally cleared the residential area, and I ejected.

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00:27:40,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Four seconds later, the plane exploded.

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00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Trubikov's admission that he had seen a fireball under intelligent control cost him his career.

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00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:56,000

For pilots around the world, this only strengthened their resolve to keep the code of silence.

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00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:02,000

As a result, we are no closer to solving the Foo Fighter mystery than we were 50 years ago.

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00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:15,000

There's a possibility that Foo Fighters could have been, or still are, guided and controlled, created, produced by an advanced intelligence, not of this planet.

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00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:20,000

But that is a difficult thing to prove, clearly.

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00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:29,000

I'd like to simply let the evidence speak for itself, and to continue to do research on this object, and then simply let the chips fall where they may.

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00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:36,000

It's important to remember that in the heyday of the Foo Fighter, the term flying saucer hadn't been invented yet.

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00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:39,000

So, pilots didn't have a standard by which to measure their encounters.

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00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:43,000

In fact, the government panel that studied Foo Fighters in 1953 said, quote,

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00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:50,000

If the term flying saucer had been popular in 1943, these objects would have been so labeled, unquote.

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00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:54,000

Next, messages of hope and help from beyond the grave.

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00:28:54,000 --> 00:29:01,000

It was almost like they glowed, and he had his armor under, and he just said, I've got her now, baby, and she's okay.

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00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:09,000

If you believe in angels, you're not alone.

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00:29:09,000 --> 00:29:13,000

According to a Gallup poll, more than half of all Americans do believe in angels.

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00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:19,000

A lot of people believe that these angels are deceased relatives of mother, father, or sister,

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00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:26,000

and there are many incredible stories of people who have been saved by the whispers from a loved one from beyond the grave.

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00:29:27,000 --> 00:29:39,000

My herd of boys say to me, go outside and check the swing pool.

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00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:50,000

Our youngest son, who was only 21 months old, Jonathan, was floating in the deep end of the pool, face up, but under the water, eyes wide open.

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00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:56,000

And I quickly ran to the side of the pool and screeched out Judy's name, and I jumped in the pool and pushed it to the side.

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00:29:56,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Fortunately, I pulled this huskily crying child out of the pool who didn't require any resuscitation, and Bill and I just wrapped him in our arms,

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00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:13,000

and then later, Bill was able to tell me the story as we calmed down and said, I don't know if you're going to believe this,

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00:30:13,000 --> 00:30:21,000

but the only reason I went out to check the pool was because I heard the voice of my father say, go check the pool.

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00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:26,000

And his father had died 33 years earlier.

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00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:36,000

Both Judy and Bill Guggenheim now say that it wasn't just a coincidence or a fluke memory that called Bill to the pool, it was a communication from the grave.

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00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:45,000

Bill was eight years old when his father died, and yet he came back to save his youngest grandson, who is now 18 years old.

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00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:52,000

Bill and Judy have learned that what Bill experienced has a name after death communication, or ADC.

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00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:58,000

ADC is when someone is contacted directly and spontaneously by a loved one who has died.

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00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:05,000

That is the one who's made their transition, chooses when and where and how to contact a person who's still physically alive.

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00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:15,000

After their son's miraculous rescue, the Guggenheims interviewed more than 2,000 people who had been touched by ADC and put their stories in this book.

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00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:25,000

So based upon our after death communication research, we can servefully estimate that at least 50 million Americans have had one or more ADC experiences.

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00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:31,000

Pam Strickland and Susan Marshall are among those who have been touched by after death communication.

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00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:36,000

I don't want to say it frightened me, but this was something that was way beyond any of us.

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00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:46,000

Of all the friends I had, she's the only one I ever stayed in contact with, of all these years.

She's my best friend in the world. I feel like she's my sister.

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00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:52,000

And that friendship moved to an even deeper level after they shared an ADC experience.

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00:31:52,000 --> 00:32:04,000

My mother had been terminally ill with cancer and Susan and I had decided that after my mother had passed away, after I took care of some details that I was going to come and stay with her and her family up here.

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00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:09,000

I loved her mother. I knew her mother very well and Ruth meant a lot to me.

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00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:20,000

We were very close. There was a great deal of love there. She was very protective, extremely protective of me and very, very nurturing toward me as well.

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00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:27,000

It was one afternoon in 1992 when Pam found out how strong her mother's love could be from beyond the grave.

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00:32:27,000 --> 00:32:37,000

I was leaving the house to go get some groceries. Susan had just gone in to take her two and a half year old son, Eric, to the back part of the house to give him a bath.

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00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:42,000

And she had laid Sammy, her six-month-old daughter down for a nap.

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00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:50,000

And just as I started to open the front door, I heard my mother's voice say, you need to check the baby. She doesn't sound right.

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00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:56,000

And my immediate reaction was, you're hearing things. And I ignored it.

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00:32:56,000 --> 00:33:08,000

I started to walk out the door again, got a few steps out the front door, and this time I heard in a very stern, clear voice, Pamela, you need to check the baby. She doesn't sound right.

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00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:17,000

I turned around, peeked into the door into Sammy's room, and I looked into the crib, and her whole head and face were completely covered.

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00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:29,000

I picked Sammy up. Her face was almost like a gray color. She, at that point, let out a big, deep gasp for air. And that's when I realized something special had happened.

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00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:34,000

Both Pam and Susan are convinced Samantha is here today because of ADC.

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00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:44,000

It was her voice that she heard, and I believe that Ruth said that to her daughter, for my daughter. That's why she's here today.

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00:33:44,000 --> 00:33:51,000

I would have to say that most of the people that I see report an ADC experience in one form or another.

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00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:56,000

Dr. Kathleen Moore is a certified bereavement counselor in Orlando, Florida.

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00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:04,000

The study of ADCs is exciting because we all face the experience of bereavement at one point or another in our lives.

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00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:13,000

And since so many people report this as an experience, it gives us another way to look at it and perhaps another way to help that person through the experience.

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00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:27,000

Mainstream science explains a way after death communication as grief-induced hallucination. But researchers ask, what about the cases where the ADC occurs before the death of a loved one is known?

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00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:40,000

There is no explanation that I can find of how somebody could have an experience first and then learn of the death afterwards and still call that a grief-induced hallucination because they're not bereaved when they have the experience.

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00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:47,000

That was the case for Joanne Freeman, who was awakened in the middle of the night by a phone call about her daughter, Kim.

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00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:56,000

When I answered the phone, it was the dispatch office at the police department, and they were telling me to answer the door.

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00:34:56,000 --> 00:35:07,000

And so I was coming out of my bedroom when all of a sudden I saw this vision of Kimmy and her grandfather, who is deceased.

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00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:17,000

They were like in a fog, and Kim was standing there right next to him just smiling as pretty as anything. It was almost like they glowed.

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00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:22,000

You know, they were just perfect, and they both just looked very peaceful, happy.

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00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:27,000

And he had his arm rondered, and he just said, I've got her now, baby, and she's okay.

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00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:38,000

It seemed like when I blinked, and I kind of shook my head because I was just amazed that I would see this, and when I opened my eyes back, it was gone.

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00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:50,000

So that's when I came on down into the living room and into the door, and the police were there, and they were informing me that Kim had been in an accident, and she was killed.

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00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:58,000

Although nothing can ever erase the pain of Kimmy's loss, the ADC experience helped Joanne come to terms with her grief.

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00:35:58,000 --> 00:36:18,000

I think seeing Kimmy like I did, I think it has helped me, and maybe that was God's way of telling me, you know, here she is, you know, you will get to see her one more time, and he let her tell me, you know, mom, I'm okay.

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00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:27,000

I don't know why it happened, but I know it happened to me, and, you know, so I will treasure it, you know, as long as I live, I will always treasure that.

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00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:32,000

She will always be a part of my heart. She will always be a part of me.

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00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:45,000

You can't do this work without becoming emotional, you know, if the ADC counselor gets too moving, too sensitive, and too real, to question that they might be anything but actual contacts, but it's these loved ones.

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00:36:48,000 --> 00:37:04,000

Many researchers believe these spiritual encounters are simply a spontaneous memory of what a loved one would have said had they been there, but those who have had an ADC encounter insist that they've been contacted by a force that science will probably never understand.

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00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:09,000

Next, as the third millennium approaches, we'll find spiritual enlightenment.

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00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:15,000

People are looking for greater opportunity to link themselves to something bigger than themselves.

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00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:30,000

The year 2000 may be just a number, but all those zeros seem to be inspiring people to make predictions, think about the future, and contemplate the meaning of life and mortality.

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00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:43,000

Combine the coming millennium with 70 million baby boomers, all of whom have reached middle age, and you've discovered why the search for enlightenment is big news and big business.

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00:37:43,000 --> 00:38:07,000

I think spirituality is really one of the hot topics today, and I think as we approach a new millennium, people are now drawn toward the hope that there's more to life and that there's a possibility of putting life together in a way that is more creative and more satisfying to the human spirit than ever before.

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00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Religion sociologist Wade Clark calls it the quest culture, a generation of seekers with an endless thirst for knowledge about the mysteries of existence. His research inspired Ruth to write a book about these lost baby boomers.

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00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:41,000

I think there's a quest for meaning, there's a quest for sense of understanding about life, and more than just that, there's a quest for greater connectedness. People are lonely, people are looking for greater opportunity to link themselves to something bigger than themselves.

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00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:45,000

There's a tremendous hunger in America for spirituality.

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00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:58,000

Since 1977, Elizabeth Lesser has been feeding this spiritual hunger at the Omega Institute. The retreat provides eclectic workshops for people in search of meaning.

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00:38:58,000 --> 00:39:14,000

Our culture was dominated by rationalism, science, there was a whole movement to take anything religious out of schools, and there of course has been the whole materialism that's dominated the later part of the 20th century.

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00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:24,000

So there's a great hunger in people for something of meaning in their lives. Places like Omega didn't create it, we grew up in response to a need.

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00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:31,000

People are trying to grow, they're trying to find new insight, ancient wisdom.

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00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Nice, good again.

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00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:49,000

First of all, people have more choices than ever. Some people have returned to traditional evangelical faiths. Many of course have looked to so called new age religions. Choice now means that one can pick and choose.

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00:39:50,000 --> 00:40:11,000

I call it the new American spirituality. You can be a spiritual person without belonging to any kind of church. You can do Buddhist meditation and go on a Christian retreat and celebrate the high holy days and build your own path, a patchwork of the great wisdom traditions.

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00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:29,000

The search for meaning outside of the mainstream led Bill Elliott down a surprisingly traditional path. Haunted by the death of his parents as a small boy, Bill had been plagued by depression and anger until he decided to seek out the world's great thinkers and ask them to explain the meaning of life.

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00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:37,000

I thought that's what I'll do, I'll get the 20 wisest people and put them in one book and ask them maybe 20 questions about life, the questions most of us want to know about things.

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00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Bill wasn't a professional writer, just a man in search of answers. So he borrowed a typewriter and sat down with a stack of paper and a sincere resolve to find humankind's place in the cosmos.

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00:40:48,000 --> 00:41:05,000

I typed up this letter and then I typed in the name at the top and it looked really bad. So I sent out all these letters and my friends, a lot of them said, Bill, you know, it's not going to work. And I, you know, I thought, well, maybe not. And they said, no, you know, Bill, you're nobody.

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00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:18,000

Amazingly, though Bill had no credentials, his heartfelt persistence paid off. Some of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century agreed to meet him and share their insights about the meaning of life and death.

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00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:32,000

When I interviewed Norman Vincent Peal, he said that he believes that there's a reason why we're each born and that we each have a purpose. And I believe a person can at all come close to finding what their purpose of life is.

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00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:35,000

I think it will change all of their life.

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00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:51,000

People are searching in many places to try to come to terms with their ordinary lives. And that spirituality in the final analysis is something very, very human.

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00:41:51,000 --> 00:42:06,000

It's everyday life made meaningful. And that's what all of us want, to make some sense out of our everyday lives so that when you get up in the morning and look in the mirror, you have some motivation for the rest of the day.

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00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:14,000

It was Bill's overwhelming sadness about the untimely death of his parents that led him to seek out Buddhist leader, the Dalai Lama.

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00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:24,000

At one time I thought to be enlightened or to be really wise meant that I would never be sad again. That I'd be beyond being sad or beyond suffering.

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00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:34,000

So when I asked him, I asked him, is there anything that makes him sad in your life? And he said, I'm a man who's lost my country. And he talked about all the suffering that's happened to about all the people being killed.

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00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:43,000

And he was very sad. For some reason that helped free me because I realized that, boy, here there's this person considered very wise by a lot of people and he's still sad.

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00:42:43,000 --> 00:42:46,000

Oh well, I guess it's okay to be sad.

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00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:57,000

The words of wisdom that Bill has gathered from around the world are in Tying Rocks to Clouds, a book that Bill hopes will provide solace in the coming millennium.

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00:42:57,000 --> 00:43:05,000

The deepest wish I had for my book was that it would help people in their life because I know what it's like to be lost.

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00:43:05,000 --> 00:43:14,000

So many people have come to realize that they need something deeper within themselves. Let's call it soul, let's call it spirit.

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00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:21,000

Something within themselves that gives them a sense of direction and some purpose and meaning for their life.

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00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:29,000

And while some have turned to an unorthodox approach, the fundamental search is the same within all of us.

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00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:41,000

If we understand the human quest to be one of search for meaning and for finding the sacred in everyday life, I don't think that one ever goes away.

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00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:49,000

And I don't think the 21st century, I call it the third millennium, will fundamentally change the nature of that quest.

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00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:55,000

It may take new forms, but that quest I think is here to stay.

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00:43:56,000 --> 00:44:02,000

So significant is this new kind of do-it-yourself enlightenment that sociologists have given it a name.

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00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:13,000

Now more than 30 million Americans, half of all the baby boomers, are in a new category of religious worship called believers but not belongers.

361

00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:20,000

If you've had a paranormal experience, please write to us at Sightings.

362

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:24,000

Sightings can also be contacted at America Online at keyword Sightings.

363

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:28,000

Download images, sounds and quick time clips from Sightings episodes.

364

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:35,000

On the internet, access information about Sightings and the paranormal at [sci-fi.com slash Sightings](http://sci-fi.com/slash/Sightings).

365

00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:40,000

Until next time, remember, no mystery is closed to an open mind.

366

00:44:40,000 --> 00:44:43,000

For Sightings, I'm Tim White.

367

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:53,000

Next on Sci-Fi Dark Shadows.

368

00:44:57,000 --> 00:45:00,000

I want these personal experiments stopped.

369

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:06,000

Christopher Walken, the sci-fi premiere of Brainstorm. Sunday at 7 on Sci-Fi.

370

00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:25,000

Sightings