

SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION | NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES | APPARITIONS

HAUNTED

M A G A Z I N E



WEST END CHILLS
THE ENFIELD HAUNTING
ON STAGE. IS IT SCARY?



**AN INTERVIEW WITH
DAVE SCHRADER**

**GHOSTS, GHOULS &
GUNSLINGERS**
WITH RICHARD ESTEP



**SYMPATHY
FOR THE DEVIL?**
GOOD AT BEING BAD OR
A LITTLE BIT RUBBISH?



FIND ME, DANNY ROBINS
IN THIS ISSUE AND WIN
SOMETHING UNCANNY!



**THE LADY IN THE
BAY WINDOW**
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

GHOULISH GOULASH!
THE CHILLING CONNECTIONS OF
GHOSTS AND GASTRONOMY



ISSUE
41
UK £6.99



PLUS: TRAPS • TRUSTS • TRUTHS • THEORIES • FAIRIES • SCARY THINGS • STRANGE THINGS • SOCIETIES • SCEPTICS • SHEEP • FORTS • THOUGHTS • GHOSTLY SORTS • SHIFTY SHAPES • SHAPESHIFTERS • HISTORIES • MYSTERIES • NEWS • VIEWS • INTERVIEWS • MUSE • SPOOKS GALORE • FOLKLORE & SO MUCH MORE...



THE PARANORMAL CAUSE AND EFFECT OR RIDICULE AND HEARSAY?

WRITTEN BY PHILIP KINSELLA

Have you ever considered how things we do in life could affect events in the future and beyond? Is there an afterlife? And is it true that our actions here on Earth shape our future and spiritual growth?

Many consider our evolution as nothing more than a mere fluke of nature, brought on, no less, by a Big Bang which *just* happened! As we know, something cannot derive from nothing, and cause creates effect. Although many cosmologists accept the hypothesis that this is how all life, the universe, and everything was created, hardened sceptics do not consider any other way other than the one that fits the official narrative within scientific academia. Of course, we're not going to find out how it all happened any time soon, but one area of deliberation regarding the human soul and its subsequent journey to a 'spirit world' has been hotly debated since time immemorial.

Suppose there is design and order to our genesis orchestrated by some divine power. Might this also indicate that human life is not random within the act of mere survival (like the rest of nature) but has a carefully constructed blueprint the soul is assigned before the process of incarnation takes hold? Taking into consideration the thoughts surrounding reincarnation is yet another area that many cultures embrace. The Christian teachings indicate that we have one life, and that's your lot! When death ensues, the soul is

in sleep mode, and upon the heralding of Christ's return, *that* soul will be judged to see whether it is fit to enter the kingdom of heaven, depending on whether or not the person has been good or bad. The Egyptians, for instance, believed that upon physical death, the soul would travel to the Underworld where the heart of the deceased would be weighed against by the feather of Ma'at by the goddess of justice and balance in the Hall of Two Truths, Osiris. This was overseen by various deities, most notably Ma'at, Anubis, and Thoth, and was a crucial part of Egyptian culture and religion.

If the heart weighed against all that was good, then that person's soul would be devoured by the monster, Ammit, the Devourer of Souls. If, however, the heart weighed favourably, then the soul would be granted eternal peace and reborn again within the wheel of reincarnation. It's interesting to note that in modern days, whereby science has advanced enough within its studies of consciousness, especially surrounding the controversial aspect of what is commonly known as Near-death experience (NDE) there appears to be much truth from our ancestors in an afterlife, reincarnation, and that place where souls of the deceased reside. But the big question remains: why are we here? And, most importantly, what is the point of going through (and in most cases) a hard life?

Within Near-death studies (most notably brought to the attention of the public

through bestselling books and pioneering research by eminent scholars such as Dr Raymond Moody, Paul Perry and Dr Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, among others) it was discovered that there lies a state of conscious awareness, even when the body has expired and what many refer to as the 'spirit world.' Such data has been accrued through not only cardiac arrest victims but also when all brain-wave activity has ceased to function. Another notable figure is neurosurgeon Dr Eben Alexander, who died after suffering a very rare form of bacterial meningitis in the fall of 2008. In his bestselling book '*Proof of Heaven*,' Alexander was astounded to go through an incredible NDE, realising that death was not the end as he had thought, but that life goes on, shattering his former beliefs surrounding the nature of consciousness. Proof was also given to him on his miraculous return and recovery through a family secret revealed to him by a spirit on the Other Side, which he had no knowledge of whatsoever. This led him to research the subject in greater detail, and he has since gone on to further his exploration into Near-death studies, along with writing other books on the topic.

Although varied beliefs are shaped surrounding thoughts concerning what happens to us after death within religious doctrines, the proof is always in the pudding, so they say! Individuals who *have* gone through an experience of this kind state categorically that, upon their return, their lives are transformed for the better.

Those who were rich gave up all their possessions to live a simpler life, and others who were somewhat disgruntled saw their existence in a completely new light.

Such is the power of these life-changing episodes, whereby science fails, in many cases, to acknowledge that the mind is an entirely separate entity from the brain. We have been led to believe for a long time that the material realm is all there is. Studies in consciousness and its seeming ability to transmute beyond this physical plane are now a major aspect of quantum studies.

“The old academic system has long held onto the premise that everything is mechanical in nature. Anyone who claimed an experience which cannot be explained within the annals of conventional science was labelled mentally unstable.”

Now, those old walls are beginning to crumble when seeking the penultimate question regarding our purpose within a universe we hardly know anything about. Tackling such issues (especially within the world of academia) is undoubtedly risky, and many have suffered through such self-proclaimed acceptance of what is in vogue and taught to the masses, which also goes against the official narrative of how things are. Many prominent scientists are now stepping forward, heralding a new science of the mind and an area that is beginning to shed new light on those once-darkened areas of debate.

In essence, the only way to convey new information to a broader audience is within the media cartel. The problem is that such matters, especially those surrounding paranormal occurrences, are constantly attacked through a barrage of ridicule and hearsay across much of the world, and many still openly reject as having any legitimacy for truth.

It seems totally at odds that, as a species, we do not know how the human came into being, other than the Sunday school version we've been fed or scientific promulgation, which does little to convince anyone that it all could have happened far differently from the version we've been told or, rather, sold! Take the bible, for instance. No one bats an eyelid when the stories relayed within its pages depict talking animals and bushes, miraculous healings taking place and the appearance of angels, among other inconceivable episodes. Any repeat of these in today's world would have you certified or the incidents labelled as

none other than being demonic in nature. Having a belief in something seems to be generally accepted because it's safe and at a distance, but when evidence that countermands the authorised interpretation is brought to the table, the ball game changes somewhat.

Perhaps those scholars who remain steadfast in their verdict surrounding their convictions fear their reputation, along with work being openly rejected, not allowing for a new certainty to emerge within the halls of scientific truth.

It's rare, other than the major Hollywood films, which are there to entertain the masses with the 'WOW' factor, to be able to address subjects that border on the truth. Most movies portray elements of the paranormal as truly horrific in nature, just as much as UFO and alien-related flicks, and whereby such forces are depicted as nothing less than evil. Fact is usually twisted into fiction within any production of this kind if only to entertain rather than inform, and this does little to grasp the true nature of what may really be happening behind the scenes.

It appears that much of the public are continuously fed a distortion of facts which confuses their take on whether, for instance, a ghost is good or bad, or that aliens are really coming from another planet, when all along we may be surprised in discovering a completely different take on the situation altogether.

One British film that appears to connect the dots in not only addressing life after death but also how important it is that we follow our dreams while here on Earth instead of

being held back by varied life situations, whether through selfish motives from others, financial strain, or plain-old ego is taking a totally different and yet almost accurate stance on a subject which was once considered taboo.

Film producer, director, and screenwriter Colin Skevington has cultivated an award-winning film called *'The Lossen'*, which tackles the hereafter and its subsequent importance in the way we govern our choices while on this side of life. The only other film of its kind which deals

purely with the afterlife was an American fantasy drama entitled *'What Dreams May Come'*, directed by Vincent Ward and adapted by Ronald Bass, starring Robin Williams in 1998 from the novel by Richard Matheson of the same name. This picture deals more with love and loss, the severe consequences that suicide offers when a person can no longer handle their physical life situation, and the ultimate nightmarish journey they must face when crossing over to the Other Side. Although heaven and hell are classic themes when dealing with matters of this kind, Colin's approach is much warmer and portrays an upbeat and, perhaps, up-to-date version of what we can come to expect at the end of our life, bringing into the fray humour, spirit guides, timelines, life contracts and a clear message which Colin says, *'...will be entertaining, but also thought-provoking, and that allows the audience to participate in the journey of the story.'*

Indeed, television and films are no stranger to Colin, along with elements of the supernatural which has always been prevalent in his family. He had a strong connection with his maternal grandmother who, along with her two sisters, frequently visited spiritualist churches, much to the malign of their older brother who'd been a Baptist lay preacher and saw the whole thing as blasphemous. This, however, never deterred them in the least!

At age thirteen, he made films with friends and showed them at the local village hall in Cople, Bedfordshire, where he grew up. Such 8mm flicks gave Colin the buzz he needed to pursue a career in filming, directing, producing and writing, particularly when his audience was willing to buy tickets for these, his early endeavours. Aged eighteen, he then moved into computer programming for a construction company but soon left for Sydney, Australia, where he found employment as a runner and third assistant director on a number of low-budget horror films, which

gave him a greater insight into the process of film making from a professional perspective. Colin eventually returned to the UK, working for HTV in Bristol as a third assistant director on several television dramas. A chance opportunity came along where he could distribute films for a major UK conservation charity, learning the ropes quickly and executing distribution deals in both television and video, as well as negotiating co-productions where Colin was promoted to head up the film unit, which got him straight into production.





One of Colin's major breakthroughs came bizarrely whilst walking from a lonely railway station along a wooded track in the pitch black of night and back to the offices where he was based to pick up his car. An idea sprang into his mind that led to him co-creating a major television game show format called *'In the Dark'*, which was then sold to 39 territories worldwide. Although this had been an enlightening experience, Colin decided to move on because of difficult choices during this period in his life, along with giving him an insight into how and why some people operate as they do when success is on the cards. He felt that just such an experience came more as a sign from *'spirit'* that it was time to move on and focus on the more important aspects of life, as opposed to money, control and power. Having then gone on to create several dramas about social issues (which he'd witnessed having a major impact on audiences) he realised that authentic storytelling is a moment in time for the viewers to be drawn into another world without knowing that they were being guided to parts of themselves which they may have brushed under the carpet and paid no attention to.

Colin sees storytelling as a spiritual tool, and he soon began to work on his development in accessing the psychic realm. Indeed, a clairvoyant told him that

he was first and foremost a writer, and although he didn't believe it then, he has now realised they'd been correct. An astrologer in London who'd read his 'life chart' also told him that he was a filmmaker, and if he didn't make them, he'd die! So, naturally, Colin decided he'd better get on and do just that. He created *'Moon Watcher Media'* after being commissioned to make a series of social issue dramas, including *'Our Secret World'*, which tackles the effects of domestic abuse in children in *'Last Licks'* concerning knife crime and why young males are attracted into gangs. *'Moon Watcher Media'* was developed to make narrative films that entertain but also offer messages for us to look at our own lives.

"The Lossen" came about when Colin recognised that he wanted to make a film that would reflect his beliefs regarding the afterlife, but one that had to be entertaining and culturally accessible to a wider audience.

In his opinion, there's nothing worse than beating spectators over the head with a message and something which would immediately turn people off! He'd had prior experience researching ideas for a documentary about death for a production

company in Los Angeles. This made him think about the vast difference in attitude between people in the East and West had surrounding the topic. Westerners tend to censor any talk about the subject when it arrives on their doorstep, and this activated the 'lightbulb' moment for Colin, which formed the embryonic foundation and inspiration for *'The Lossen'*.

The film's main plot centres around the natural and supernatural worlds, embodied within the characterisation of Sylvia (played by British actress Linda Marlowe; *'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy'*, *'The House of Mirth'*, *'Manifesto'*, along with television work, most notably *'Eastenders'*) who finds herself having to go through a life-review with representatives from the Other Side, namely a handsome, young man simply called 'The Lossen,' (played by Sean Knopp who has also appeared in *'Dr Who'*, *'The Bible'*, *'24: Live Another Day'*, *'Dark Encounter'*, *'Replace'*, and *'Charismata'* among others) and who also acts as an 'Agent of Death.' He is joined by his long-suffering assistant, actor Albert Welling (*'Dr Who'*, *'Succession'*, *'Outlander'*, *'Mr Bates Vs the Post Office'*, among many other TV and film appearances) whose supporting role for *'The Lossen'* is an ideal match for these associates from the Other Side who are there just to get their job done and help the dying on Earth Cross Over.

However, much to the dismay of Sylvia who doesn't even know she's actually died when the agents turn up at her door late one night, and that her spirit is met by the appearance of 'The Lossen' and his assistant's guise, a huge eight-foot tall 'Grim Reaper' which they use as their mode of transport, keeping in line with the expectations of current belief-systems, even though the two associates appear tired of doing the same job, day in and night out, she is in denial that her former existence has passed away and demands proof that her physical life is at an end.

This leads to an incredible journey for Sylvia, who realises that her existence could have vastly differed based on her choices. There is a major complication with her passing for the simple reason that she had not fulfilled her dreams despite living an existence of material success. However, deep within her heart, Sylvia has buried and suppressed the one thing she most desired in her life but could never have. 'The Lossen' guides Sylvia amid the myriad visions of her past, along with their outcome within her panoramic life review. Yet, there is a major twist in the tale and something which will surprise the audience.

The visual effects are stunning, and the story humorous yet sad, leaving you thinking about it long after watching it. The music was written and composed by Tom Linden whose scores include 'Brotherhood,' 'The Anomaly,' 'The Hooligan Factory,' 'Urban Hymn,' among others and recently produced the music for the 2021 Michael Caine film 'Twist.' Colin had met Tom during a social event and he subsequently composed an engaging and moving soundtrack for 'The Lossen.' Associate Producer Sian Davies and Colin spent two months in pre-production, from finding the cast and crew to working out logistics, including building a 1950s kitchen set. They had immense help from friends, family and the local community of Felmersham in Bedfordshire, where food and the use of homes were offered to put the cast and crew up during the six intense days of filming.

The film has received incredible feedback and earned numerous awards from across the world, especially in the United States. 'The Lossen' won 'The Grand Award for Best Fantasy Short' at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, the Grand Prize for 'Best Narrative Short' at the Silver State Festival in Las Vegas, the Jury Prize for 'Best Short and Direction' at the New Hope Film Festival in Pennsylvania, 'Best Art Direction' at the Vienna Independent Film Festival, and a 'Gold Remi Award' at World

Fest in Houston. It was nominated for two categories at 'FilmQuest' in Utah and was a finalist at the Oaxaca Festival in Mexico.

Colin explains: *'I do believe we review our life when we return to the Other Side. It is an opportunity to look at how we grew or didn't. A few years back, I had a Life Between Lives regression with LBL Hypnotherapist Debbie Bromley, who was trained by Michael Newton, the well-known regressionist and author of books like 'Journey of Souls' and 'Memories of the Afterlife.' During a three-hour regression, I came to experience the other world as very real to me. I recognised how I had held back on sharing my knowledge in other lives, and I was shown the positive impact on people's existences when I was willing to impart it. In 'The Lossen,' Sylvia is shown moments in her life that brought her to where she is. It is that conscious realisation that leads us back to enlightenment. The darker, hidden parts of ourselves offer us the clues to a more joyful way forward if we choose to let go and heal them. Unfortunately for some, impending death brings them to the realisation that they have not lived their own dreams but the dreams of others.'*

There is a significant moment in 'The Lossen' when Sylvia recognises this. For me, the human experience is about a journey to higher consciousness. The world around us is equal only to the level of cognisance that we are operating at. To write a truly authentic character, we must recognise that the 'bad guy' never thinks of himself as the 'bad guy.' Everyone is being the best they can be at the level they are operating at. This is why redemption is so important. This is where an individual can hopefully raise their consciousness and see what they have done and the impact they have had on the lives of others, either negatively or positively. Empathy can only come through higher consciousness.

Until that point people will continue on the same old path. Perhaps some people are able to experience that uplift in consciousness whilst incarnated in a body; for others, maybe it only comes after that life. For me, I believe that it does eventually come as I believe we all originate from the same source.

Colin has now developed 'The Lossen' into a seven-part television series based on the original film. He sees his films as a way for each of us to fulfil our innermost dreams, living by our hearts and not what others expect us to be. He explains: *'Bronnie Ware, a carer for many terminally ill people and author of 'The Top Five Regrets of the Dying' said the number one regret of most people*



reaching the end of their life is, 'I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.' This is the theme of 'The Lossen,' or to put it another way, to be able to live in your heart and not your head. Are we not honouring our souls if we are not living our heartfelt dreams? That is the question. We need to have the courage to step out of the 'norm' and live by that inner guidance.

Our society honours headiness. We put so much emphasis on thinking and categorising. We need to live more creatively. Not everyone is an artist in the more obvious way, but we are all artists expressing, and true artists honour their inner desires. A troubled artist may fight it, but is that the mind programming putting up barriers? Do we ever question why we sleep? Maybe to allow the soul the freedom it needs that it cannot get when our minds are over-occupied.'

'The Lossen' is a film that brings in a new age of deep contemplation about not only living but also dying. It seems our world is in dire need of this knowledge. Colin has presented a beautifully crafted journey that you will never forget, as well as offering the chance for us to change how we view our reality and how we can live by our dreams and not hide within the shadows under the expectations of others. Our understanding that there's much more to our existence here on Earth will change how we view ourselves and others and the very universe we inhabit.

Philip

www.thelossen.com