



Gently Haunted

by CORRINE KENNER



Speaking to Spirits in a Haunted Antique Shop

I heard the familiar chime of the shop door ring, heralding the arrival of new customers. I heard their footsteps as they entered, along with snippets of quiet conversation. Then I heard the front door swing closed and latch soundly behind them.

I pushed my chair back from my desk and stood up so I could greet them. As I stepped out of my office and into the main room of the store, I was already calling out, "Welcome to the Haunted Antique Shop!" I exclaimed.

My voice echoed through an empty room. No one was there.

I didn't have customers. I had ghosts.



You might think that working in a haunted antique shop would be a mystical experience — and you'd be right. That's especially true during spooky season, close to Halloween, when the veil thins between this world and the next.

I'm Corrine Kenner, owner of the Haunted Antique Shop in DeLand, Florida. My new book, *Gently Haunted*, describes some of my experiences at the shop.

While the ghosts in the shop can be tricksters, working with them is always a treat. Here are some of the most common questions people ask me about ghosts, spirits, and "possessed possessions" at our Haunted Antique Shop.

Q: Corrine, how did you become interested in the spirit world?

A: I grew up on a farm near Devils Lake, North Dakota, where supernatural legends and stories have been passed down for generations. I even studied some of them in school; every student in the area learns about the mythic sea monster that lives in the lake — which Native Americans call "Spirit Lake." We heard a lot of legends from the people and pioneers who lived there, like the story of a young Dakota woman who threw herself off a cliff so she could join her lover after

he was killed in battle. And we regularly spent time at Fort Totten, the historic army base on the reservation by the lake. It's still haunted by the spirits of soldiers who rode off to join Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn. I shared a lot of those stories in one of my earlier books, *The Ghosts of Devils Lake*.

Q: Your new book is called *Gently Haunted: True Stories from the Haunted Antique Shop*. Is your shop haunted, or are the antiques haunted?

A: Both. I think the shop is haunted by the people who used to live here, spirits who are attracted to the artifacts in our collection, and spirits who come in with living visitors, hoping to reconnect. I also think the shop is a spiritual place, because that's been our intention ever since my husband Dan and I took it over.

Q: How did you ended up owning the Haunted Antique Shop?

A: I think the shop found me. A few years ago, I was looking for office space to use as a writing studio. I came across a listing for a little vintage shop that was housed in a 1920 Craftsman bungalow, just three blocks from my house. I decided to write in the office and keep the rest of the shop open while I was there.

Q: Did you know the shop was haunted when you bought it? How did you learn that your shop was haunted?

A: I didn't know it was haunted until I moved in. That's when I discovered that doors would open and close on their own, lights would turn on and off by themselves, and I started hearing voices and footsteps in empty rooms.

As time went by, spirit activity actually increased — probably because I was open to those interactions. These days, it's not uncommon for merchandise to move on its own. Displays rearrange themselves, merchandise occasionally materializes out of thin air, and sometimes I hear "phantom customers" open the door and walk in. When I go out to greet them, no one's there.

Q: What's the strangest thing that's ever happened in your haunted antique shop?

A: We used to keep a vintage composite doll named Charlie in a vintage armoire called our

"cabinet of curiosities." One day, my husband Dan was standing next to the cabinet, talking about ghosts and spirits with some customers. Suddenly, he "heard" a voice that said, "Would it be okay if something magical happened?" Dan kind of shrugged and thought, "Sure." A moment later, there was a loud noise inside the cabinet. The customer next to him said, "Charlie just turned around." When Dan opened the doors, the little doll Charlie and his chair had been turned completely around, as if moved by an unseen hand. Dan and I were fascinated by the experience, but the customers who witnessed it were spooked. They couldn't leave the shop fast enough!

Q: Do you know anything about the ghosts who haunt your shop?

A: Yes. We think we have several "resident ghosts" who used to live here. Our most active ghost is probably James, the bungalow's first owner who lived there in 1920. He was a chauffeur, and he still likes to interact with customers and staff members alike. Typically, he stands near the back door and says, "Hello," or "Hey" in a voice that's audible and clear. He sounds just like a living man. Oddly enough, he's not scary. He's just really friendly.

We also interact a lot with the ghost of Annette Dennis, a music teacher who lived in the house during the 1940s. She's kind, but firm. She absolutely controls the music we play in the shop. She insists that we stick with classical, big band, and jazz standards. If we try to play anything more modern or contemporary, our sound system literally comes to a screeching halt.

Q: Are they the only spirits you encounter?

A: Not at all. Some spirits come in with living visitors, hoping to reconnect. Most of the time, that's during tarot readings. Typically, I find that we're joined by the spirits of my clients' family members, but old friends and neighbors pop in, too. We can literally feel their presence with us in the tarot parlor.

Q: Why do ghosts haunt antique shops?

A: I think spirits are attracted to the antiques because they physically connect us to other times and other places. Antiques aren't intrinsically valuable simply because they're old. They're



valuable because they were beautiful, useful, and loved by their original owners. Every antique that has made it to the present day was treasured by someone in the past, who chose to safeguard it for future generations.

Q: Do ghosts become attached to their former possessions?

A: I think it's possible, but usually, that energy you feel around antiques and vintage objects is residual emotion, not an active haunting. If owning something like that bothers you, try cleaning and clearing it with positive energy: simply picture it surrounded by white light. In case of an active possession or visitation, you can also tell spirits that the property is yours now — and ask them politely to move on. I think most spirits, like most people, are basically good, as long as you treat them with respect.

Q: What have you learned from owning the Haunted Antique Shop?

A: I never doubted that the Spirit World was real, or that spirits could interact with us on the mortal plane. You might say that I took it for granted. Once I started to interact with them on a regular basis, I do have to say I was surprised by how

eager they are to communicate with us and reassure us that life doesn't end after death.

I've also been amazed by the number of people who want to share their stories of spirit encounters with me. I've met a lot of people who've never felt free to share their own experiences, almost as though they've been keeping their beliefs a secret.

I've also learned that spirits will visit — especially if you call them in. Some are simply waiting for an invitation.

Q: Did you come from a psychic family?

My father was a mail carrier, and my mother was a teacher, so they were pretty mainstream. Even so, they did freely discuss psychic phenomena while I was growing up. My dad used to tell us about his out-of-body experiences, and my mom told us about her psychic dreams.

Q: Are you psychic?

A: Yes, I'm naturally intuitive — but I think everyone is. I've honed my skills through work and study: I'm a certified tarot master and an NCGR-certified astrologer, and I've written several books on psychic development.

As a special Halloween treat for you, here's an excerpt from my book, *Gently Haunted*. It could help you connect with the Spirit World.



The next time you see, hear, or feel something unusual, don't disregard a supernatural explanation. Your psychic senses might be trying to tell you something important—and you might be surprised to discover that you have psychic gifts and talents you've never recognized.

You've probably heard of precognition. The word itself is literally a variation of "pre-recognition." It's the ability to know the future and see events before they occur. Empathy is the ability to feel, sense, and understand emotions that aren't your own, and telepathy is the ability to tune in to other people's thoughts.

Other psychic gifts are simply an extension of your other five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

- **Sight:** *clairvoyance* is "clear vision." You might see ghosts and apparitions as if they're standing in front of you. You might be able to see them clearly in your mind's eye. You might also be able to see the images and symbols they transmit.
- **Sound:** *clairaudience* is "clear hearing." It's the ability to hear audible messages from the Spirit World. You might hear ghostly voices, loud and clear, as if they're standing next to you. Alternately, words, phrases, and sentences could simply pop into your heads.
- **Smell:** *clairarôme* means "clear aroma." Others call the skill *clairalience*. It's a gift that's so important—and so overlooked—that it deserves its own discussion. Read on for details.
- **Taste:** *clairgustance* means "clear taste." Ghosts and spirits sometimes transmit the memory of favorite flavors they loved in life, like strawberries, mint, or chocolate.
- **Touch:** *clairsentience* is French for "clear sensing." Clairsentience can feel like

impressions or gut feelings, sudden flashes of insight, or a clear understanding of other people's motivations or desires. If you're clairsentient, sometimes spirits will allow you to feel what they felt as they died. You might experience subtle variations of their physical symptoms, like headaches or chest pain.

Scent by Spirit

Of all the "clairs," *clairarôme* is the most common—and the least frightening.

Why? Because we're almost never prepared to come face to face with a full-fledged, full-body apparition. Disembodied voices will send most people running. And symbolic mental imagery, delivered telepathically, can easily be misconstrued.

Scent, however, is unmistakable, and it's usually linked to happy memories. Scientifically, scent is the strongest, surest link to memory and emotion. The sense of smell is intertwined with the memory centers of the brain.

A hint of perfume in the air can be as comforting as a mother's hug, and the aroma of pipe tobacco can be a warm reminder of a favorite uncle. A long-forgotten scent can even bring people to tears, unleashing memories that would otherwise never be recalled.

Ghosts know that revealing themselves through scent will reopen their connections to the living. Try it for yourself, right now: imagine the smell of freshly cut grass, or smoke drifting over a campfire, or coffee brewing in your grandmother's kitchen. Where do those smells take you? Close your eyes, remember those aromas, and you'll find yourself in another place and time.

You might even find yourself reconnecting with a ghost from your past. Now, wouldn't that be a tremendous treat this Halloween!



Q: Do you see ghosts?

A: I hear ghosts more often than I see them, because I'm primarily clairaudient — but yes, I can sometimes see spirits. Usually, I see them in my mind's eye. Occasionally, I see them as flashes of light, almost like reflections off a window or mirror.

Q: What's your background?

A: I started my career as a newspaper reporter and magazine editor. I also have a degree in philosophy from California State University. When I first discovered tarot cards, I realized they were great tools for communication and creative writing. As time went on, I was surprised to learn that I could use tarot cards as a tool for spirit contact, too.

Q: How has your interest in metaphysics impacted you personally?

A: My work has made me less fearful of death. While I don't look forward to dying, and I hope to live a long, long time, I've actually experienced what death feels like from the perspective of spirits who have come through during tarot readings. For example, I was doing a consultation for a couple who had lost their teenage daughter in a car accident. They asked if she had suffered. Suddenly, I heard her say, "No, it didn't hurt. It felt like this." Then I felt a whooshing sensation, like a rush of energy rushing up from my chest and out through the top of my head. It left me a little

dizzy for a moment, but it was oddly reassuring for all of us. Other spirits have told me that their death felt like it happened in a dream, which didn't frighten or hurt them, or that any pain they experienced at the moment of death was sudden and instantaneous, and that it was over in a flash.

Q: Are you ever afraid to be alone in the shop?

A: No. I set clear boundaries, so only friendly spirits are welcome and invited. I don't allow visiting ghosts to hang around before or after their loved ones come for readings. If I sense them coming in before a session, I ask them to wait in their own realm until we're ready to start — and when we finish, they all go home with the people they love.

There's really something to the old philosophical maxim that "like attracts like." That's one reason I keep the shop clean, well lit, and filled with positive energy. I protect the space with prayer, candlelight, music, and scented oils. It might sound like a cliché, but it really is my happy place.



**Happy
hauntings!
Corrine**

Corrine Kenner, author, astrologer, tarot card reader, and owner of the Haunted Antique Shop in DeLand, Florida.
<https://hauntedantiqueshop.com>

CONTRIBUTORS

**CORRINE
KENNER**



specializes in bringing metaphysical subjects down to earth. She's an author, astrologer, tarot card reader, and owner of the Haunted Antique Shop in DeLand, Florida. As a medium, she uses tarot and astrology to connect with spirits on the Other Side. Corrine has written over two dozen guidebooks on tarot and astrology and helped create several best-selling tarot decks. Her books have sold more than 200,000 copies. Corrine started her career as a newspaper reporter, then as a magazine editor, book editor, media relations specialist, ghostwriter, and website developer. Many of her books have been translated into; Chinese, French, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese for her world audience. She learned Portuguese while living in Brazil. In LA, she earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from California State University. In 2016, Corrine spent a month in a French castle, writing a novel — a project that was featured on CNN. She has spoken at tarot conferences across the United States, Canada, and England. In celebrating Halloween, it is a delight to have Corrine share her incredible "Gently Haunted" story in our Hot Off The Stove section!
