

A Tale of Two Tattoos

— Case 80 —

[The following section of text was taken (with minor edits) from a book by Tricia Robertson.¹]

Because of my jointly published research work, and interest in mediumship and other aspects of the paranormal I am often contacted by people that I do not know. In 1996, a woman contacted me and wanted to talk about the death of her daughter. I duly met her and it became obvious to me that she would have liked me to obtain a sitting with a medium for her. As she had told me that her daughter was murdered some three months earlier, I felt that it was too raw and too soon for that course of action. I asked her to tell me nothing of the events surrounding this death and I suggested that we meet again and I asked her to bring me a sealed envelope in which would be some personal possession of the girl. She agreed.

At our next meeting she handed me a sealed brown envelope. I could feel that the envelope was "bumpy" but nothing revealed if it was anything definable. At this point, I did not know which medium or mediums I would have access to for this task.

I visited a medium,² unannounced, and asked, as I placed the envelope on a table, "Can you get anything from this?" I told him nothing at all about the envelope, why I had it in my possession or the circumstances surrounding it. (I did not know much about the circumstances myself.)

After a blank stare the medium said, "Do I have to?" I replied, "Yes."

Reluctantly, he placed his hand on top of it and, with a surprised look on his face, he immediately said, "I have a girl here with longish dark brown hair" — he hesitated for a second then said, "She was killed!"

"She is telling me that she had two tattoos, one above her left breast, in the form of two hearts intertwined, they are done in red and blue. The other is on the back of her right arm. It is a single rose in red and green.

"She lives in a cul-de-sac, one up on the right. Telling me she misses her four cats." She also gave the name of her partner. I will call him Adam (pseudonym).

At this point the medium was looking at me meaningfully, possibly for some acknowledgment that he was correct but, of course, I had no idea if his statements were accurate in any sense and merely shrugged my shoulders. My apprehension grew a little with his next statement.

"She is telling me that she was in prison when she was younger." The prison's name was given.³ I thought, well that's either right or wrong; there is no room for interpretation there. He then said that she had a terminated pregnancy when she was younger.

"She is saying, 'The newspaper reports were wrong, the description of the clothes that I was found in were [*sic*] all wrong. I was actually wearing a pink top, a grey skirt and ankle boots.

" 'My photograph was moved from the mantelpiece to the top of the TV today by my mum.

" 'Adam was the first one to know that I was killed, he phoned my mum.' "

The medium then gave a description of her attack, which I will not elaborate on, but suffice to say that all of her injuries were reported to be at her back.

She "told" the medium that a green car (possibly a Cavalier) and a red Astra were relevant to her death. There were two men involved, a white man about five foot six inches tall and a taller and thinner Asian.

¹ *Things You Can Do When You're Dead*, White Crow Books, 2013, pp. 89-92. Used by permission of the author.

² This was the renowned British medium, Gordon Smith.

³ Cornton Vale prison for women, near Stirling, Scotland.

The medium also gave me a specific address in Glasgow, a top floor of a tenement building on the right hand side. With that he said "she's gone."

The total time taken for this delivery was less than 15 minutes.

I had recorded all of this information and now had to find a responsible way of speaking to the mother. I made a list of the statements and an appointment to visit the mother's home, next day, for the first time. Other meetings had been in a neutral setting.

As I entered the lounge I noticed a girl's photo on top of the TV. I said casually "Is this May? (Pseudonym) She said "Yes, I put it there yesterday; it used to be on the mantelpiece."

I then said to her that I had a list of statements made by a medium, but for all I knew they might be absolute nonsense, so I would read them out one by one and I asked her just to say if they were right or wrong. Every statement I read to the mother was absolutely correct. I did not give her the description given of the attack and did not mention the pregnancy, as she may not have known about it. I felt that she had enough to worry about without that statement. It was established later, however, that the girl's injuries were all at her back. I also did not supply her with the address given, the descriptions of the two men or the cars described in the reading.

In total there were 29 individual statements. Twenty-two out of the 29 were absolutely correct, including the descriptions of the positions, shape and colours of the tattoos. She did have four cats. The statements that were considered not correct were not able to be verified due to the fact that I did not give the mother all of the information re the pregnancy, address, description of the murder, and the description of the men. But these have been considered "wrong" for evaluation purposes.

Simply put, 78 percent of the information was correct. This was not general information that could apply to anyone, but was specific to the girl in this case. If we consider the information about

the tattoos alone, regarding shape, colour, and position and remember that neither the medium nor the researcher knew anything at all about the people involved, far less the validity of the information, then this must surely give us considerable pause for thought.

The outcome of this was that it gave the mother great comfort in the thought that her daughter was 'still around' to give her this information.

[End of text by Robertson.]

Comment

To me, it seems unreasonably conservative — if not downright misleading — to count unverifiable responses as incorrect. Rather than saying that 78 percent of 29 responses was correct, it would be more accurate to ignore what cannot be known and say that 100 percent of 22 responses was correct. To do otherwise is to denigrate the medium's performance. After all, it was not his fault that Robertson thought it best not to check things out further.

In case any reader is wondering if the contents of the envelope somehow provided the medium with a clue as to what sort of response was sought, Robertson later wrote: "Only after the visit to the mother's house and after all of the statements had been read to her, by me, did she open the envelope in front of me. I found it very sad as it contained bits and pieces of items from the girl's childhood, such as a small gate from a toy. Nothing of any monetary value."⁴

The attackers, unfortunately, were never caught; the case was still open as of this writing. I have not been able to determine if the information on the men, their cars, and the apartment was ever given to the police.

Despite the name given to this case, the tattoos were not the most evidential information provided by the spirit via Gordon Smith, it was the variance between the newspaper reports of the victims clothing and what she was actually wearing. The only recourse that those *überskeptics* —

⁴ Via e-mail to the author, 21 Jan. 2015

who will go to any lengths, no matter how preposterous, to deny the reality of spirit communication — have is to postulate that Gordon Smith had read all the published information on every murder in and around the city of Glasgow, and could call the needed facts to mind at a moment's notice. (Assuming, of course, that the medium could know that the session concerned a murdered girl by reading Robertson's mind, and then make a wild, but somehow correct, guess as to the identity of the victim.) But, the published information was, according to the victim's mother, not correct. The only feasible source for the right facts is the victim herself.



Copyright 2015 Miles Edward Allen

[A Survival-Top-40 Case](#)