

INVESTIGATING PATINA

BY BOB FOUNTAIN, SPECTRAL TECH

Convington is a small town located on US 51 North, 40 miles northeast of Memphis, Tennessee. Established in 1826, the town square consists of the old court house standing in the center of the square, surrounded by buildings that have remained standing since the beginning of the town's growth in the 1800s.

The square's buildings are now mostly occupied by boutiques, antique shops, and cafés, and they enjoy the bustle of the living. However, with almost 200 years of history, if you ask the right questions, you will find there is also still the bustle of those who enjoyed the square in years past — even though they are no longer with us.

A Haunted Town

The Ruffin Theater is rumored to have several spirits within, and it has been noted as one of the most haunted places in Western Tennessee. Across the street from the Ruffin is a business called Something Special. The owner has said she and several of her customers have seen a lady dressed in old-style clothes enter the store and start rearranging shelves, only to disappear when they have looked away. Upscale Retail is an antique mall at the other end of the square, and in the morning, employees find that the lights that were turned off the night before mysteriously are turned back on when they come back in the morning.

Two doors down from the Ruffin Theater is a quaint Boutique called Patina. It does custom framing and sells a wide variety of unique items. While visiting the store one day with my wife, I got the familiar tingling I feel when there is an unseen presence. As I have a tendency to do, I asked the owner, Marty Simmons, if she sensed any paranormal activity in the store. As we talked, she told me of several occurrences that left no doubt in her mind that something was there in the store.

Some of the claims involving the store were that various pieces of jewelry had flown out at customers. Pictures have popped out from walls and fallen to the floor. A double-paned plate glass storefront window shattered



Spectral Tech investigated Patina, a boutique in Convington, Tennessee, where paranormal activity was occurring.

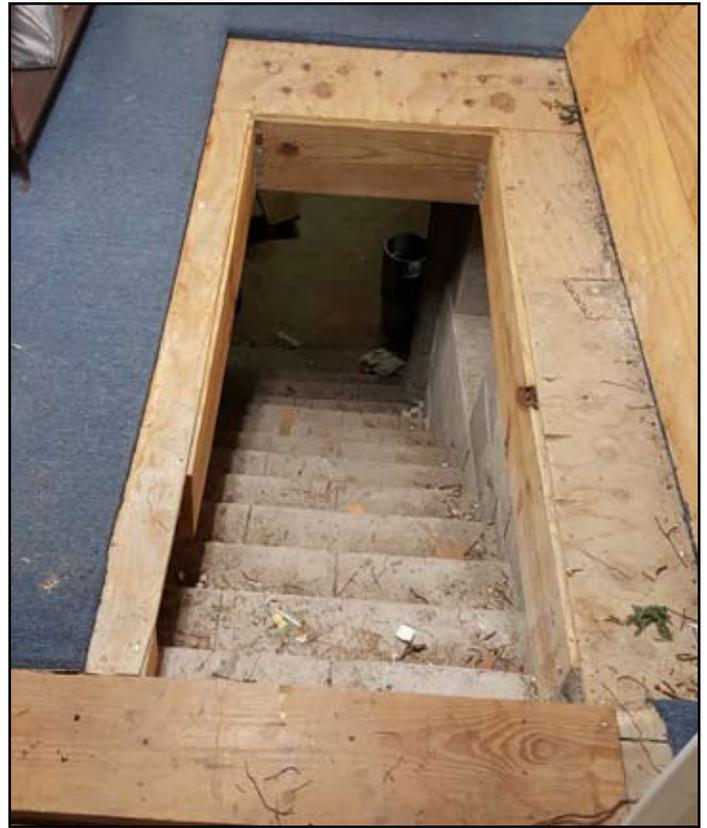
from the inside of the store when no one was there, but the outer window remained intact. A dead crow was found in a bag that mysteriously appeared behind the counter. Finally, almost all store personnel sense a presence when in the store.

I told Marty about Spectral Tech, the paranormal group that I am apart of, and offered to do an investigation. I'm not sure which one of us was more excited when she agreed. I believe that when an entity consistently lets itself be known in a situation like this, it is often because it is comfortable with the people involved.

In these situations, I make it a point to invite these people to assist in the investigation to increase our odds of interaction. Marty and several of her employees agreed to come on the night of the investigation.

The Investigation Begins

We all met at Patina's at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 30, 2016. Marty had four other people from her store show up with her, and we brought four members of our



The Spectral Tech team investigated the main floor of the building, a loft area at the back of the store, and the basement directly under the store.

team. Although Scott and Lisa Oates had a store that we previously investigated (Covington Liquor) and assisted me during an investigation in Byhalia, Mississippi, this was their first investigation as new members of the Spectral Tech team. They brought great investigative skills to the team. Mickey Materna, one of our original members, also attended to ensure we had a good investigation.

The area we were to investigate consisted of the main floor of the building, a loft area at the back of the store, and the basement directly under the store. We also found out that the huge apartment above the store was now vacant, and we had access to investigate there as well, which became significant during the investigation.

After giving a brief explanation to the store employees as to how we conducted an investigation, how each piece of equipment we brought with us worked and the theories behind them, and how to ask questions during EVP sessions, we then we assigned seasoned investigators with various employees to form teams. Then we began the investigation.

At the beginning of the investigation, I set up our Boo Buddy teddy bear with a recorder next to it at the front of the store. There was a rumor that a little girl at the Ruffin Theater fell to her death from the balcony in the theater

decades ago and was rumored that she had been seen in and near the theater. The Boo Buddy was intended to entice any child spirit and capture anything in that vicinity as we investigated other areas of the store.

Although nothing of major significance was picked up on the recorder by the Boo Buddy during the investigation, other than an unknown male voice saying, "Hello," there were several responses by the Boo Buddy indicating that it was being interacted with whenever we all got close to the area in which it was placed.

It said that it was cold, being tickled, or being hugged, which is the response it gives when the built-in sensors pick up activity recorded by its sensors. We, as a group, all felt a change of temperature and a tingling all over while this was occurring. Marty said the cold and tingling was commonplace in the front area of the store, and those sensations were often felt by those who worked in the store.

The initial investigation in the loft of the store produced nothing noteworthy, but when one of the teams proceeded to the basement, which is accessed by a trap door at the back of the store (see photo above), we finally got activity on our K-II meter. At the front end of the basement, closest to the street, several members felt a cold chill. And, the K-II meter started going to orange.



While investigating the Patina basement, we got a lot of direct responses to our questions via the K-II meter.

We began an impromptu EVP session and asked if whoever was in the store was with us now in the basement. The K-II meter went to red. It also went to red when we asked if the spirit present could light it, and again when we asked to verify we had contact, as well as when we asked if we could come back later for a longer EVP session.

As experienced upstairs on the main floor, we all felt the drop in temperature and tingling while we were in contact with this entity.

Investigating the Upstairs Apartment

During the investigation, one team went to the upstairs apartment to investigate. The apartment spans the entire length of the building and reminds one of a New York penthouse. I thought that the entity might not just be in the lower floors, but may very well move throughout the building. So, the team took a K-II and recorder with them to investigate the apartment.

During the tour of the apartment, the K-II meter went off several times in the bathroom area. And, we captured an EVP of a male voice saying, "I got you ... Shelly." When asked if it liked to hide, we got a female voice responding, but we could not make out what it was saying. When asked to tell us its name, the response was, "No."

I mentioned that the investigation of the apartment had some significance. When the team came down, it was mentioned that the apartment had been previously rented by a young female dentist who had recently moved into

town. She was young and healthy, but sadly found dead in Memphis under questionable circumstances.

There was never a release of the cause of death, but rumors leaked that it could have been a drug overdose. From those who knew her, if it was an overdose it would have been totally accidental. No one really knows what caused the death, but while the team was in the apartment, the question was asked if the entity was murdered. We got nothing on the recorder. But when asked if it died of an overdose, the K-II went to red. Additionally, Marty knew the dentist's name was Michelle. You have to wonder if the EVP saying I got you Shelly was a nickname often used for a person named Michelle.

An EVP Session in the Basement

The other activity worth mentioning during the night was when Marty and one of her employees, Morgan, went back to the basement alone for an EVP session, which the spirit seemed to agree to when we initially were in the basement.

Marty took a temperature gauge, a recorder, and a K-II to use during this session. When the K-II started to go off, they both noticed the drop in temperature. Marty scanned the area and found the temperature to be a full 10 degrees colder right next to them. The session was primarily responses registered on the K-II meter in direct response to questions asked. Verification of this was found during review of the digital recorder data. You can hear the unique

sound the K-II makes when it goes to red, but nothing else was captured on the recorders other than the sounds from the K-II when the questions were being asked.

Basically, what was gleaned out of the session in the basement was that the meter went to red when the entity was asked if it was in its 20s, that it liked Morgan, that it considered Morgan her friend, that it didn't like men or crowds of people, and was there alone. As these responses started to slow down, it was asked if it was tired and wanted them to leave, which was answered by a red light on the K-II. We honored the request and ended the session.

As the night's investigation came to an end, we experienced a few other occurrences and got cold chills and tingling, indicating to us that the entity was either following us around or escorting us out.

One of the occurrences that was almost ignored was when I was leaving the loft area. It was the only one word that was heard on the new SB11 we had with us throughout the investigation. The word was "help." Was it an aberration from the SB11? Or was it from an entity that wants us to help a spirit that wants or needs our help?

Who Haunts Patina?

The feeling I got as a result of this investigation was that the entity could very well be the spirit of the dentist.

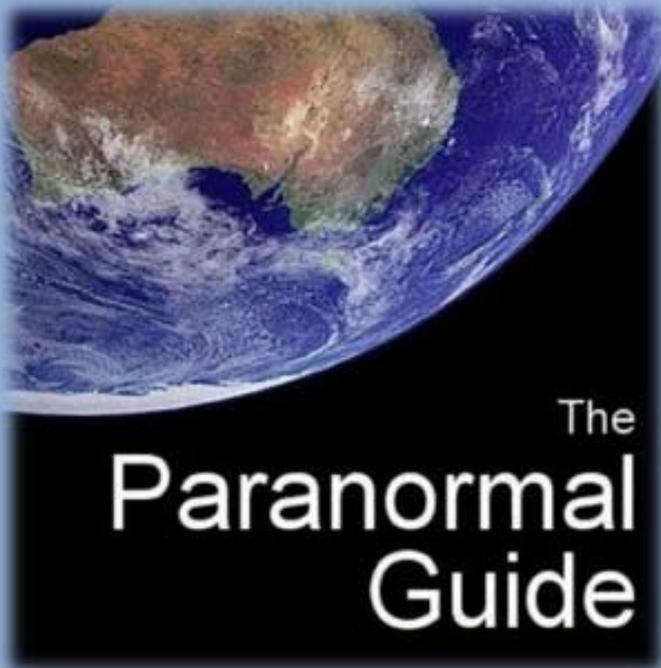
She remains in the building because it is where she lived when she died and she is comfortable there and not ready to cross over yet. Of course, this is dependent on if the activity experienced in the store began before or after she died.

Marty seems to think that most of the activity has indeed happened after the dentist's death. She might not have crossed over because she is afraid of being judged because of how she died. She appears to be lonely, has taken a liking to the people at Patina, and spends time in the store with them for company.

She is willing to communicate but prefers to do so with few people present, which explains why she was so active in the basement. The basement was a quiet place away from all the people there, and it was with a person she has considered to be a friend. I believe additional investigations could confirm who this entity may be.

Since the entity is willing to communicate more with the store staff, and they are just as curious to learn more about it, I get the feeling that this is only our first investigation, and a new crop of investigators has just been created.

As future investigations have already been planned, I will keep our readers updated as to what we learn about what is going on at Patina. ♦



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