

Spooky story

Not everyone has a regular nine-to-five job, as Caterina explains...

The exorcist

When I was a little girl growing up in Sydney I looked through the window and saw an Aboriginal tribe dancing in our backyard. I ran out and joined in.

'Caterina, what are you doing?' Mum asked.

'Dancing like them,' I said.

'But there's nobody there,' she frowned. I thought she was joking, but when I went to primary school, the same thing happened. Some new kids showed up in the classroom making faces at me.

'Look at them,' I giggled to the girl next to me.

'Who?' she asked.

That's when it dawned on me that the people I was seeing had passed over and couldn't be seen by anyone else. I kept quiet after that.

One day the spirit of a young man appeared. 'I can't seem to get home,' he said. 'Maybe

you're lost because you're dead,' I said.

'Dead?' he screeched. 'I'm not dead!' Then he dashed off in a huff. That's when I realised that spirits didn't always realise that they had passed over.

When I was 14 a friend, Mario, nine, died of leukaemia. At the funeral I saw his mum sobbing. Then Mario's spirit

appeared. 'Tell Mum I'm okay and I love her,' he said. 'But she won't believe me,' I whispered. So he told me something else and I ran up to her.

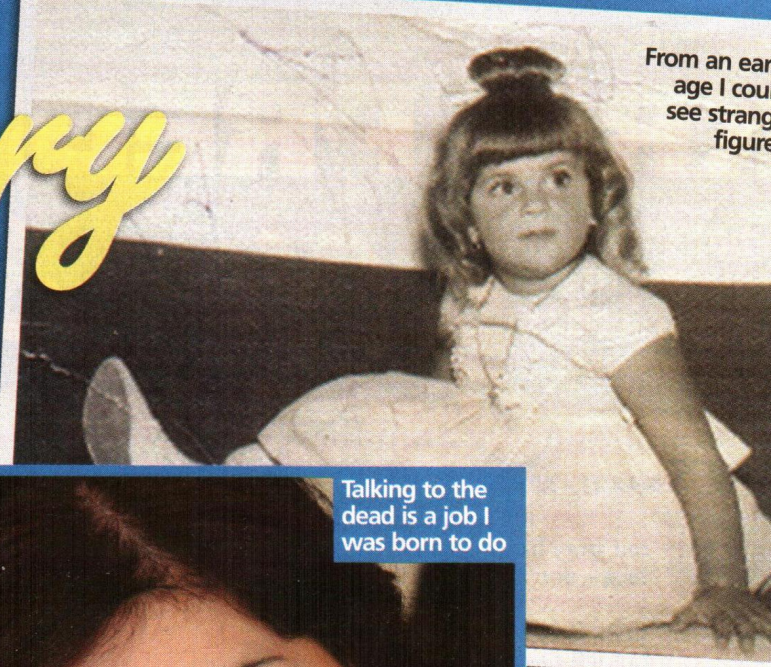
'Mario says that he's okay and he loves you,' I said, adding quickly, 'and he said your father is still looking for the missing tooth.'

Everybody froze in shock at my words but Mario's mum burst into laughter and fresh tears, then kissed me. 'This child can see my son! Nobody knows the joke of Dad's missing tooth!'

After that, everyone asked me about deceased relatives. I'd relay messages from their loved ones and they would be happy.

'You have a gift,' Mum said. 'You should use it.'

So I joined the local spiritualist church, where I met psychics who helped me develop my own



From an early age I could see strange figures



Talking to the dead is a job I was born to do

Jane almost collapsed with relief. 'Are you all right?' I asked. She nodded weakly. 'I just feel so... different,' she replied.

Her mum rang a few weeks later. 'She's become a lovely girl again – thank you so

much,' she said gratefully. Word got out and after that I regularly performed exorcisms. I'd try to guide the departing spirits towards the white light but sometimes they would attach themselves to me instead and cause chaos at home. They'd hide things in my house and drive me mad.

With help from my guides, I learnt how to shut down their energy safely at the end of the session.

Today, I spend much of my time doing healings, but exorcising evil entities gives me the greatest satisfaction.

I've also written a book, *Ghost Whisperer*, published by Sid Harta Publishers, to explain my work. I know it sounds strange but, to me, performing exorcisms is just a job that I was born to do. ■

Caterina Ligato, 45, Leichhardt, NSW

A terrible smell just filled the whole room

One day a woman rang me about her 17-year-old daughter, Jane. 'She's turned strange and violent and I'm scared that I'm going to lose her. The doctors say it's normal teenage behaviour but I know it's not!'

I asked my guides for help. 'She has been possessed,' they told me. 'We will help you exorcise her.' I'd never performed an exorcism before but I went to see Jane, who insisted there was nothing wrong. But as I inwardly recited the exorcism prayer my guides had given me, Jane began screaming at me.

'Get out!' she raged. A repugnant smell filled the room and Jane's voice transformed into a chilling growl. She spat and turned on her mother, who fled the room. I held my ground and prayed as the evil entity inside Jane's body tried to wear me down. Eventually, I felt it leave and

I exorcised a teenager

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