

An Untimely Valentine

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On the first day of September, 2002, Bailey Ginsberg and her brother Jonathan were in a terrible automobile accident; Jonathan was in a coma for several days afterwards; Bailey did not survive the crash. Her parents, Bob and Phran Ginsberg, were, of course, devastated. As they fought to maintain a loving and stable environment for their injured son and their remaining daughter, they also struggled to comprehend why their bright, vivacious, and talented teenager had been taken from them.

Over the ensuing weeks, Ginsberg noticed several unusual phenomena that she felt might indicate the presence of Bailey's spirit, but her rationalist husband could not accept that his daughter could be the cause, neither could he gain any solace from the idea. Then, while sipping coffee in a bookstore awaiting an appointment with their son's rehabilitation team, they noticed a book on the rack near their table. It was *The Afterlife Experiments*, by Dr. Gary Schwartz. They purchased and read the book, and were so impressed that they contacted Schwartz, hoping to have readings with the mediums he studied.

On February 14, 2003, Valentine's Day, Schwartz contacted the Ginsbergs. As a result of their conversation, they had a telephone reading with medium Laurie Campbell and, later, participated in another experiment at Schwartz' lab in Tucson, Arizona. Phran found the experiences "wonderfully healing" ... Bob remained unconvinced.

A few weeks later, they got a call from Dr. Julie Beischel at the Arizona laboratory, inviting them to participate in a rather unusual telephone experiment. A three-way connection would be made between Beischel, Ginsberg, and an unnamed medium. The medium would not be told Ginsberg's identity. Once the connection was made, Ginsberg was to hang up without saying a word. For the next half-hour, the medium would note her impressions, then the call would be connected again. This time, Ginsberg was to stay on the line, but say nothing. The final segment would consist of a "normal" reading in which she could provide feedback.

This arrangement was accepted and, on the appointed day, Ginsberg eagerly awaited the call. She describes the commencement of the session thus:

I held on as Julie dialed another number to 'conference' the call. The soft-spoken, sweet voice with a western drawl at the other end said "Hello."

"Hi, Allison, it's Julie. When we hang up, you are to begin part 1a," said Julie, and everyone hung up. ... By the time the phone rang again a half-hour later, I was filled with anticipation. Allison [DuBois] was now introduced to me, but I was introduced to her only as "the sitter" and the discarnate was introduced as "Bailey, daughter to the sitter." I was then reminded to remain silent.

The messages then came "fast and furious." Ginsberg took 19 pages of notes. DuBois described the accident and Bailey's fatal head injury. Then she talked about the sports Bailey enjoyed, and the green vegetables she didn't, her shyness, the way she loved to sit in the kitchen and watch her mom cook, and many other personal matters. DuBois described a photograph of Bailey and another girl — "her best friend or sister" — with their arms around each other, smiling towards the camera. She said Bailey was aware of a new puppy a cousin had just gotten, and that she remembered the time when her mom watched her perform in *The King and I*.

Ginsberg was especially impressed by these last, as the photograph was one that she saw every day tucked into her desk blotter, and *The King and I* was the only play that Bailey had ever had a role in.

All of this information was given without any feedback at all. After almost two hours of listening to her daughter's life being described in accurate detail, Ginsberg had yet to utter a single word. At last, Beischel gave the okay and the sitter and the medium had a real conversation.

During this period, Ginsberg mentioned that the picture of Bailey and her sister was on her office desk. Immediately, DuBois said, "Happy Valentine's Day. She says to tell you, Happy Valentine's Day." Being as February was many months away, this wish puzzled everyone. Then Ginsberg remembered that their initial contact with Schwartz had occurred on February 14th. As no other explanation came to anyone's mind, this one was accepted, but not enthusiastically.

The phone call ended in the late afternoon. Ginsberg knew she had garnered an amazing amount of impressive evidence to share with her husband. The real kicker, however, did not occur until the next morning when she entered her office. There, on her desk, was the photograph of Bailey hugging her sister. Thinking that she would e-mail the photo to Beischel at the lab, Ginsberg lovingly removed it from its mount, turned it over to scan it, and there, written on the back, were the words:

Valentine's Day Dance
CSH HS¹

Discussion

Phran had written the description on the back when she first tucked the photo into her desk blotter in February of 2001, so the link between the photo and the date must have been buried in her mind somewhere. But, it must have been buried especially deep, considering that, even though she looked at the photo almost every day and even though the phrase "Happy Valentine's Day" came to the medium just after the photo was referred to again, she could not link the phrase with the photo. Nor did the medium. If DuBois had been "reading the subconscious of someone involved" then it ought to have been apparent to her that the photo and the phrase were part of the same package. Also, this case is unusual because, when the photo was first described, the sitter was not "involved" (that is, she was not known to, or in the presence of, the medium).

Largely inspired by this reading, and hoping to help other bereaved parents, Phran and Bob Ginsberg founded and preside over the non-profit Forever Family Foundation. All work for the foundation is voluntary and membership is free. See www.foreverfamilyfoundation.org for more information.

The Ginsbergs and the researchers have been interviewed numerous times (including personal discussions with this author) and their integrity is incontestable.

END CASE 35

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¹ The initials standing for "Cold Spring Harbor High School."