

CHASING SHADOWS

A Criminal Investigator's
Look into the Paranormal

Mark Allan Keyes

As featured on Discovery's *The Haunted*, co-star of
Surviving Evidence, and host of WILK's *Paranormal Science*

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*To my best friend...
my wife, Lauren*

For sacrificing so much of our personal time that we could have been together and for sharing me with the universe so I could pursue my dreams, I love you!

For helping me create an incredible paranormal research team which, in turn, has helped so many people in so many ways, I thank you!

If there are angels watching over us, I am certain they sent me you!

Foreword

Sometimes one never knows when we'll meet someone who will have a tremendous impact on our lives, and often those days arrive unexpectedly and without much fanfare. Yet as that day comes and passes, we remember the details with remarkable clarity. The day I met Mark Keyes was one such day.

I was on the set of, *Surviving Evidence*, a movie about Chris DiCesare who had endured a malevolent haunting while in college. Though the story was certainly not a happy one, this amazing and wonderfully humble man walked away from a rather harrowing experience thinking this 'ghost' that taunted him, attacked him, threatened his inner peace, and outer reputation had no true malice in its intent. To me, who comes into the realm of paranormal in ways that were rather peaceful and even loving, I saw Chris as an Angel on Earth. In the film, I portrayed a malevolent spirit, and while on set, I met Mark Keyes who was there to play an investigator that, for the sake of the film, wasn't buying into Chris' story. The film, meant as the second film about Chris and his story, at the time of this writing is slated for release as part of an updated version to their previous film entitled *Please*,

Talk With Me in their Anniversary Edition marking 30 years since the haunting took place.

When I first met Mark I learned he worked for the State Police, and I thanked him for his service. To me, both as a parent and as someone who is lucky enough to live in a community where we can walk the streets at night, I have had a tremendous respect for those in law enforcement. After all, they risk their lives to keep our communities safer.

I've had several opportunities to talk with Officers local to me about some of the things that haunt them, away from 'ghosts', and hearing the stories of what keeps these brave folks up nights gave me an even higher respect for them. Yet there are some Officers, though relatively few, who do have some sense for the paranormal. Those I've met that are into paranormal and metaphysical seem to be as much in service to these realms as they are in service to us, and in mine eyes they are twice remarkable for that.

Mark has established a place in one of my life's finest happenings. I was writing a book, which would tell of my experiences when attuned as a spirit medium. Originally intended as a nonfiction, my years working in paranormal talk radio had shown me that the more I represent myself as a medium, the more people will want 'the circus act', in other words, daring me to show and prove my acumen to them based on whoever died around them, and to me it simply doesn't work that way. So instead, I decided to write a fiction work, where the central character is a spirit medium. Long story short, I had gotten to Chapter 7 before reaching a total blank...so I put the work aside hoping for something inspire me.

That day arrived when, as fortune would have it, I had Mark Keyes on as a guest for a radio show

I hosted, called *Beyond the Norm*. Mark was telling of how he and a team of other law enforcement officers were working to pacify malevolent hauntings in his local communities, and this team would not move on to the next case until their clients were pacified.

I had never heard of such a thing. There is a show on TV, one of my personal favorites called *The Dead Files*, and in that show there is a retired homicide detective named Steve DiSchiavi and a spirit medium named Amy Allan. These two visit some of the worst malevolent haunting locations in the country. Steve investigates the history of the property, finding any and all information about who may have died on or near the property, or what terrible events may have occurred near there. Amy gets information using her incredible gift as a spirit medium, and together they compare notes for the clients, and advise the clients as to what measures they could take to rid the property of malevolence. They do a tremendously good job, but they have a very busy production schedule obligating them to move onto the next case...whereas Mark's team has the benefit of being there for their clients until the job is finished and I thought that quite amazing.

While interviewing Mark on the radio show, I asked him which is worse in his findings...the living or the dead? I thought it a great question! Without hesitation or doubt, he had a clear answer...the living. They are capable of the most deprived behaviors toward other living people, and Mark has seen firsthand some horrid things...things that you or I likely wouldn't be able to handle or deal with, and Mark sees them often day after day. I still find it hard to imagine what that must be like.

When the radio interview was over, I had found a new hero, and it was enough to not only inspire a return to writing my book, but it even introduced a new character...a Homicide Detective, a character that worked perfectly into the story. I started writing the book over from scratch and finished within three days!

All the books I have read over the years that had to do with the paranormal, I believe that *Chasing Shadows* is truly best among them. Believe me, I have read a lot of books on the subject from many of the greatest minds and personalities in the paranormal realm, and between that and hosting radio shows on the subject, had read through even more, and I believe myself quite qualified to enter that opinion. I'm honored to write the Foreword for this book.

So I will conclude with this. Mark provides a fantastic perspective of seeing paranormal activity through the eyes and mind of someone very well trained to notice things in his surrounding environment, differing things between perception and belief, and the stringent standard it requires to pass the test to make it beyond simple skepticism. The process Mark gives throughout this book is fascinating, very well conveyed, and makes for one of the most compelling books I'd ever read on any subject, let alone a subject I've spent over three decades tantalized by. Ghosts, paranormal, metaphysics, law enforcement, and the human experience are all part of *Chasing Shadows*.

I hope you will agree, that this is one of the finest books you will ever read on this subject.

Chip Reichenthal

Author of *Even the Dead Won't Tell You the Truth*

Radio Host, A1B; Art Bell *Dark Matter*

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Introduction

The question is, “Are ghosts real?” I would tell you, but it’s really up to you to figure out for yourself! In the words of the great, late physicist, Albert Einstein... “Hello!”

Ok, I’m just being funny, of course, but he is one of my favorites and probably did say that on more than one occasion. Allow me to introduce myself. Born into a middle class family in rural Pennsylvania, I was honored with the name of Mark Allan Keyes. By all accounts, I was a normal child growing up. Well, depending upon who you ask and what your idea of normal is. My parents divorced when I was ten years old and I was raised by my mother, with a younger brother and sister to torment. Being the oldest of three children, much of the responsibility of taking care of our home fell into my hands so that our mother could work. One thing about being raised by a single parent is that you gain much more responsibility quickly, or at least I did.

As I look back on it, there was great value through that experience and it taught me how to think for myself. I like to believe that I was somewhere near the top of the “average intelligence” scale, but really could have applied myself more. The fact was, I was more of a hands-on type of kid and liked to daydream, although I

thought science was kind of cool while going through my school years. I liked to poke at things and science sometimes provided me a chance to do that. But for the most part, sitting in a classroom all day, listening to a teacher rehash what I could read in a book was simply boring to me. I felt restrained in school and couldn't wait to get out and get moving.

I liked to be outside as much as possible. When I was inside, I was usually watching TV. Yes, I was a very big fan of TV, which back then was much like the Internet is today for a kid when it came to learning new things outside of school. If there was something on that dealt with superheroes or the supernatural, I was watching it. I also loved anything to do with emergency services. Cops and firemen were just as much superheroes to me as Superman or the Green Lantern. Roy DeSoto and Jonny Gage from a TV show called *Emergency*, which aired in the 70s, were two of my biggest heroes. After watching them, one thing was for sure, a nine-to-five desk job was not for me. I needed to save people and be anywhere the action was. So, while I sat in class, my thoughts were focused on things like being a fireman, police officer, or a fighter pilot. I wanted to make a difference!

After I did my time in school, I went on to Wilkes University where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, became a volunteer fireman and EMT, worked as a Deputy Officer with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Bureau of Law Enforcement, all while working as a full-time 911 dispatcher. It gave me something to do! I was where the action was and loving every minute of it. I later enlisted with the State Police, where I have held various positions along the way, including an assignment as undercover narcotics investigator for

10 years. Those years were filled with such crazy experiences that it would fill another book.

I finally came to rest as a criminal investigator for the last few years of my career. Most people would be more familiar with the term “Detective,” but that unit’s function was to investigate major crimes such as sexual assaults, robberies, suicides, or other non-natural deaths and homicides.

As I write this book, I am forty-four years old, have a beautiful wife named Lauren, three great children, and now have less than four years to retirement that will end a wonderful twenty-five-year career. Two things I can say I have learned from working as a Trooper for so long, dead people freak me out (but not the way you think) and the living are far scarier than the dead. I’ve had a great life so far, with typical ups and downs, and a very satisfying career that I can say I am proud of. However, something happened along the way. I heard a voice. Literally! And not just once! It started me on a search for answers and I had no idea where the Universe was about to take me.

Chapter 1

Who's There?

Did you ever get the feeling that you're not alone? If so, then you might understand where I'm coming from. Imagine being twelve years old, alone in the backyard of your rural home, cutting grass with no one else around, and someone yells your name. No big deal, right? It happens all the time. Somebody is trying to get your attention and the sound of the mower is drowning out their voice. So they yell your name to grab your attention. You turn around to see what they want and, surprise, there's no one there. Okay, so that's a little unusual. This unusual experience made it all the way to becoming a line in a movie, but more on that later!

I still look back and remember it as if it were yesterday. There I was, a preteen boy with a pile of responsibilities, including cutting the grass. The thing was, I loved cutting the grass. Under all that motor noise was my quiet time, my time to think. We had a large yard and an old push mower, but when you put the two together, it gave me plenty of time to reflect on my short life and big dreams. It sounds odd, but I can remember having two sided conversations with myself about all kinds of things. I would ask questions and answer them

in my head. It was like weighing my options and debating my plans with another person, but by myself, in my own head. I would completely lose myself in thought and the rest of the world would disappear as I daydreamed my work away.

Looking back now, after all I have learned about the metaphysical world, cutting grass became a time of meditation for me, although I had no idea that I was doing it then. So, the big question was, and the big question that still remains is... Who called my name? There was no one there. It wasn't a case of ambient noise mixed with lawn mower sound to create a mistaken impression of someone calling my name, and it definitely wasn't an unknown sound where-in I thought that maybe someone called my name, but wasn't sure. This was loud and clear, a distinct male voice, and right behind me. I jumped when I heard it because the voice was so close and unexpectedly loud. I became a little freaked out, I must admit, when I turned and found nobody standing there. Only being about a half-an-hour into a two-hour grass-cutting day, I now had a lot more to think about.

I've had the opportunity to do many public appearances and lecture on my experiences with the paranormal over the years. The number one most asked question I receive from people is, how did I get involved in paranormal research? It's a question that I have asked of people in that field many times myself. Most people report having encounters with ghosts or living in a home that they believe was haunted and later want to continue exploring those experiences. I never saw a ghost, I never lived in a haunted house, and I never personally knew anyone who did, or at least knew someone who wasn't

afraid to admit that they did. When I was growing up, people would have called you crazy for claiming you saw a ghost. The only thing I knew about ghosts was what I saw on TV or in the movies, and they were mostly portrayed in a negative light. The single motivating event that piqued my interest in paranormal research goes back to an experience of a twelve-year-old boy hearing a simple voice and asking the question... "Who's there?" This event left such an impression on me that I still carry it with me today as strongly as when I first asked the question. The reason behind this is that I still don't know the answer to the question.

When I first had this experience, like any person, I tried to make logical sense of it. I came up with a few ideas of what I thought it may have been and, ultimately, threw my hands up in surrender and admitted I had no idea if it was real or just something I imagined. Was it all in my head? Did I have a psychic experience while in some state of meditation? Was it a voice from beyond of someone lurking in my backyard trying to reach out to me? If that were the case, it made me feel a little uneasy because it knew my name, whoever "it" was. Having worked with so many psychic mediums in this field and asking their opinion, the majority of them believe it may have been a spirit guide calling for me. The key word being *may!* To a criminal investigator, the word may leaves the door wide open for other possibilities. So, for a short period of time, I started paying closer attention to TV shows and books that had anything to do with ghosts or extra sensory perception (ESP).



After working for years as a criminal investigator, Detective Mark Keyes turns his investigative skills towards the paranormal to help uncover the cause of a strange experience he had as a young boy. Detective Keyes is ultimately searching to uncover the truth and answer the question that he and so many others have asked—Are ghosts real? Detective Keyes takes you through his true life story, an evolution from criminal investigator to paranormal investigator, as he tests psychic phenomena and inserts himself into the supernatural world of haunted homes and businesses.



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