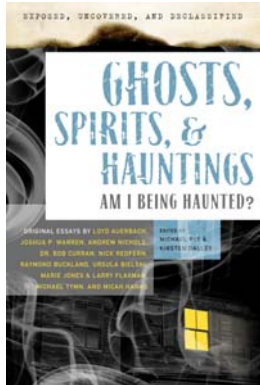


# GHOSTS, SPIRITS & HAUNTINGS

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*By Micah Hanks*

## BOOK SUMMARY



In the modern scientific world, many reports of ghostly visitations, spirit phenomenon, and even frightening instances of alleged demonic possession have been compared with various forms of mental illness. Conditions such as schizophrenia and other varieties of psychosis can indeed cause people to interpret their surroundings and experiences in ways that are abnormal, often resulting in hallucinations of strange beings that are often described as ghosts, aliens, monsters, or even demons.

With the vast and varied capacities of the human mind and how it works, could there be other physical ways the mind is influenced by various phenomenon, pointing to a possible link that exists between ghostly phenomenon and psychosis?

Furthermore, does supposing this remove the possibility that those who are sometimes diagnosed with various medical conditions could still be observing strange otherworldly phenomenon?

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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## Micah Hanks



MICAH A. HANKS is a full-time journalist, radio personality, author and investigator of the unexplained. Since an early age, he has been fascinated with strange mysteries and “Fortean phenomena,” a field of study named for the pioneering researcher of all-things-strange, **Charles Fort**. Hanks’ exposure to Fort’s work, as well as the later writings of personalities such as zoologist **Ivan T. Sanderson**, cosmologist **Carl Sagan**, and several others helped establish an open minded—but inherently skeptical—approach to studying the unexplained, which Hanks maintains and continues to cultivate today, much like his numerous influences of past decades.

Throughout his many years studying the world’s mysteries, Hanks has visited a number of places collecting information about not only aliens and UFOs, but also cultural data, folklore, and reports of strange creatures like Sasquatch. From steep mountain passes in remote parts of Montana, to the rolling valleys where Ohio’s “Grassman” is said to trudge, Hanks has made a lifestyle of pursuing mysteries, often right to their sources. He also spent a number of years working with various scientists, historians, and film crews, particularly fellow researcher and friend **Joshua P. Warren**, attempting to solve the mystery of the Brown Mountain Lights. These strange “ghost lights” represent an atmospheric phenomenon specific to Western North Carolina, likened by many to be ufological in nature. His interest in the region and its many mysteries, as well as his ever-evolving methods of inquiry pertaining to the UFO phenomenon at large, remains underway.

Hanks has been featured as a guest on many television and radio programs, including History Channel’s *Guts and Bolts*, Travel Channel’s *Weird Travels*, CNN Radio, and *The Jeff Rense Program*. He is also a staff writer for *UFO Magazine*, *Mysterious Universe*, and regular contributor to *Intrepid Magazine*, with past articles appearing in *FATE*, *Mysteries Magazine*, and several other publications. The latest news about UFOs and unexplained phenomena, as well as information about Micah’s ongoing projects and appearances, are available at his website *The Gralien Report* ([www.gralienreport.com](http://www.gralienreport.com)). He can be contacted directly at [info@gralienreport.com](mailto:info@gralienreport.com).

# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

## *Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings*

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- Your article deals with the idea that there could be “chemical agents” that sometimes affect people in ways that could cause them to sense strange or ghostly phenomenon. What caused you to begin studying ghosts and spirit phenomenon in this way?
- If there is a possibility that processes in our bodies might control our ability to perceive ghosts and the unexplained, does this mean that you’re saying people might not really be seeing ghosts?
- At what point do we draw a line between valid spiritual phenomenon and things like psychosis?
- Your article also deals a bit with psychedelic substances like DMT. What is this, and how is it related to a link between psychosis and spirit phenomenon?
- In your article, you detail the story of a Bulgarian woman that was shared with you, who allegedly received a phone call from her recently deceased grandmother! What were the circumstances under which this took place?
- You also touch on the research of the late Dr. Wilson Van Dusen, who claimed that on many occasions he learned startling things by interviewing not only patients of his who suffered from hallucinations, but by also interviewing the hallucinations themselves. How did he do this, and what sorts of things did he learn?
- Some of your work in this area deals with trying to understand schizophrenia, one of the most common forms of mental illness to cause disturbing hallucinations to appear. What factors might contribute to the manifestation of schizophrenia, or do we know exactly what causes it?
- What about near death experiences, is there research suggesting that this phenomenon may also be linked to chemical processes in our bodies?
- Is there any chance that the spiritual phenomenon people sometimes witness might even be caused by substances our bodies produce, which in special circumstances allow us to perceive things around us we normally couldn’t sense?

- You even mention that some native tribes around the world have drawn distinctions between people who experience psychic visions or spiritual phenomenon, as opposed to those who seem to suffer from mental illness. Is this correct?
- If theories like some of the ones you've described are correct, how should research in the future proceed in order to determine whether there is indeed a connection between mental illness, ghosts and strange phenomenon, and the ways our bodies work?