

❖ FOREWORD ❖

I have spent more than 30 years dealing with the shadow side of the paranormal, including negative hauntings and demonic cases. I never actually intended to become so deeply involved, but as most of us in this field are, I was drawn in and called to it.

The first sign of calling came in my teens. I was about 15 years old when I awoke one night and saw my first apparition, my deceased grandfather standing at the foot of my bed. Actually, I did not know him; he had died when I was three years old. But my mother verified my description of him.

Perhaps you could say my calling was “in the blood,” as my mother was a twin, and twins have been known to be more psychically sensitive than the average person. Plus, I was related by blood to one of the most prominent investigators of the demonic: Ed Warren, my mother’s twin brother and my uncle. Ed and his wife, Lorraine Warren, a clairvoyant, became household names in the paranormal and were in media headlines on some of the most famous modern cases on record. Ed has passed on now, and Lorraine still works in the field.

As a kid I was always fascinated by the work Ed and Lorraine did in the paranormal. I wanted to be part of it too. But Ed was a stickler for the proper education. He refused to allow me to go along on cases before I turned 18, and he spent a lot of time transmitting his knowledge to me. I was impatient back then, but Ed, in his wisdom, knew what he was doing. Dealing with the paranormal, especially the dark side, is not child’s play and requires grounding, education, and discernment. I

had to have a base in all of those in order to be properly prepared.

I learned a great deal from my uncle and aunt and eventually went out on my own. I have been privileged to work with some of the best names in the field, both laypersons, like me, and clergy. I have worked on more than 7,000 cases: Many of them have had natural explanations (that is, not paranormal or demonic), and many others have been resolved with intervention. A few of them have been full-blown demonic infestations and possessions. I do not perform exorcisms—that is a role for clergy—but I have assisted at dozens of these rites.

One of the demonic cases brought me face to face with genuine evil: a reptile-like entity that manifested in an infested home, a former funeral parlor in Southington, Connecticut, and came at me down a staircase. The intensity of the evil was astonishing. I had never before experienced anything like it, and I have to admit, I was so shaken that it was several days before I could return to the case. I know from my own experience on this case and others that evil is real, the demonic exists, and dark forces are at work in the world.

As Rosemary Ellen Guiley states in her introduction to this book, the demonic—always fascinating—has acquired a media glamour that has encouraged people to want to become involved as “demonologists.” Many of them jump in not properly prepared, not having much understanding of what they are dealing with or the ramifications and consequences of this kind of work. The work is never easy, and there is the constant danger of

repercussions. The forces of evil know who you are and will try to prevent you from interfering in their activities. You, your home, your family, and your friends all become targets.

I mentioned earlier the importance of education, how Ed did his best to make sure I was armed with information, knowledge, and insight in addition to experience. If I had had a book like *The Encyclopedia of Demons and Demonology* when I was getting started, I guarantee you that it would have been well thumbed in a hurry. Rosemary Ellen Guiley has gained a well-earned reputation in the paranormal for her thorough research and investigation. I have all of her encyclopedias, refer to them frequently, and recommend them to others. I welcome the addition of this one to my set, and I can tell you that it will be one of my most valuable resources.

I met Rosemary several years ago at a conference in New Jersey hosted by LAura Hladik, founder of the New Jersey Ghost Hunters Society. I was already quite familiar with her work. We became good friends and colleagues, assisting each other in our work in whatever ways possible and collaborating on projects. We sometimes have

different viewpoints, which add dimension to the overall picture.

Beyond paranormal investigation, there is a need for the average person to become more informed about the demonic. As a whole we are undereducated on the topic. Many of us get our ideas from Hollywood, maybe combined with a few religious teachings. Rosemary points out that many people ignore the topic altogether, hoping that the demonic will just “go away.” I assure you, the forces of evil have no intention of disappearing. In fact, we in the field are seeing an increase in intensity and frequency of activity. That is why education is so important. *The Encyclopedia of Demons and Demonology* covers an amazing amount of material and from different perspectives. That is one of the many things I appreciate so much about Rosemary’s work: She looks at everything from different angles. Whether you are serious about paranormal investigation or are a casual reader intrigued by a fascinating subject, this book will broaden your knowledge. Everyone who picks up this book will learn something new.

—John Zaffis