

## A Different Sort of “Cold” Case

The Survival Files — Case 34 — ESS = 234.6

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Promises to contact a living friend after one’s death are often made but rarely kept. Even rarer are those that are fulfilled in a way that provides solid evidence of Survival.

In the final days of her battle with cancer, Mary Jasen made such a promise to her friend Christina. They had been friends for several years and Christina took Mary seriously, even though Mary’s proposed method for announcing her spirit presence was a bit unorthodox. She said that she would knock loudly on the refrigerator to get Christina’s attention. When Christina asked why the refrigerator, Mary jokingly pointed out how much she loved food and said that the refrigerator was her “favorite place.” Then she told Christina to keep their arrangement a secret between them. A few months later, Mary passed on, and Christina awaited the signal.

Some five years later, Christina had pretty much given up any hope of hearing from Mary. Then, she had a dream in which she saw Mary and Len, who was Mary’s husband, sitting at a picnic table in an unfamiliar park. In the dream, Mary turned toward Christina and said that she was fine and no one should worry about her. This was not the contact that Mary had been wishing for, but it made a vivid enough impression that, the next time she visited Len, she described her dream to the widower.

Len was more impressed with the dream because the park that Christina described was exactly like an area where he and Mary had often eaten lunch. This revelation lifted Christina’s spirits, but the next thing that Len said was far more astonishing. A few days before, Len related, he had been in his kitchen when he had been startled by a banging sound as if rocks were being thrown at his windows. He could discover no culprit; but, when the sounds were repeated, he realized that the noises seemed to be caused by some unseen visitor banging loudly on the refrigerator door. He was perplexed but did not feel fear. In fact, he said that he somehow knew that his wife’s spirit was responsible for the disturbance and he felt comforted.

### Discussion

If Mary’s husband had dreamed of a picnic with his wife at a familiar location, no one would consider it indicative of anything — except, perhaps, that he loved his wife, or that he went to bed hungry. The fact that Christina dreamed of an area she had never visited is certainly suggestive, yet telepathy could explain it and unconscious knowledge cannot be ruled out. But if she had not had the dream, Len would not have been encouraged to tell Christina about the rapping sounds.

In almost every case of alleged spirit rappings, the evidential value comes from the information communicated, not the means of communication. This is because we cannot be certain of the limits of psychokinetic power possessed by the living as compared to the deceased. But, such an explanation simply doesn’t wash in this case. If Christina’s unconscious mind was going to effect loud raps on a refrigerator door, it would no doubt do so on her own appliance, not on that of someone who would not understand the significance of the disturbance. And, the husband is not a feasible source of the noises, as he was unaware of the friends’ pact. This sort of “cross correspondence” leaves us with either accepting Mary’s spirit as the source or

conjecturing a psychic communication between Len and Mary, and *vice versa*, that triggered a psychokinetic outbreak by the unconscious mind of a 68-year-old man.<sup>1</sup>

ESS Score

CS rating is “w”. CS = 166

Witness Reliability rating is “k” (64 pts) plus a bonus (4 pts) for multiple interviewers, WR = 68.

The Character/Complexity of Information rating is “t”. IC = 0.6.

Total ESS Score:  $166 + 68 + .6 = 234.6$

For Further Information See:

[\*Love Beyond Life\*](#), by Joel Martin and Patricia Romanowski, pages 96-100.

END CASE 34  
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<sup>1</sup> This age was calculated from the following data provided in the source: Len was 18 years older than Mary, Mary was 45 when she died, and the dream occurred 5 years after Mary’s death.