

# For And About You

**Dear Harriett:** When I was a little girl my parents used to tell me all sorts of ghostly stories. And, today, a grown woman with four kids, I'm deathly afraid to be in the house by myself.

My mother said I was born with a veil over my eyes. Is there such a thing? She said I used to play ball and have conversations with people who were not even present but, she would hear a second voice.

Then one day she heard me screaming — she ran in the kitchen and the floor had opened up and was pulling me under. Can all this be true? I'm afraid of my own shadow. Of course, about flashing lights in the ceiling, I still see these, but no one else does. Is there something behind all this, or are they pulling my leg?

Scared Stiff P.C.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**DEAR SCARED STIFF:** Probably all of the things that you say have and do happen can be explained as events of natural phenomena. People the world over have the practice of explaining away unusual events by attributing them to something supernatural or by founding them in a belief. The more we are able to learn and substantiate with facts, the less will be the need for such explanations.

Yes, there is such a thing as being born with a veil over your eyes, but it is just a common explanation for a light film that sometimes is present at birth. Babies at birth are usually treated with silver nitrate administered

in the eyes, which serves as an antiseptic. This, in turn can cause a mild inflammation after a few days. So if babies have a little trouble with their eyes for the first few days, it's a common occurrence with nothing supernatural involved.

If you are the only one now who sees flashing lights, it could be you have disturbances in the circulation of the blood in your eyes. This has been known to cause sparks and flashes of lights. Have you had a thorough eye examination lately? Do.

The other things that supposedly happened to you, really happened to your mother. She has experienced hallucinations. To the person who experiences imaginary visions, everything seems very real.

Some people are able to recognize them as such, just imaginary visions, but others, like your mother, aren't.

Voices come from human vocal chords and floors are not in the habit of opening up and pulling people under. Many has been the time, however, when people have wished that this could be a reality.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

Harriett Muhammad  
308 Westwood Plaza  
Box 390

Los Angeles, Calif. 90024