

# Q & A WITH AUTHOR **DOUG OWEN**

Q: What inspired you to write *The Unholy Silence*?

*A; I've been trying to write this story for 20 years, and every time I would try, something unusual would happen. Something beyond the scope of regular life, it would be almost supernatural. I wanted to write this book to make sure that others who were experiencing the same thing could kind of feel a kinship, so they'd understand that they're not insane, they're not cursed, they're not damned, they're victims, victims of this whatever-it-is plaguing them. These things happen throughout the world, they happen throughout the country, they happen more often than we know because people are ashamed to say anything, for fear of being criticized and judged by their peers in society.*

Q; Can you describe your experience living in the haunted house? How did it impact you and your family?

*A; Life in the house was absolutely just mind-blowing. It seemed like an alternate reality. It didn't even seem real. You'd try and go on with your day, but you'd have these strange, bizarre interruptions that didn't make sense, didn't make scientific sense in the strictest term of the word, or through any known type of scientific process, or trying to figure out exactly what this was that was happening. So it took a lot of energy. It was exhausting living in a house like this that showed you things and did things that seemed to defy the logic of reality and what we were told reality is. So seeing these things,*

*recording these things, having pictures and audio of these things happening is pretty much the only reason I think that I believe it ever did happen. It's been 20 years, so my memory is fading, but thankfully I've kept notes over the years, detailed notes, for this occasion. But living in the house, it absolutely affected everything. I mean, it was one of the main causes of the destruction of my family unit.*

Q; How did your background as a Catholic influence the way you approached the supernatural events in the house?

*A; My Catholic background absolutely, you know, taught me to fight this head-on, use the power of my beliefs and the power of our God to defeat whatever this was, but that wasn't the case. It just didn't seem to work, no matter how strong my faith was. It just seemed to make it worse.*

Q; What was the most terrifying moment you experienced during this ordeal?

*A; I think everybody who's read the book can tell you the most terrifying ordeal was when whatever that thing was entered my daughter and used her essentially as a as a automaton or a puppet looking into my daughter's eyes knowing that whatever that thing is wasn't my daughter was chilling to the bone. I think I accurately described that in the book it's pretty pretty clear but yeah that would be that would be the most terrifying thing pretty much the only time I've ever been afraid.*

Q; How did writing this book affect you emotionally? Was it cathartic or challenging to relive these events?

*A; Absolutely, it purged my feelings and brought feelings back up to the*

*surface. Of course it did. The same feelings of terror, same feelings of doubt, feelings of fear. Is it going to happen again? You know, am I inviting this in? These are the questions you ask yourself, you know, is this an invitation for this to happen to me and my family again? So yeah, definitely, definitely feelings, you know, definitely cathartic, definitely a big release of energy, but also a satisfying one that is one of accomplishment. You know, it's out there. People have read the story. I no longer sit here in silence and, you know, keep it to myself. The actual truth is actually now out there.*

**Q; The Unholy Silence blends horror with a real-life, personal journey. What do you hope readers take away from your story?**

*A; I hope that readers take away that there's more to this world than what you can see, what you can prove. There are so many mysteries out there. There's so many things that we just don't understand. And I don't think that this life is the only existence. I don't think this is the only plane of reality. So I hope that readers take away that awe and mystery that they never stop seeking, that they always look for the truth, no matter where it is. And also, I want them to know that if they've experienced this stuff, again, they're not alone.*

**Q; Do you believe that the house's paranormal activity had a lasting impact on your life, even after you moved out?**

*A; I think that there was a lasting impact, absolutely. You don't go through something like that and not come away scarred in more than one way. You know, certain things linger, you know. I think that either some people say it attaches themselves to you or it follows you, but whatever it is, I think it embeds itself into your being, into your soul. I think after doing a battle with something like this spiritually, I think part of it attached itself to your soul, and I think it stays with you, because I certainly have encountered other supernatural*

*items and entities since the house, for sure.*

Q; what was the process like for you, balancing the real-life nature of your experiences with the storytelling aspect of writing a book?

*A; Since the book is nonfiction, this is exactly what happened. There is no embellishment. I did not exaggerate. I didn't sensationalize or alter any of the things as I remember them. They were in my journal exactly as they happened, in my notes from all those years ago. The story is as it happened, with witnesses and pictures and audio as proof. I didn't storytell necessarily. I told my story which was basically what I had documented and what I had seen, and what others had seen and verified that, yes, I'm not crazy. I did see that happen. So, balancing the nature of what I encountered with writing a book and storytelling, it was very easy. I just simply am telling everything that I'm telling the truth. So, it's not hard to convey that. It's simply telling what happened.*

Q; What advice would you give to aspiring writers, especially those interested in sharing personal, real-life experiences?

*A; Advice I have for aspiring authors who want to tell their story, non-fiction, is simply that. Tell your story. Your story is just as valid and important as everybody else's. There's no reason you shouldn't publish your story and let the world share in what you have to offer. You know, if you ever have self-doubt or people telling you you're not good enough, ignore them. Don't listen to that voice. Do what you feel is right. Share yourself with the world. Generations to come, they may thank you for it. You never know. But I can tell you this, that your story is just as important as mine. Share it with the world.*

Q; What's next for you as an author? Do you have

any upcoming projects or books in the works?

A; Well, let's see, I've got a cookbook I've got to write, so I'm going to be non-fiction for at least a little while longer. And then, uh, maybe I might try my hand at a fictional, political, could-happen, probably-would-never-happen, but-it's-possible-to-happen, fiction horror novel. But, uh, something that, uh, is probably a horror political fiction. Something based in reality