Not Your Mother’s Library Transcript

Episode 68: Continuing the Conversation

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. This is your host, Rachel, here to let you know that we have a special mini episode this time around where Audrey and myself talk a little bit more about our conversation from last month. So, if you haven't listened to that episode yet—that would be number sixty-seven on the queue—go ahead and give that a listen so that you have some idea of what we're talking about here. Hope you enjoy, and see you next month.

Audrey: One of the things that we had talked about was like, did, uh, the concept of, like, the floating spirit—

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: —come after the advent of, like, cinematography and regular photography and that sort of thing?

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: And I feel like it's definitely possible, but then there have been some, like, other things that have popped into, um, my train of thought regarding that, because…have you ever seen the, uh, TV show “Paranormal Caught on Camera?”

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: Play devil’s advocate—no pun intended.

Rachel: (chuckles)

Audrey: Um, let's assume that everybody believes in this.

Rachel: Sure. Sure sure sure.

Audrey: And ghosts are real. Blah blah blah. (clicks tongue) Um…

Rachel: It's more fun that way.

Audrey: Yeah, it is more fun that way. I personally believe in ghosts, but anyways, um…so a lot of the things that they're capturing on camera are floating, misty, see-through things.

Rachel: Ooh…you know, I never thought about that.

Audrey: And while I like the argument for the advent of cinematography—because that makes a lot of sense.

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: I'm also wondering, you know, if it's just straight up, like, these are people's experiences and that's why…

Rachel: That's why the explanation lends itself toward—

Audrey: —they are floaty, see-through things.

Rachel: (inhales deeply) Yeah.

Audrey: Because there is this one video of…and one…this is one of the reasons that I became such a believer in ghosts other than my own experiences. I…I lived in a haunted house until recently.

Rachel: (gasps) Wh-ha-da-wha-haa?

Audrey: You want to go into that, or is that another podcast episode?

Rachel: Yeah, whoa, we're having you back and we're talkin' about that, 'cause my goodness! (laughs)

Audrey: Oh, okay! And I…I actually I caught a ghost on film.

Rachel: (voice strained by abject disbelief) What?!

Audrey: On my Ring camera.

Rachel: (gasping laughter)

Audrey: I did!

Rachel: (slamming fist on table) Audrey, how are you just telling me this now?

Audrey: Sorry, sorry.

Rachel: We did a whole episode! (slams fist on table again, twice)

Audrey: (gasping laughter) Ugh!

Rachel: Well, now I will be able to focus on anything for the rest of the day!

Audrey: Oh, man. Okay.

Rachel: (high-pitched voice) What do you mean?!

Audrey: So, yes. (thumping hand on table repeatedly to emphasize words) I did catch a ghost on my ring camera. (clicks tongue) And that was because…part of…one of the reasons I had the Ring camera installed was to watch my dogs while I was at work.

Rachel: As you do. Yeah.

Audrey: As one does. Uh, but also to see what's going on in the house, because I was sure that there was something going on. Um, and the night that I recorded 'the entity'…

Rachel: (laughs breathlessly)

Audrey: Um, I had gotten home from work, and there were lights on in the basement, and I had called my mom and said, "Hey, you know, did you come over for any reason? Did you happen to go into the basement?" And she's like, "No." And I'm like, "The lights are on down there."

Rachel: (whispers) Spooky.

Audrey: And just, like, well, I wasn't down there and nobody else was in the house. And I'm, like…but the paddles were switched on it. So, somebody would have had to gone and actually physically—

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: —push them up, you know.

Rachel: What?

Audrey: And there's a lot of other things that have been happening. I…I feel like I had seen people walking out on…on the grounds. Um, I was living on a twenty-five-acre farm, uh, in a hundred-year-old family house. This house is, like, an heirloom for our family.

Rachel: Whew!

Audrey: So, everybody has lived there. Um, so, anyways, I caught a…a figure. A ghost. Actually, it was more of an orb, but I'd seen other things prior to that and had experiences with stuff. Um, there was also instances of, um, the door locking on my son's room when he was in there sleeping.

Rachel: Well, that's creepy.

Audrey: because I would put him to bed, and I obviously would stay up later, and as all mothers do I would go in and check on him.

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: You know, before I went to bed, and there were several different times where the door would be locked, and he knows not to lock the door. So, the door would be locked and I couldn't get into his room. About a month after that happened I moved him out of that room and I put myself in that room so that if something was going to be bothering anybody it'd be me.

Rachel: it would be you. (chuckles)

Audrey: It…it got to the point, too, where it got stressful.

Rachel: Yeah, sounds like it.

Audrey: Um, anyways, I don't live there anymore. Um.

Rachel: (laughs) Did you move because of that?

Audrey: I didn't move because of that, but it was one of the reasons that I left sooner than I had to.

Rachel: Interesting.

Audrey: Because I'd be, like…this is a big old house. This was the house that my grandfather had bought and remodeled, and, like, it's over a hundred years old. Like, we have…there's, like, dates in the cement that say, like, 1918.

Rachel: Yeah. Any European listeners would laugh at us like, (scoffs) “That's not old!” But this is America, and that is old for America. (laughs)

Audrey: Yeah! That is old. And the fact that the house is still standing, too.

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: Um, going from one side of the house to the other in the middle of the night was stressful. (laughs)

Rachel: I bet, yeah!

Audrey: Because, honestly…and I don't know if you've ever been in a haunted space, or, um…

Rachel: No, I've not had the pleasure.

Audrey: Yes.

Rachel: Or displeasure, as the case may be. (laughs)

Audrey: Most people that live in haunted spaces will tell you that you…you can feel something. Do I feel like this was a malicious presence? No. I feel like it was probably a family member.

Rachel: Sure.

Audrey: Because literally everybody in my family has lived in this house at some point.

Rachel: That would make the most sense, yeah.

Audrey: Uh, and my grandfather has who, you know, expanded the house and stuff has since passed. Um, and so I…I like to tell myself it was grandpa. But most people that have lived in haunted spaces will tell you that you could sense something. And if you're okay with it, which I am normally okay with ghosts, um, it's fine. But if you're not expecting something to be there and it's there, it sets you off.

Rachel: Yeah. Well, yeah.

Audrey: You know, even if it's a good presence! I've also recently learned that there are certain people called ‘trigger people’ where you can have a haunted space and a person can live in that space and never experience a haunting, and then another person can come in and paranormal activity will start to occur.

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: And these are called ‘trigger people’ because there's something different in their energy field that triggers the haunting to happen.

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: Or, you know, there's something about that person's self that—

Rachel: That makes sense why a lot of—especially stories with poltergeists—they come about when the, like, the children of the household reach a certain age.

Audrey: Mmhm. Mmhm.

Rachel: It's like, well, the child's lived here since they were a baby and nothin's happened.

Audrey: Mmhm.

Audrey: But they are entering a different phase of their life.

Audrey: Mmhm.

Rachel: And perhaps that's (snaps fingers) triggering something to go haywire, so, that’s fascinating.

Audrey: Yes. Yes. So, I like the theory and…and I would agree too, like, the guy that made the original argument that, you know, the advent of cinematography, like, changed the way that ghosts were perceived in cinema and books and stuff. I do think that that's probably true. Maybe there was a little bit of a shift in the way things were represented. But looking back at everything… Oh! I know what I was going to say, because we were talking about Gettysburg.

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: So, one of the things that made me a real believer other than my experiences living in a haunted house, um, was…people are always reporting that they're seeing ghosts in Gettysburg, and I've seen a couple of videos where you can see, like…there's this one in particular of…the person is shooting towards an old cannon, and all of a sudden you kind of like…and it's pitch black. All of a sudden you see, like, this…like, this greenish-gray figure in the shape of a soldier.

Rachel: Ooh.

Audrey: He's not fully embodied but he's partially embodied, like, you can only see part of ’im in his soldier's uniform, and he walks around the cannon, and then he kind of dissolves into the ether, sort of thing.

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: And there have been other videos of people taking footage in the middle of the day and soldiers walking along the…the wood line.

Rachel: Yeah.

Audrey: And that was one of the first times that I'm like, okay, this is unlike anything I've seen before, you know? ’cause it's so easy to fake nowadays with—

Rachel: Oh, yeah.

Audrey: —CGI and stuff, but it was just unsettling enough.

Rachel: Mmhm.

Audrey: Where it was, like, you know, maybe this is legitimate, you know?

Rachel: Sooky. (laughs)

Audrey: Spooky. So… (sighs) And, I mean, I could go on a whole, like…do we have four hours to report, like, a whole ’nother podcast?

Rachel: (laughs)

Audrey: No. But that is, like…I could go on forever.

Rachel: You know what I think I might do? I might turn this into, like, a mini episode for October.

Audrey: Ooh!

Rachel: For spooky season. ‘Audrey's retelling of her haunted house.’ I think that would be a fun treat.

Audrey: Yes, and it's so funny because, like I said, when I was younger, like, a…this stuff used to scare the bejesus out of me.

Rachel: Yeah!

Audrey: Like, I could not even watch movie trailers of, like, things about ghosts or scary stories because it would just…I would get sweaty and my, like, heart would start beating. And now I'm here like, “So, do you want to know what a ‘trigger person’ is?”

Rachel: (laughs)

Audrey: And, you know…

Rachel: It's funny how our interest develop over time.

Audrey: Yeah, it's just crazy. Like, I…I never figured I'd find myself in this position. And that makes me wonder…am I a trigger person?

Rachel: Right.

Audrey: Because, like, my sister and her partner lived in that house for several years before I moved.

Rachel: And nothing?

Audrey: And nothing. But I move in and it's like, “Are you going to pay rent if you’re gonna be here all the time?” (laughs exasperatedly)

Rachel: (laughs)

Rachel: Wouldn't that be nice?

Audrey: Oh, god.

Rachel: In this economic climate. (laughs)

Audrey: Yes. Oh, my god.

Rachel: Well, listeners, I hope you enjoyed that short snippet. Uh, know I did!

Audrey and Rachel: (laugh)

Rachel: And it's going to keep me up at night.

Audrey: Oh!

Rachel: Thanks, Audrey! (laughs)

Audrey: Thank you for having me.

Rachel: Any time. (laughs and signs)

(Brief outro music)