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# Is the truth re

More people are turning to mystics for advice on their everyday lives. But are they being ripped off in their quest for the truth or are there a gifted few with a genuine insight into the past and future? **by Carole Richardson, Deborah Dooley and Monica Cafferky**

Deborah Dooley, 42, from Sheepwash, Devon, is a freelance journalist and mother of three. First, she paid a visit to self-styled medium and clairvoyant Liz Coton from Bude in Cornwall, followed by a phone reading with medium Val Williams from Blackburn in Lancashire.

## Medium/ clairvoyant

**'I'm just a normal person being used as a channel by a higher source'**

**Y**ou can hide your feelings,' Liz Coton told me, a twinkle in her eye, 'but you can't hide anything from me.'

Rather nervously I settled myself down in her cosy study, wondering which of my murky secrets she was about to uncover, but immediately there were words of reassurance. 'My job,' she said, 'is to give you belief in yourself.'

'I'm just an ordinary person



Liz (left) and Deborah

who's being used as a channel for the energy which comes from a higher source,' she added firmly.

'My very first spirit guide actually said to me, "In you we've found a wonderful gob on a stick".'

As the reading progressed, Liz touched on my personal life, spotting I was 'emotionally charged'. 'Just chill,' she recommended.

Then, out of the blue, Liz suggested I should exclude wheat from my daughter's diet to help

with her allergies. 'And don't let her use them to boss you about,' she added sagely.

I felt my scepticism fading fast. This woman not only had special powers – she had used them to join us for breakfast that morning!

Finally Liz asked me to shuffle through a pack of angel cards. I chose the guardian angel. Did I feel a tingle? 'You're surrounded by love and support,' Liz said, smiling, 'and someone over on the other

side is very, very proud of you.'

As I left, I puzzled over which one of my relatives in the 'spirit world' was looking out for me – and then I decided not to worry too much who it is.

After all, it doesn't really matter – as long as someone is.

● Liz Coton charges around £20 for a 30-minute reading and can be contacted by calling 01288 355277.

## Medium My jaw nearly dislocated as my mouth dropped open

**M**edium Val Williams doesn't usually do phone readings but made an exception as I live so far away.

Val explained that she had already 'tuned in' to the spirit world and began muttering 'yes, yes' as if someone was whispering in her ear.

She then launched into an accurate description of my

grandmother, who brought me up.

'The side of my face is tingling,' she said. 'It's going numb. Did she die of a stroke?'

'Yes,' I said, remembering it vividly.

'She was a wise bird,' came the response, 'and she had old-fashioned standards. She's glad to see you're applying the

same standards with your children – but she's laughing about your youngest. She's a bit headstrong, isn't she?' Despite myself I nodded.

'She's mentioned a lovely old clock – quite rare.'

Visualising the antique clock, my grandmother's pride and joy, I almost felt my jaw dislocating as my mouth fell open.

'Don't worry so much

about dangers to your children,' she said. 'Why not channel the worry into something positive – like writing about it?'

● Val Williams lives at 1, Brecon Road, Blackburn, Lancs BB1 3JY. She charges £20 a reading. Her book, *Two Worlds As One*, is available from the same address, £7.95 plus £1.30 p&p.



# ally out there?



Karen and Bill

## Tarot reader

**Karen Zorbozan, 33, a graphic designer, from Kent, is married to Erdal, 30, a plasterer. They have two girls, Eda, six, and Ela, nine months. She visited Mysteries in London's Covent Garden, for separate readings with a tarot reader and a palmist.**

Normally, I'd never go into a shop such as Mysteries because it looks too hippy and New Age. But I wanted to find out what fate had in store so I found myself walking up a narrow staircase for a meeting with Bill Pritchard, a tarot reader.

Bill sat at a small table drinking a cup of tea. I was hoping he'd be able to use his psychic skills to predict I wanted one too – but no such luck – he just asked me if I had a specific question. I didn't, so Bill agreed to do a general reading.

I shuffled the tarot pack and gave it back to him to deal.

The first three cards he turned over

## A blonde will seduce your husband!

showed a pregnant woman, a picture of children and a fertility goddess.

Since I've been thinking about having another child it seemed spookily appropriate but I didn't let on, anxious to test him to the full.

But Bill was on a roll. 'You're going to have a girl but it won't be until 2003,' he explained.

The next tarot card that Bill dealt was the tower.

'Are you having problems with your neighbours?' Bill enquired. 'I'm picking up the fact that if you moved you'd be a lot happier.'

Once again he scored a direct hit.

We fell out with our neighbours over

a parking space and relations have been really icy. I know we'd be happier in a new home, but we can't afford to move.

Bill's last prediction, though, was way off beam. At least, I sincerely hope so...

'Watch out for a young blonde girl in her late 20s,' he warned. 'She'll be looking for a bit of action with your husband in the spring.'

Although Erdal's not the type to stray I'm sure he'll be flattered... if I decide to tell him, that is!



● Bill and Marshall can be contacted on 020 7240 3688. Both readings cost £20 and last for 30 minutes.

## Palmist You're definitely going to have a boy and soon

I moved swiftly from cards to palms and a reading, in the next room, from palmist Marshall Bowers. After examining my right palm under a magnifying glass, he revealed I'd be suited to teaching because I've 'a quick mind'. In the past, I've considered

this career option but it's not on the agenda now as I'm very happy in my present job.

Marshall also said my general health was good, which is true.

Then he suddenly exclaimed, 'Have you got a boy?' When I told him no he was adamant that one day I'd have a

son. 'There's a boy here,' he insisted, 'and he's really strong on your palm.'

I was absolutely delighted – I'd love a boy to complete my family of two girls – but poor Erdal, little does he know he could soon have more to worry about than an amorous blonde in hot pursuit!

**Journalist Carole Richardson, 40, lives in Chorley, Lancashire with her husband John and their three young children.**

## Medium/clairvoyant

**Julie works with her father who died 10 years ago**

Psychic Julie Cryer, a down-to-earth Yorkshire woman, offered me a reading at her home in Selby, North Yorkshire.

'You've got a very strong marriage. It is a lovely relationship,' she began.

Taken aback by her directness, I simply nodded. 'You'd be surprised how many people do come who are having affairs, but it's definitely not your scene!' she added confidently.

Julie works through her father, who



Carole (left) and Julie

died of cancer 10 years ago, as her contact with the 'other side'.

Sitting opposite me, she fixed her bright blue eyes on me and carried on.

'Your career is about to take a major turn,' she insisted. 'You're not fulfilled with just writing and need to consider something more profound. Maybe in

TV or radio production,' she added.

Julie then said she was getting information from my mum's mum and asked if my dad was alive. When I said no, she said she couldn't contact him. Later on, however, he 'came through'.

She correctly described him as a very slim gentleman who died from

chronic health problems. She maintained he had the start of lung cancer when he died of emphysema.

Other revelations included the fact that there would be no more house moves for my family for 10 years.

'Your home is lovely but very lived-in. You never know where things are and need to get more organised,' she said with staggering insight.

Before leaving, she asked if I was happy with my reading. Having a fairly uncomplicated life there hadn't been much to get her teeth into, she said.

Julie needn't have worried. I virtually floated out, happy to believe that after many years of marriage my husband John and I were still blissfully in love.

● Julie Cryer normally charges £30 for a personal reading of around 45 minutes. She can be contacted on 07899 793841.

We'd like to find out about your psychic experiences, so please call our telephone hotline on **0870 123 4225**