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Shades of Angels

Angels of Light and Dark, with Us in Between

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Special thanks to Linda M. Rhinehart Neas, for being a
sounding board for my poetry.

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This sweet-faced angel gazes down at a child's grave. (Photo Location: Santa María Magdalena de Pazzis Cemetery in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (c) Tui Snider)

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Dedication

For the earth angels who hold my heart and soul, my beautiful daughters Melanie and Tiffany. You are the best parts of me, thank you for always loving the rest of me.

Clearly, I am holding the last blades of the Indian Summer grass. But what of Autumn? What of Winter? If there was nothing else for me in this life, my cup overflows by the gift of you two.

I love you both forever and with all my heart,

Mom/Maam

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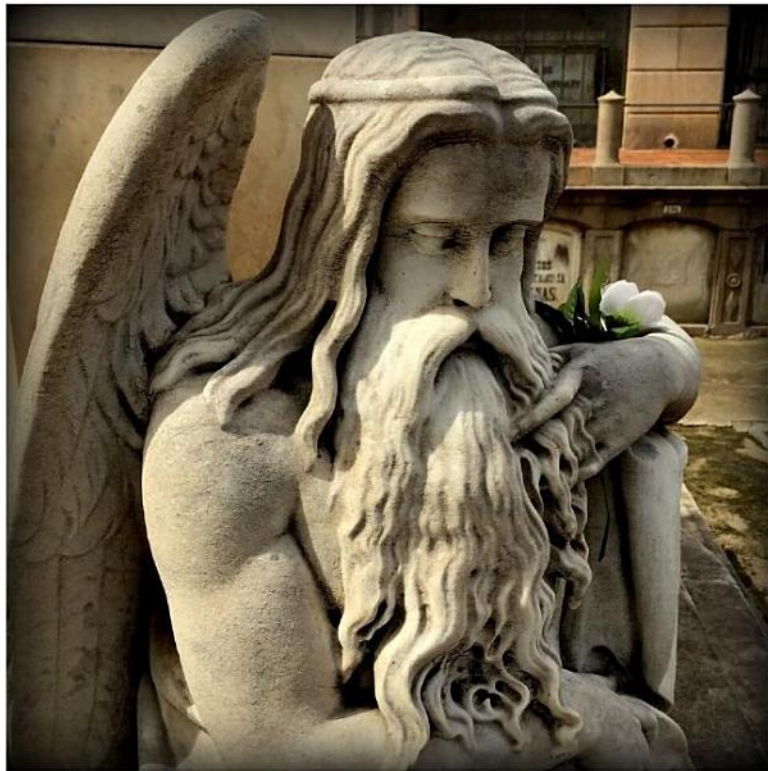
Just as angels pray for us, they also come to our defense. I'd like to have this athletic fellow (the Archangel Michael) by my side, wouldn't you? (Photo location: Santa María Magdalena de Pazzis Cemetery in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (c) Tui Snider)

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When you think of angels, a brawny bearded man is probably not the first image to come to mind, yet here one sits, twirling his beard in contemplation. (Photo location: Poblenou Cemetery, Barcelona, Spain. (c) Tui Snider)

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Preface

I believe writing is like taking a deep breath of life, summoning everything you've experienced, then letting the pen carry your inner world to papers edge, creating a space for the reader to take the journey with you. Why undertake such a thing?

My hope in offering you my beliefs in the shades of life, seen and unseen, is to bring understanding to an area where many only want to see the lighter side, when in fact, there are two sides to everything. Two points of view on any given situation, and two sides to every story. We will look at life from both sides, delving into the darker energies which are around us every bit as much as the light. In understanding this balance, we are less likely to fall for a trap or overlook a helpful intervention.

My life is filled with entities and spirits most cannot see. I do not see them all the time but often feel them near. I spent years trying to keep them away but they were there whether I decide to acknowledge them or not. Realizing this, I put my fears aside and turned my battle into a dance with this unseen but very real world. It can be a scary experience. Anyone telling you they have never been afraid, or do not have at least a healthy respect of the unseen world hasn't fully experienced it. You will read stories in each chapter from people in my life that have experienced the light and dark energies of this world, and respect them.

Know that this life we see is only a small part of what we are connected to in the universal whole, or unseen realm. When you look up at the night sky, realize you are part of that, your body contains over ninety percent stardust. The very stars in the sky are part of us. Our lives are intertwined with the heavens, the earth, oceans, and every living thing from the largest mammal to the smallest cell. We are all connected. I do not believe we lose this connection even after death.

In this book, we focus on Angels from a Christian and world view. We look at how these mostly unseen entities interact and intervene, on our behalf when we need help. Many people are taught as children that they have guardian angels watching over them, protecting them from evil. But exactly what evil? What makes up this unseen dark force trying to trap, and ambush us when we least expect it? We will look at both sides in this book. The benevolent, the malevolent, and why I believe we are caught between their longstanding battle.

The loss of a loved one, human or creature, in a sense, is a form of dying itself. When someone dies, they merely change form to adapt to their new spirit world or vibration. You enter a grieving period consisting of working through guilt, anger, and pent up emotions associated with that relationship. A piece of you now lost from this world, and yet not lost to you in the connected whole.

Even the happiest memories can bring tears as we reflect and remember. We will never hear their voice again, smell of their hair, or touch their skin. You realize all their hopes and dreams have no more chance of a tomorrow. Their life now packed away in a small suitcase or box.

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Let this realization wake you up to living life to the fullest. Dare to live your dreams, take chances and make mistakes. That is the only way to live without regrets. Do not get to your last breath saying, "I wish I had..."

Be bold. You are about to discover you are never alone. Even in your darkest moments you are not alone.

Let's begin,
Teal L. Gray

Acknowledgments

All thanks and glory to God who is the giver of all gifts.

Mark Elliott Fults - Thank you for your amazing cover art, illustrations, and chapter stories throughout the book. I believe your hand was guided by the angels as you sketched.

Tui Snider – Thank you for sharing your wonderful stories and angel photos from historic cemeteries around the world. Thank you, too, for designing the look and feel of the book, both inside and out. It truly boosts the reading experience.

Beth Deering – Thank you for sharing your encounters with the unseen. Your work with law enforcement is a gift to lives here and on the other side seeking truth and closure.

Sheila Gay – Thank you for sharing your journey and connection with the other side. It was not only touching, but could save a life through sharing your experience.

Cyn Shrader Hill – Thank you for sharing your incredible photograph of the spirits surrounding the Ouija board from the 1930s, taken at an investigation.

Barron Booth – Thank you for your tireless support and belief in me all these years. No matter how crazy my idea, you thought it

was golden. Thanks, also, for sharing your hotrod mysterious stranger story.

Athena C. – Thank you for your amazing angel animal story and sharing valuable guidance for fellow astral travelers!

Greg Stephens – Thank you for sharing one of the many terrifying stories from your paranormal investigations!

Lisa Langley – Thank you and your family Ted, Austin, and Hunter for making me feel like my room is always ready, and my place at the table will always be waiting for me. You are living proof that love and honor are alive and well.

Jeff Carey – Thank you for your encouragement and making me part of your family. Your mother Barbara is now one of the brightest stars in the sky.

Jessica and Kendall – Thank you for encouraging me and always wanting to hear just one more story when you came to visit.

Jules Beam – Thank you for being an angel to my brother Bruce. You were best friends and I know he watches over you

Becky Travis Hamm – Thank you for sharing your angel story. I will never forget the beautiful, protective energy she had for you.

Blessings to all the souls who have gone before me; whose gentle breaths from heaven blow clear my life's path, that I stumble less, and help others more.

My mother Melba, who encouraged me to write down my stories and who sparked my imagination with her own tales of growing up in the South with her family's adventures in the 1930s.

My favorite times were gathered around the fireplace, the flames reflecting in your eyes made them glow just a little bit brighter while telling ghost stories.

My father Bob who taught me to focus my attention and mark the special moments, not just in my life but moments in history. To this day I remember wanting to go outside and play and him telling me, “No, I want you to watch the men landing on the moon. You are too little to understand at seven why this is important, but one day you will be glad I made you watch this.” I am glad.

To my brothers Scott, Jesse and Bruce who are all in heaven now with our parents and many other beloved family members:

Scott, thank you for encouraging my love of music, art and entrepreneurship. Who knew that caring for fake rubber tree plants for twenty- five cents a week or selling my drawings on white paper plates for one cent, maybe five cents if the late-night house parties were happening, would have taught me so much about the art of negotiation.

Jesse, you would have been the best Forest Ranger in the world had your life not been taken at such a young age. I treasure the memories of being your Junior Ranger and learning all the wonders nature and the animal kingdom had to offer. Thank you for teaching me that friends should, like in nature, come in many different colors and from different backgrounds to be “truly groovy”.

Bruce, thank you for teaching by example that dreams are just that until you add diligence and hard work to make them a reality. You passed on your travel bug to me! I remember your first trip to Europe; Mom telling you there was no way you could go as

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seventeen-year-old you Backpack in hand, you jumped into the yellow cab headed for your first of many adventures abroad.

Teal L. Gray

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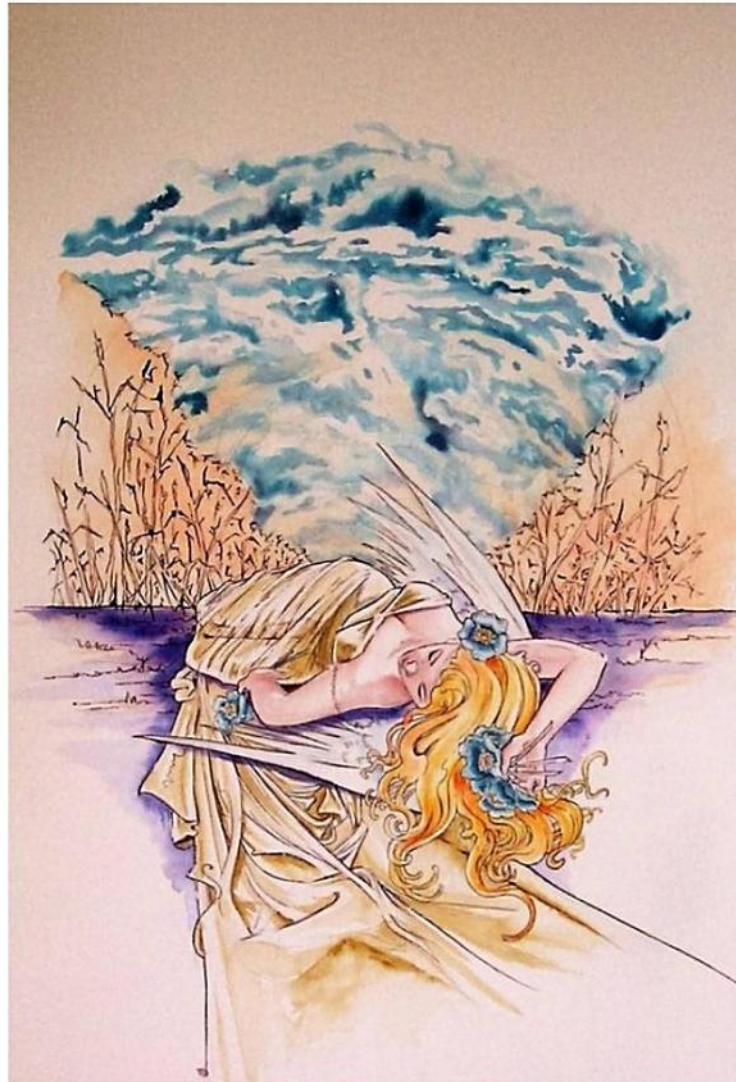


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Foreword

This book was created by a talented and fine Christian, psychic, and friend of mine, Teal Gray. I am a psychic, Wiccan, and spiritualist who has been in the field for decades. We met at a metaphysical gathering a short time ago but soon realized higher forces put us in each other's path, so that we can create spiritually imagined projects. This book is one of those, and I am grateful to be part of it.

I have seen many unusual energies and beings and consider angels to be the most unusual of all. The beautiful angel on the cover reclining in a field under a painted sky, clutching blue poppies, is one example of angel imagery but the personal experiences I have had with the very ancient energies I have seen have made me believe angels are some sort of balancing force. In my opinion, angels observe but do not interfere. There are spirits closer to our composition who do the assisting.

The angels are like generals in charge of lesser beings such as us. They also seem to be some sort of energy that is radioactive compared to ours. I believe they exist due to ancient actions. Not all of them would be attractive to our sensibilities. They usually have a dark intensity to their beauty, perhaps due to their elderly status. My interpretation of angelic energies is not typical of representations of angels. I believe there are many spirits that assist us that qualify as angelic but do not have wings. Mostly, I believe the wings were how ancients explained how these powerful beings moved with lightning speed. The angels exist at frequencies that

travel by thought. I believe ancient people thought they must, “fly” to move so quickly.

I also believe in the existence of death spirits. We would not visually consider them angels but they function as such anyway.

I also illustrate beings of lower energy composition. I give to you a balance of light and darkness. The two cannot exist without the other. We acknowledge darkness but try not to embrace it. You must confront both because that is life. There is no sweetness without the sour; no light without the dark.

In my illustrations, I channeled the best imagery I could. I am not disrespecting others ideas of angels, just explaining visually how I interpret spirits of a higher vibration. I respect everyone’s stories here and hope you understand and enjoy the visuals that I feel humbled to share with you.

Angels exist in so many beliefs besides Christian. Even witches believe in, and call to angels in ritual. They appear in so many places, that perhaps we must look at them with modern eyes. Not so much a relic from our foggy past but as a force intertwined with every living being in this, and possibly other galaxies of unknown origin. We know so little and yet there is so much to explore. I personally believe in a much higher force and embrace the belief of angels in my own way.

If only we could see ourselves as earthbound angels here to try to help, bring comfort and love, and to protect as many defenseless people as we can. In doing so, we would raise our consciousness and our moral compass to behave like angels on earth. Think how we would change. Angels exist. I believe it.

Mark Elliott Fults
Psychic, Trance Artist, Author

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Illustration (c) Mark Elliott Fults



This angel flying towards the heavens with a mortal in tow is quite a moving sight! Location: Poblenou Cemetery, Barcelona, Spain.
(c) Tui Snider

1. Unseen Realms

Night is coming

by Teal L. Gray

The night she whispers.
Pale moon, she sighs.
Night remembers what time forgot.
Sweet sorrow, she remembers you well.
Fast heart beating with love, it swells.
Angels whisper secrets we forget to tell.
Part heaven, part from hell;
very hard to tell
Only faint whispers, brushed by wings.
Night brought through in a dream.
Sweet time, night is coming.
The angel's soft voices from another room arrive,
Seeing night, your hair turned white like snow and fell,
Falling with your body to the ground,
falling, falling; then you rise.

Unseen Realms

by Teal L. Gray

Unseen realms can be a controversial subject. Passionate voices at elevated levels can be heard discussing the reality of an unseen, yet real world interacting with ours.

One side will only believe empirical evidence. To this group, if it cannot be proven using scientific methods then it should be dismissed as an odd occurrence at best. Meanwhile, someone who believes they had a personal interaction with an angel, spirit, or entity of some kind will not back down when relaying their truth of a usually profound and sometimes life changing experience.

I will not try to make you choose a side. Rather, my hope is by bringing you thoughts on religion, sacred sites, and many years of study, you will draw your own conclusions as to what you believe, and what is merely an entertaining idea or story.

There is no wrong answer. We are all on a journey. Our bodies do not animate our life force. Our life force animates our bodies, moving us along this learning experience called life. This beautiful and complicated world we live in is much like the inner workings of our bodies, and in a third connection, the ethereal or unseen realm.

Both the earth, and our bodies, are made up of about seventy percent water. Water can be changed, but it is never gone. Ice can be melted, by heating it to become a liquid. Heat it further, and the resulting steam seems to disappear.

Think of your physical body as the ice, giving the appearance of being solid. The physical components that are part of your body,

are fluid in the sense of being a living, ever changing system which I will compare as liquid for my example.

Think of your physical body as the ice, which was solid and considered physically here. The physical components that are part of your body, are fluid in the sense of being a living, ever changing system, like the liquid that could be seen and touched. Many will still be hanging in there with me when I say, the ice (your body), and the liquid (everything that makes up your internal and external physical self) was real. Now, all that reality of form merely changed once more. Not making it any less real when it became steam, or when your life force, (soul) leaves your body when you die. The difference now, is that it disappeared, and we cannot see it. However, vapor or steam is very real. At the right temperature, it can power a train! which in my mind that is real!

If you are now scratching your head, you can reverse the steps to give you back something you can hold in your hands and call real. How? Well, if you decided to capture the steam, then take the container you captured it in, observe the steam will turn once again into water. Take the container of water, put it in the freezer, and you are right back where we started with solid, "real" ice. I think it is also a way to think of the possibility of reincarnation.

Reincarnation, is the belief that after death, we begin a new life, in a new body. The Latin meaning of the word "reincarnation," means, "entering the flesh again," Like my example using ice as a representation of the physical body, we took it through the steps to becoming ice once again. It was reincarnated from steam, to a solid state once more.

I believe the same gravitational pull between the Earth and the Moon affecting the ocean tides, also affects the water in our bodies, and possibly in different dimensions, in varying degrees.

Many paranormal investigators report heightened activity being

captured on a full moon, the best being the classic, stormy, full moon night. Why? Because the spirits use the additional electrical charges in the air, to manifest themselves or move things. Spaces are generally quieter in the deep of night, so we notice activity, and faint sounds we might miss otherwise, are easier to hear.

All, but a small part of the body is made up of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus. What does that mean? About ninety percent of the human body's mass, is made of the elements of stardust. Nearly the same as the earth. Look up into the night sky, and think about the fact that you, and the earth you are standing on, are made up of what once was once the inside of an exploded star. You have heard the saying, "It is in our DNA." Well, the earth we walk on, the bodies we live in, are all part of the stars in the heavens above! We are connected.

Saturn, Mars, Jupiter and Mercury, do not produce their own light. Yet we see them, because of reflected sunlight. At least some people would agree the planets I listed are real. But if the sunlight reflecting, did not allow us to see them, and they became suddenly invisible to us, would they no longer be real because of the change in our perception of them?

We are not static, solid bodies. We, like the planets and the stars, are always changing. The earth changes and adapts to natural and manmade disasters. Look at your skin. In about a month, it will not be the same skin you see today, it will have regenerated itself. Part of what once made your body's covering, is gone. But the essence of you is still here no matter how much of your skin or organs regenerate.

What does all of this have to do with the spirit or unseen realm?

Like us, like the earth, like the stars, and every other living thing, change as part of the natural process. The examples I gave,

hopefully help you see how we are made to adapt, to change, and no matter what form, still exist. To be considered real, and interactive in some way, even if different than when we were in a solid form. But just because something is in a different form when you originally knew it, does not make it any less real. Seen or unseen, we are all connected to part of a larger collective whole.

Electricity as another example, cannot be created or destroyed, it can only change from one form to another. When we are alive, we have electrical energy, a current, running through our bodies. What happens to that electricity when we die?

It does not stay with the dead body. It leaves unseen into the atmosphere, and places unknown. Every paranormal investigator I know, has a device to pick up electromagnetic fields believed to be emitted by ghosts. Perhaps this is the form of a trace amount of energy still connected to us, when we leave the solid mass of our body. Maybe it stays with us when we transition into a spirit, or unseen form? If so, why would that be any less real? It is after all, just a different form of us.

Literally billions of people around the world center their lives on an unprovable, unseen, spiritual realm. Following some form of ritual, prayer, or meditation to various practices or gods; believing, and reporting on miracles happening in their lives, seeing loved ones who have crossed over, and being saved, or warned of danger by angels. Throughout time we have fought wars because of our beliefs. We feel the need to validate our relationships with the blessing of whatever God, or gods we worship. We baptize or christen our children and ourselves because we believe an unprovable, unseen spiritual force will protect us even after death. Why then is it so difficult to believe that we go on living in some form after death? Why so impossible to accept angels, spirits and demons are surrounding us here on earth?

Is it likely that so many people around the world would report paranormal encounters if at least a some of them were not real?

It is hard to dismiss. Not every person around the world can be delusional. It is statistically improbable. Would the stories and belief in the unseen continue throughout time, generation after generation? Not likely. They would be dismissed, and new practices surrounding a revised belief system would take over.

Do I believe in angels? Yes. I have had three interactions with what were different types of, what I believe were, angels. Two were death angels, and I discuss them in Chapter 7. My third, is an interaction with what I believe, was Archangel Metatron. I was seeking, and asking for guidance in my spiritual journey, wanting to discover new ways to use art and nature as a therapy to teach a deeper level of spirituality and connection to my clients.

As soon as I started asking I began getting flashes of light in my line of vision. This happened even with my eyes closed. The more I prayed and asked for assistance the more frequent the lights show became. They were sometimes a radiant burst of silver and gold like the sun's rays vibrating all around it as it would build. Sometimes the lights were more bar shaped with colors radiating and pulsing from it. Every time the lights showed up, I was filled with so much energy, it was unbelievable. I did not make the connection in the beginning to Metatron but my work projects were flourishing, more and more new ideas and ways to help others connect, were flooding into my mind.

I became so concerned that there was a problem with my vision, that I went to have a complete check-up. I passed with no issues showing up at all. The doctor could not explain why, I was seeing what I described to him, so he politely told me to return if it persisted.

Arriving home, more confused than when I left, I shouted out,



Native Texan Teal Gray is a best-selling author, radio host, and sacred-mysterious site traveler. As an Ordained Minister she uses years of study to lecture on mysterious and forgotten religious world practices. Her expertise in the paranormal fields of study, and ghostly encounters assist paranormal investigative teams globally. Her extensive collection of Memento Mori items helps many have a greater understanding of the practice of remembering the dead. She has amassed an intricate understanding of the unknown. Sharing that knowledge with you is her passion.

Shades of Angels looks at angels throughout history and explores how they touch every area of our lives. The book features original illustrations, photographs and personal stories from Teal and others. The book's contributors come from a variety of backgrounds and belief systems which creates added depth to this exploration of the widespread experience of the angelic realms.

My hope in offering you my beliefs in the shades of life, is to bring understanding to an area where many only see the lighter side. When in fact, there are two sides to everything, two points of view, on any given situation, and two sides to every story. I look at life from both sides. Delving into the darker energies, which are around us every bit as much as the light. In understanding this balance, you are less likely to fall for a trap, or overlook a helpful intervention.

It is important people understand when they open themselves up to the spirit world, they do not know with certainty who they are dealing with, angel, demon, deceased human or a long list of other entities. It is crucial to protect yourself.

To surround yourself with white light and ask to only hear from the good, positive vibrational messengers of God. While this is still not a guarantee, it is helpful. Angels are communicators and messengers. They work with your higher consciousness, or higher self, to relay those messages. It is your connection to the heavens and God, or a higher source or power depending on your belief system. Your Higher Self acts as a filter, so when you decide to open yourself to new teachings, or messages of inspiration, you can command your higher part of yourself to allow only that which is in your highest, greatest good to come to you, align with your soul's purpose, and assist you in every area of your life.

One of the most powerful and called upon Archangels is Saint Michael. This prayer is often used by people before and after they go on paranormal investigations, but of course it can be used for your request of protection at any time or situation.

Saint Michael the Archangel defend us in battle,
Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil,
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host.

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