

ONE AFTERNOON IN EARLY 2002, I pushed a double stroller into the naval hospital where, just a few short months prior, I had given birth to my identical twin daughters.

I sat down next to an elderly gentleman who immediately took notice of the babies and asked, "Are they twins?" This question is the most common of any question I am ever asked. "Yes, they are," I replied, secretly hoping not to be engaged further in conversation about it. The man was kind enough, but I was exhausted and not at all interested in talking to anyone other than the girls' pediatrician. "Are they identical?" he asked; thus asking the second most common question. I explained to him that yes, they were identical, they had been born fullterm (actually, quite a bit late) and they were my first and only children. "I guess that means they are the same person then, right? If they're identical, they have the same DNA." I responded to that statement before I could fully process my answer. "No, they are absolutely NOT the same person." At that very moment, the nurse on staff called my name and motioned for me to follow her back into one of the examining rooms. I was annoyed that a complete stranger had just insinuated to me that DNA was all my babies consisted of; no individuality of spirit or soul.

I had made up my mind during the pregnancy with the twins that I would do everything in my power as their mother to foster their individuality, despite the fact that they would be identical. Having grown up around quite a few sets of identical twins myself, I did not want the girls to be seen as 'the twins.' I made it a point to give them non-similar names, dress them differently, and allow them to grow into whoever they were going to be. I became so wrapped up in indentifying the differences that existed with my daughters that I initially failed to see what bonded them as twins.

Madison and Jordyn were born perfectly healthy little girls. I found it odd that as newborn babies, they didn't cry much at all. In fact, when they required attention for feeding or changing, they simply made little grunting noises and somehow I just "knew" what it was they wanted or needed. I look back on it now, and it seems like a relatively insignificant occurrence, but as they have grown, so too have the number of strange experiences I have taken notice of in their first eight years of life so far.

Madison was the first to start babbling and trying to verbally communicate. Jordyn, on the other hand, was initially very quiet and reserved, and less likely to draw much attention to herself. Oftentimes, Madison would act as if she were hungry, yet refuse a bottle when it was offered. Jordyn gladly accepted the bottle each and every time this happened with Madison. While I remember it happening and thinking it was a bit peculiar, I never considered it to be anything especially unique or uncommon with twins or any other multiples.

Both girls began their lives entirely healthy, but Jordyn's first few years of growth were frequently interrupted with one ailment after the other. She had been inoculated for Whooping Cough, yet contracted the virus anyway and remained ill for a number of months before the real problem was finally identified by the doctors I had taken her to on several occasions for her symptoms. She also contracted RSV and was hospitalized for a short period of time to help her recover. It was the first time she had ever physically been separated from her sister for more than a few short minutes. As Jordyn was undergoing painful treatments at the hospital to clear her lungs, Madison was home with other family



Madison and Jordyn at 5 years old

members and at time become inconsolable. I stayed in the hospital with Jordyn until she was released, but I distinctly remember hearing that Madison was not dealing well with the separation and everyone was anxious to reunite the girls. After a few days, both girls were back to being themselves, as if nothing had ever happened.

As the years have passed, Madison has been a continual "voice" for Jordyn when she has not wanted to speak. They have often exchanged nothing more than a glance before Madison proclaims what exactly is on her sister's mind. At first, it was a fascinating event. Now that the girls are in school, it is a constant struggle to persuade Jordyn to speak for herself and to use her own voice. It has presented me as a parent with a unique challenge, as I want to foster their connection while still helping them to maintain their own identities.

The things I once viewed as mere oddities with my children may not be the result of random coincidence; they may be indicative of what is known as twin telepathy.

Telepathy (also known as Extrasensory Perception or ESP) is most commonly defined as receiving knowledge from another without utilizing the five natural senses. Telepathy is not exclusive to twins; a strong connection between pairs of most any kind often exhibit some degree of ability to send and receive information, even physical changes or injuries between one another. Twins, however, seem to be the most telepathic of any other combination of people.

When I first began to research the phenomenon, I found one source continually popping up as the definitive literary work on the subject. *Twin Telepathy*, written by Guy Lyon Playfair was one of the most cited resources I could find, so naturally I purchased the book.

In chapter one, Playfair emphasizes the need for more study:

There have been numerous studies of telepathy since the 1880s, yet there has never been a serious study on a large enough scale to enable us to make wellinformed judgment. Not one.

Several researchers in the past have attempted to conduct their own studies, but many of them never came to any real fruition and fell under a great deal of scientific scrutiny. Others were seemingly abandoned just as they began to show promise.

Playfair provides a great many examples of firsthand telepathic experiences between twins, but it is important to note that the most significant of occurrences involved identical twins and not fraternal twins. The most documented of telepathic experiences among twins suggests that the connection is its strongest in times of pain or distress.

In addition, Mr. Playfair notes that only thirty to forty percent of identical twins are likely to possess any telepathic ability whatsoever. Identical twins begin as one single fertilized egg, and without any known scientific explanation, they split and become two separate entities containing the same DNA. I am no scientist, but it makes sense to me that perhaps something remains solidly 'one' with twins, even though they grow to become two separate individuals.

Telepathy is not about one twin finishing the sentences of the other, nor is it their tendency to share the same likes and dislikes, though it is often mistaken as such. Incidents like these are easily explained as 'thought concordance' and are dismissed as coincidences likely to occur with anyone who shared a close bond with another.

Twins, both identical and fraternal, have been a part of my life as far back as I can remember. My aunt and uncle adopted two sets of identical twins within nearly one year of each other when I was young, and several childhood friends were also twins. Being as curious as I tend to be, I have asked nearly every twin I know if they currently experience (or have ever experienced) telepathy with their sibling. Most often, their responses to my inquiry have been largely dismissive. "No, we aren't telepathic," followed quickly by a statement such as, "But we know things about each other without really having to talk about it." Perhaps if they understood what telepathy is, they might actually believe they are capable of it.

As I researched this subject a bit further, I made contact with Becky

Walsh, a professional intuitive living in the United States who has some interesting observations on telepathy and asked her to share her insights on the phenomenon.

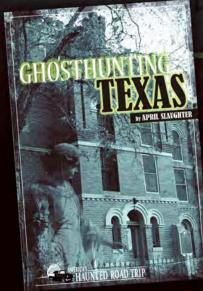
"The first thing to know is that telepathy isn't hearing words in your head. You just 'know.' There are multiple ways of knowing, without it being in word form. The words come when you try and make sense of what you know. This is why some facts become wrong. The knowing is correct, but the details are open to interpretation.

"Telepathy is something we receive into our awareness and mind. It isn't possible to go and get information from someone else. For example, if someone was to ask you to use remote viewing (being able to clairvoyantly see a place you've never been) to describe their home, it is likely the left hemisphere of the brain would try and guess what the house looks like based on the knowledge you have of that person. It would seek to work out the answer to the question. The right hemisphere is a receiver of information and if it is given the time to be open to information before the left brain starts to try and grasp it, it is likely that pictures will form of what the home looks like."

In my own tests, I have found telepathy is strongest when it has included the most important elements: love and purpose. Without love there is no telepathic connection. It exists in all people where love is present. For example, my ex-boyfriend James burst into tears one night when we were watching TV. The next day, he found out that his younger brother had just been dumped by his girlfriend. James was having an emotional connection with him. At the time, he didn't know why he was crying but he knew they were his brother's tears and not his own."

Becky also referred me to two women known as the 'Psychic Twins,' Terry and Linda Jamison. They are identical sisters who are professional psychics, and they were gracious enough to answer my questions with regard to their telepathic link.





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APRIL: Did the two of you use a "secret language" when you were children?

PSYTWINS: Yes, we wrote about this in our book, Separated at Earth. This phenomenon is called idioglassia. Our secret language was a sophisticated vocabulary of "mime-speak" comprised of beeps, funny expressions, and a complex system of mime-like gestures. We could communicate very subtle emotions and thoughts telepathically. Even today, we read each other's minds on a constant basis!

APRIL: Has anything especially obvious occurred that your twin simultaneously experienced as well?

PSYTWINS: Several years ago, Terry became extremely ill with a virus. I could not speak, hear, or walk. Linda (who was on a date at the time) felt the need to rush home, despite her boyfriend's protests. She sensed that I was in danger. Neither one of us had cell phones at that time. Linda arrived just in time to get me to the hospital.

APRIL: What is your response to the skeptics who will say that random coincidence is mistaken for telepathy?

PSYTWINS: Skeptics tend to reflexively condemn or dismiss anything unorthodox or foreign—including psi experiences and even experiments that validate paranormal experiences. Even Albert Einstein believed in telepathy. The two of us are dedicated to breaking through limitations of conventional thinking. We don't feel that we need to persuade or convince people who take a cynical stance. Our work speaks for itself.

In fact, their work is quite impressive. The twins appear to posses several gifts, including the ability to accurately predict events that have shaped our world in recent years; the tragedy of 9/11 being one of them. They have not only identified their psychic talents, they have continually harnessed and nurtured their telepathic connection with one another.

I wouldn't be so bold as to say that my twins are psychic - the test of time might see the progression of their telepathic connection altogether cease and fade into a thing of the past (if they truly share that connection

at all.) There are a great deal many more experiences had by identicals (and others who are tightly bonded) throughout the world that are far more impressive and probably more indicative of telepathy than what my children have experienced. Even still, it is my hope that more questions are asked inspiring researchers to push the envelope and once again dive deeper into the twin telepathy phenomenon and other psi experiences. After all, as Mr. Playfair so eloquently wrote in his book, "...any new discovery about ourselves, however trivial or controversial it may seem, should be explored to see where it leads."TPM

RESOURCES: Twin Telepathy by Guy Lyon Playfair

Becky Walsh, Intuitive Interpersonal Life Coach www.lightofspirit.co.uk

The Psychic Twins, Terry & Linda Jamison www.psychictwins.com

Editor's Note: Be sure to read the second part of this article next issue.



SLAUGHTER

April is the author of the popular traveler's series book Ghosthunting Texas, published by Clerisy Press as part of the America's Haunted Road Trip series. She has been a staff journalist with TAPS Paramagazine for over three years, publishing articles on all types of paranormal subjects including Demonology, Psychic Phenomena, UFOs/Skinwalkers, Faeries, Hauntings, among man others. She is one of only a small number of people to own and operate devices known as Frank's Boxes, and is a leading researche of EVP-ITC phenomena. She is co-founder of The Paranormal Source, Inc., a non-profit research and education corporation based in Dallas, Texas. www.paranormalsource.com

