

Having A Friend

— Case 72 —

When Mariana Waters was young, she boarded for several years at a Catholic school in Brazil. Up until her second year of high school, she was a joyful, self-confident girl, enthusiastically committed to her studies and involved in various extracurricular activities. As often happens with the young, however, the new school year brought increased introspection, uncertainty, and an unaccountable malaise. Her feelings seemed more intense whenever she encountered Father Jonathan, the new priest at the school. This priest wasn't nearly as good looking or aristocratic as the one he replaced, but something about him stirred Mariana's soul. When he first spoke to her, asking a perfectly innocent question about their schedule, Mariana recalls, "For no reason at all, I started to tremble ... My hands shook and my heart beat wildly." As time went by, Father Jonathan seemed more and more to go out of his way to speak with Mariana, although he did not seem to notice the effect his presence was having on her, at least not at first.

Now, this is not a tale of clerical wrongdoing, pubescent lust, or even unrequited romance. But over the ensuing year, the girl and the priest talked with greater frequency and confided ever more personal thoughts and feelings, forming a closer friendship than one might expect possible, given their limited free time and the constant scrutiny of the nuns. Most critically to this case, on the day that they first verbalized their friendship, Mariana told him that she would ever after refer to him as "Alexandre."

Mariana's senior year portended even greater intimacy, but it was not to be. The school decided to close its boarding program and Mariana's home was beyond commuting distance. Her personal contact with Father Jonathan was over, although he did write to her occasionally, the last time being in July of 1970. She did not respond to those missives.

Mariana's contact with the priest was renewed in the most extremely personal way possible. The evidence we have strongly suggests that, nearly eight years after she last saw him, she gave birth to him.

This evidence comes to us through the efforts of the Brazilian Institute for Psychobiological Research, and its president, H.G. Andrade. In 1990, the Institute received a letter from Mr. Luiz Brasil, an independent researcher, that mentioned a young boy who was claiming to have died in 1972. This sort of letter was not uncommon; the Institute receives lots of letters each year relating fantastic, unsupported, and generally dubious tales of paranormal phenomena. Typically, the follow-up questionnaires and instructions they send back do not elicit any response. (Apparently most informants don't actually wish to take the time or make the effort to perform any useful investigation.) Brasil's response was dramatically different from the norm. Its concise yet thorough account of the full details of the case prompted Andrade and company to initiate an investigation that involved numerous interviews of the parties involved.

These are the facts they discovered.

- After her boarding school, Mariana Waters continued her education through college, where she earned a degree in teaching.
- She married in 1971 and had her first child a year later. In total, she had six children, two sons and four daughters.
- On the night of May 31, 1972, she experienced a strong sense of Father Jonathan's presence and, after falling asleep, she dreamed of the priest standing on the far side of a field of lilies. They reached out to each other, but could not quite touch. The next day, Mariana's husband heard on the radio the news that Father Jonathan had just died from injuries received in a car accident.
- Eight years later, after having two daughters, Mariana gave birth to her second son, whom

she named Kilden Alexandre. There is no indication whether or not the boy's middle name was a conscious echo of the name she had previously bestowed upon her clerical confidant.

- Although Kilden was a quiet baby who slept well, soon after his arrival the family heard inexplicable knocking and banging sounds from various rooms and objects in the house.
- When, around the age of two, Kilden began to talk, he would sometimes respond to his name by shouting, "I am not Kilden, I am Alexandre!" His parents simply assumed that the toddler preferred his middle name to his first.
- Then, he began to claim, "I am not Kilden, you silly! I am the priest! I am Alexandre!" To which his parents would reply, "Oh! So you want to be a priest?" and Kilden would shout, "No! I'm not going to be a priest! I am the priest!"

Despite such adamant claims, neither Mariana nor her husband considered the possibility of something as foreign to their religion as reincarnation. Not then, anyway.

- Early in 1983, Mariana was dressing Kilden when she playfully asked him, "Where did mommy find this little sweetie?" This was a game she often played with her children and generally elicited a response about being fetched from the hospital. This time, however, Kilden quite seriously said: "You know! I was on a motorcycle. Then a truck came and hit the motorcycle. It fell over, and I hit my head on the ground, and I died, and went down there. And you got another me." "When did this happen?" Mariana asked. "When I was a priest!"

This event prompted Mariana to confer with some friends who were Spiritists¹ and she soon began to consider reincarnation as a real possibility. She even wondered if the soul of Father Jonathan might feel jealous of, or competitive with, her husband and cause trouble in their household.

- A few years later, she was moving some papers when a postcard with a picture of her old boarding school fell out of the stack and onto the floor. Kilden picked it up and, pointing to the building where the priest lived, said to his brother, "Look! This is where I lived." Then, pointing to the building where Mariana had boarded, he said, "And that's where mommy lived down there."
- Mariana then asked Kilden what he used to do there. "I played soccer with all the boys, you silly! You ought to know!" Which, in fact, was a favorite pastime of Father Jonathan.
- As Kilden grew older, his memories of being Father Jonathan faded, yet his personality and his likes and dislikes reflected the priest's in an impressive number of ways. These included: a habit of speaking in rhymes; a penchant for practical jokes that sometimes go too far; an almost fanatical love of soccer; and an extreme like, almost a worshiping, of the saint John Bosco.
- Once, when he was twelve, Kilden made a point of how much he hated the name of a particular girl, even though he liked the girl. That name, his mother remembered, was the name of a girl in her school who was especially naughty and used to laugh at the priest.
- Another time, his father brought home some fruit² that was native to the area of the boarding school but was not known in any area where Kilden had been raised. Nevertheless, Kilden said that he remembered eating such a fruit "a long time ago."

Of all these facts, the one that stands out as most convincing is 2-year-old Kilden's statement that, as the priest, he had been killed when a truck hit his motorcycle. This is because the radio announcement of Father Jonathan's death had clearly stated the cause as a car accident. It was not until several years later that Mariana found out

¹ Spiritism is a religion akin to Spiritualism, except for its emphasis on reincarnation.

² This was apparently some Eugenia (*Eugenia uniflora*) a.k.a. Brazilian cherry.

that Father Jonathan was on his way to City Hall when a truck hit his motorcycle and caused his death.



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Source:

This case was derived from the English version of the book *Reborn for Love*, by Hernani Guimarães Andrade, Roundtable Publishing, 2010. The original Portuguese version of which was published as Proceeding #7 of the Brazilian Institute for Psychobiophysical Research in 1995. As with the original document, the names used here are pseudonyms to protect the privacy of the people involved and for ease of comprehension by English-speaking readers.