

My Travels as a Ghost

By Marilyn Reeves

Since I lack the where-with-all and the who-with-all to travel, my adventures in this lifetime are most likely behind me. But once I kick the bucket, if I could come back as a ghost, why, the possibilities would be endless!

First, I'd probably want to rest up for awhile, perhaps just levitate a foot or so above my tombstone to scare away vandals and to welcome anyone who stopped by for a visit. But after a while, I'd probably get restless and decide to roam about. Maybe make a little mischief, or even do some good, if the opportunity presented itself. What I would NOT do would be to hang around dark, dank basements or creepy old attics. Keeping company with spiders and other spooky spirits like myself is not my idea of a good time!

I would probably wander out of the confines of the cemetery and see what there was to do. Oh, look there! A big bully is threatening to beat up on a little kid. I would fly over, grab his fist in my icy grip and – with the scariest, most ghoulish face I could muster – stare right into the depths of his soul and hiss, “You mess with him, kiddo, and you’ll have to deal with me!” And if he had to run home and change his trousers, maybe next time he’d think twice.

Next stop, a young man standing at the edge of a bridge, contemplating suicide. No, I wouldn't want to do the whole Clarence *It's a Wonderful Life* thing, but if I were to just sort of float up into his line of vision and say something like, “You jump, you end up like me!” ... perhaps it might give him pause to reconsider. It would be worth a try, anyway.

And then there's that mean old Mrs. McGillicutty ... wouldn't it be fun to help her misplace her glasses or her car keys? Maybe slyly open a bottom drawer for her to trip over? Nah, I wouldn't do that, would I? After all, just what kind of a ghost do I want to be?

I would most definitely like to tour the world – go places I'd never been in my past life. No worries about food or sanitation, as ghosts are beyond all that, but I could sit in cafés and hover in corners and just learn about all the different people around the world and see what makes them tick.

And since I'd have all eternity to run about and play, I might take a long nap for a century or two, and then see what was out there when I woke up. The possibilities would be endless ...