



# The ghosts of Ohio<sup>®</sup> Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 22 Issue 2

## WHAT A WEIRD WAY TO END 2024



James

UFOs. Drones. Possible disclosure?

As I write this, we're still a few weeks from the end of 2024. And yet, it's becoming abundantly clear that 2025 is already gearing up to be a wonderfully weird year.

By that, I mean all the stuff happening with the drones or whatever they are flying around US skies.

It started in New Jersey and has now spread across multiple US states. I got sucked into it when it was announced earlier this month that the threat of drones briefly shut down Ohio's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base as well as Stewart International Airport. This public/military airport is very close to my childhood home in Orange County, New York.

I have no idea what is going on. But I've noticed something happening in the field that I find very encouraging; people are asking questions and starting to do their own research.

It feels like it became a necessity as soon as the drones went mainstream and all the disinformation started. Let's face it; you know you've hit the mainstream when people purposely go out of their way to create fake videos.

I have no idea where this will end, but I hope the trend of taking closer looks at things and thinking for oneself remains. It has fallen by the wayside in the paranormal community, and I'd welcome its return.

Cheers,

James A. Willis  
Founder/Director



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

**WET FOOTPRINTS**

Jennifer B., Pataskala, OH

I live in Pataskala, Ohio, reasonably close to the south fork of the Licking River. The house is not very old, and I've never had any paranormal experiences. The home and property have no weird history—it's pretty standard if you ask me. Of course, there was that one instance where I experienced something I still can't explain.

It was a few years ago, around Christmas time. I was sound asleep in bed when I woke up for reasons I don't understand. I don't know if a noise woke me up or if I was just rolling over, but what I saw jolted me awake.

I saw a woman standing alongside my bed, maybe 3-4 feet away from me. Close enough that even in the darkness, I could make out that she was wearing jeans and a green short-sleeved shirt. Long black hair. If I had to guess, she was in her early 20s. She was standing there, looking at me. She wasn't floating in the air or all misty-looking like in the movies. She seemed pretty standard, except for one thing: she was soaking wet. From her hair down to her feet, it looked like she had been drenched in water, dripping off her.

I was unsure how long I had been looking at her before I sat in bed. At that point, the woman seemed to notice I was looking at her. And with that, she raised her arms to me as if asking for help. Then she disappeared.



I know I wasn't dreaming because as soon as she disappeared, I jumped out of bed and turned on the lights. Of course, my husband was out of town on business, so I was alone. I grabbed the baseball bat in the bedroom and ran from room to room, thinking someone had entered the house. But no one had, and the security system hadn't been triggered. So, I have no idea who or what I saw.

I've often wondered if the woman I saw had somehow met an untimely death in the Licking River, and no one knows what happened to her. She's just a missing person. Maybe that's why she was asking me for help. Of course, that's just speculation on my part. I've even asked the ghost to return; perhaps I could help her. But so far, she has yet to return.

# MOVIE REVIEW

## RED ONE



James

Those of you hanging around me for a while (or reading this newsletter) know I have a special place in my heart for holiday movies. The weirder, the better, even if that means my wife banishes me to the basement whenever I want to watch some of them (*Santa and the Ice Cream Bunny*, anyone?). So, when I saw the trailer for *Red One* pop up, I thought, "I can't believe what I'm seeing. I NEED to see this movie!"

Before I get into my review, I must address the plethora of bad reviews for *Red One*. Most of them repeatedly focus on the same bullet points, so one wonders if all these "reviewers" are cutting and pasting their reviews (but the Internet would never do that, right?).

*"I can't believe they gave Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson \$50 million for this movie! The entire movie cost \$250 million! There's too much CGI and too many plot holes!"*

To those people, I ask: What exactly were you expecting *Red One* to be? Even a brief, surface-level bit of research would turn up some interesting things about *Red One*:

- One of the writers was Chris Morgan, who also wrote many *Fast and the Furious* movies, some of which starred Dwayne Johnson.
- The other *Red One* writer was Hiram Garcia, who also produced *Jumanji: The Next Level* and *Jungle Cruise*, both of which starred Dwayne Johnson.
- *Red One* was directed by Jake Kasdan, who also directed 2 of the *Jumanji* sequels/reboots.
- *Red One* also stars Captain America himself, Chris Evans.



So, let's be honest; can you claim to be surprised that *Red One* was so absurd, over the top, and full of gaping plot holes? I wasn't. And I loved every minute of *Red One*.

Personally, I don't care how much a movie costs to make. Granted, I have a soft spot for shoestring-budget independent movies, but generally, I want a movie to make me feel something. *Red One* did precisely that and allowed me to enjoy it for what it was. It is a ridiculous attempt to modernize the Santa Claus mythos.

In a nutshell, *Red One* tells the story of what happens one Christmas when Nick (aka Santa), played by J.K. Simmons, gets kidnapped, and it's up to Nick's head of security, Callum Drift (Dwayne Johnson), to get him back and save Christmas. To do that, Callum needs to team up

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## MOVIE REVIEW, CONT.

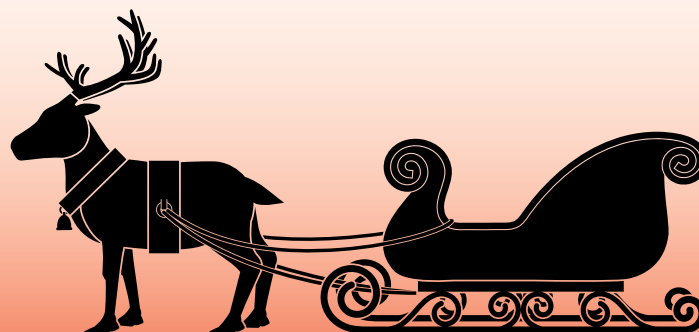
# RED ONE

with non-believer and Level 4 Naughty Lister Jack O'Malley (Chris Evans). So essentially, you get the whole “mismatched couple forced to work together” mixed in with a bunch of “divorced dad who wants to reconnect with their son, but they can't because, you know, he's out there trying to save Christmas and all that.”

From talking polar bears to more explosions and fight scenes than you can shake a bunch of mistletoe at, *Red One* certainly isn't taking any bold steps outside, say, the Marvel Cinematic Universe mold. What makes *Red One* enjoyable is something they don't do; take themselves too seriously.

*Red One* ventures into new territory when they put a new spin on the “How does Santa get it all done in one night?”. Again, some of it is silly and downright hokey, but it works. There's also the whole idea that *Red One's* big baddy is none other than Grýla, the Icelandic witch. Some of her children, the infamous Yule Lads (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more on them), are also included in *Red One*. However, I did have to sit through the end credits to verify who they were, as in the film, they are portrayed as nameless henchmen. And kudos to *Red One* for incorporating Krampus into the movie (although, according to *Red One*, Krampus is Santa's “adopted brother”).

My overall takeaways on *Red One* were that it was silly, ridiculous, and sometimes downright pointless. But sometimes, that's all we're looking for in a holiday movie.



## BOOK REVIEW

# Life With the Afterlife: 13 Truths I Learned About Ghosts

Amy Bruni

Grand Central Publishing (2020)

Available at [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#)



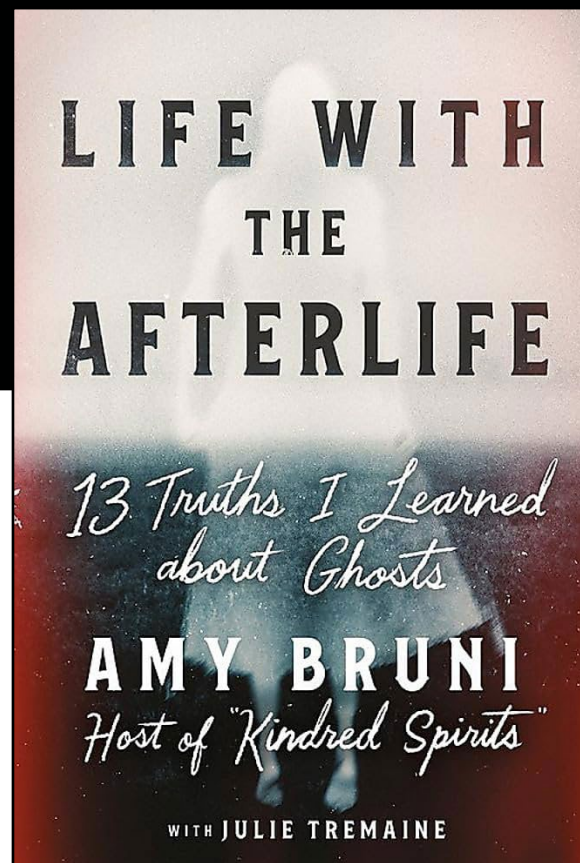
Frank

In a previous newsletter, I reviewed a book by Steve Gonsalves and happened to purchase Amy's book, *Life With the Afterlife: 13 Truths I Learned About Ghosts*, at the same time. I won't detail everything she ever discovered in the

paranormal realm. Still, I will give you an overview and comment on some of the investigator partners who work with her occasionally. In short, I found this book quite different from Steve's.

Amy started investigating at an early age with her father, who was a physicist. She accompanied him on many investigations, and Amy states that she knows less about the afterlife now than when she started.

In the book, Amy says, "No scientific tests exist to prove these paranormal phenomena we experience are real; there are no definitive conclusions to reach." I agree with the point about testing for the paranormal, but I would say there are many conclusions to be reached, as paranormal activity happens constantly.



I met Amy on one of her first group outings with some of the *Ghost Hunters* cast at the Stanley Hotel in 2007. She relates how she joined the group and began participating in investigations throughout the country. She felt that ghosts were people, too, and she was troubled by being rushed through production without ample time to help the spirits.

This is how the idea for Amy's television show, *Kindred Spirits*, was born. The concept was to find ghosts and help them achieve whatever they needed.

Amy felt very strongly about not directing spirits "into the light." But instead to identify why they were still hanging around. To have a conversation with them, so to speak. Amy hopes you take one thing from her book." It's that most ghosts are not frightening." If you are talking about

(continued on page 6.)

BOOK REVIEW CONT.

## Life With the Afterlife: 13 Truths I Learned About Ghosts

residual energy or EVP recordings, I would agree. However, being confronted with a “shadow figure” would scare many investigators into the following week. Not to mention poltergeist activity in any way.

In the book, Amy mentions the tools and applications of the investigator arsenal: digital voice recorders, K-2 meters, SLS cameras, and Spirit Boxes. I am reluctant to say anything positive about the SLS and spirit boxes. Some of these devices were created specifically for TV intrigue and to catch anything resembling spirit activity.

One of Amy’s friends, with whom she has also worked, is psychic Chip Coffey. Chip had his television program several years ago, working with youth in the paranormal. I met Chip at the Stanley Hotel event in 2007 and found him very cordial; later, I asked him to give me a reading just for my own experience.

Another team that Amy works with is Dana and Greg Newkirk, who collect haunted objects but never seem to be influenced by them. I recently attended a presentation in Columbus, OH, and listened to the Newkirks’ story. They feel they don’t have crazy experiences because they are curiously unafraid and seek to learn from the objects. Others collect objects, too. Zak Bagans has a haunted museum in Las Vegas, and John Zaffis has a museum near his home. Again, what good is a haunted object if it doesn’t haunt someone?

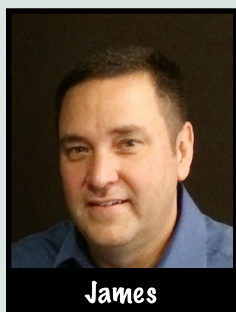


Throughout the book, Amy recounts her investigations from Wavery Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky, to Mount Washington Hotel (now known as the Omni Mount Washington Resort) in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, along with some international locations. Undoubtedly, she is very well-traveled and has been on many outings.

My takeaway from this book is that most of her investigations seem incredibly successful. I have been on many investigations and have yet to have as many conversations with a spirit as she has. Perhaps I suck at it, as I’m still waiting for my first one. She has been fortunate to be in the right place and made well for herself at the right time. I suggest you get the book and discover the 13 Truths she learned about ghosts for yourself.

I’m half-tempted to tell you to look in the Fiction section of your local bookstore.

## MEET THE YULE LADS



James

In Icelandic folklore, there exists a troll-like creature known as Grýla. While not originally associated with the Christmas season, Grýla's penchant for roaming the countryside and asking for handouts was what would eventually connect her.

That's because Grýla liked to ask for "naughty children" that she would take away and eat. Over the years, Grýla would become further tied to the Christmas season when she became the proud owner of the Yule Cat—a gigantic cat that would always be on the prowl for someone who had not received new clothes for Christmas. Once found, the Yule Cat would devour them. But it would be Grýla's children that would forever cement the Christmas connection. Enter the Yule Lads.

Grýla's children were too numerous to mention for hundreds of years and were known by various names. In 1932, a book of Christmas stories and

poems, *Jólin koma (Christmas Is Coming)*, was published. The book contained a poem about the Yule Lads by Jóhannes úr Kötlum. This poem gave Grýla's children a specific number (13) name and a particular day and purpose for each.

The poem stated that the first of the Yule Lads would show up on December 12th with a specific plan to bring about some Yule tide mischief, usually tied to children not doing their chores or not keeping an eye on the winter foodstuffs. A new Yule Lad would show up each day until Christmas Eve, at which point all 13 Yule Lads would be hanging out in your home. Then, starting on Christmas Day, the Yule Lads would begin to leave, one day at a time over the next 13 days. The first Yule Lad to arrive is also the first to go.

So, for those of you who still might have a few Yule Lads in your home (or you want to prepare for next year), here's a list of all the Yule Lads, the day of their arrival, and what sort of mischief they like to get up to.

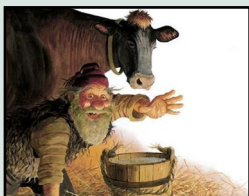


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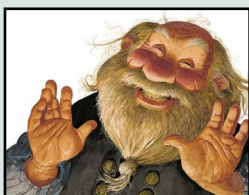
## MEET THE YULE LADS CONT.

**Stekkjastaur (Sheepcote Clod)****Arrival:** December 12**Departure:** December 25

Likes to harass sheep and steal their milk. His stiff legs/knees hinder him somewhat.

**Giljaguar (Gully Gawk)****Arrival:** December 13**Departure:** December 26

Will hide in gullies in sight of cow barns, waiting for opportunities to sneak into the barn and steal milk from the cows.

**Stúfur (Stubby)****Arrival:** December 14**Departure:** December 27

A very short man who likes to steal cooking pans, especially ones with bits of food stuck to them.

**Þvörusleikir (Spoon Licker)****Arrival:** December 15**Departure:** December 28

Likes to steal wooden stirring spoons and lick them clean. They say he's hoping to taste something sweet.

**Pottaskefill (Pot Scraper)****Arrival:** December 16**Departure:** December 29

He's after cooking pots, which he will have a "scraping fest" with, scraping out all the leftovers to eat.

**Askasleiker (Bowl Licker)****Arrival:** December 17**Departure:** December 30

This guy is a little creepy because he hides under children's beds, waiting for them to place a wooden food bowl on the floor. Then, he licks the bowl clean.

All illustrations are from Brian Pilkington's book *The Yule Lads*.  
Order your own copy [HERE](#)



## MEET THE YULE LADS CONT.

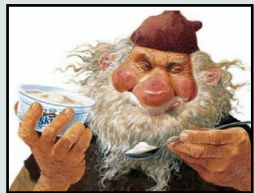


### Hurðaskellir (Door Slammer)

**Arrival:** December 18

**Departure:** December 31

Waits for people to sleep and then runs about the house, slamming doors to wake people up and keep them awake.



### Skyrgámur (Skyr Gobbler)

**Arrival:** December 19

**Departure:** January 1

Loves Skyr (type of Icelandic yogurt) and is known to break open the lids of the Skyr tubs and devour the entire contents.



### Bjúgnakrækir (Sausage Swiper)

**Arrival:** December 20

**Departure:** January 2

Hides in the rafters of the home or smokehouse, snatching any sausages he sees.



### Gluggagægir (Window Peeper)

**Arrival:** December 21

**Departure:** January 3

The Icelandic version of a Peeping Tom, he likes to peek inside windows to see what he can steal.



### Gáttapefur (Doorway Sniffer)

**Arrival:** December 22

**Departure:** January 4

Born with a gigantic nose, which he uses while standing in entryways to determine if there is fresh bread baking inside.



### Ketkrókur (Meat Hook)

**Arrival:** December 23

**Departure:** January 5

Hangs out in the rafters and uses his hook to snag any meats that are drying/smoked.



### Kertasnikir (Candle Beggar)

**Arrival:** December 24

**Departure:** January 6

Follows children around to steal their tallow candles so that he can eat them.

# CLOSING OUT 2024 WITH SOME WILD APPEARANCES

While our traditional “Spooky Season” tends to run through Halloween, 2024 was slightly different. We were out and about through December, including unveiling a brand new Merry Scary Christmas presentation!

Of course, there was GalaxyCon Columbus, which was...interesting, to say the least. Despite not being listed in the program (not even my booth number) and my name not being attached to any of the three panels I gave, you all still managed to track me down! That, in and of itself, made the three-day event a success!

Sculptor Tom Tsuchiya, designer of the Lux Mundi statue



## EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you’ve always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it’s supposed to be doing? Or maybe you’ve created some paranormal equipment you’d like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help!

Drop us a line at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line “Equipment” and we’ll take it from there!



## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here’s all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line “Newsletter Ghost Story.” Be sure to also include your name as you’d like it to appear with the story. We’ll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



# THE GHOSTS OF OHIO CALENDAR

We're still ringing in the new year, but five presentations/appearances are already on the calendar!

The following are only the confirmed dates—much more is in the works. While the following dates, times, and topics were current when this newsletter went to press, they are all subject to change, so please check with the individual location to be on the safe side. Additionally, we post any modifications to all our social media accounts, so give us a Follow/like to stay in the loop.

Unless an event is marked with a "\$," it is free and open to the public. However, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue about the need to pre-register.



*Wednesday, January 15th @ 6:30 pm*

**Cryptids Across the US presentation**

Pickerington Main Library

201 Opportunity Way

Pickerington, OH 43147

More information [HERE](#)



*Wednesday, February 19th @ 6:30 pm*

**Creatures at the Ohio Border presentation**

Pickerington Main Library

201 Opportunity Way

Pickerington, OH 43147

More information [HERE](#)

*Saturday, March 1st -Sunday, March 2nd, 2025*

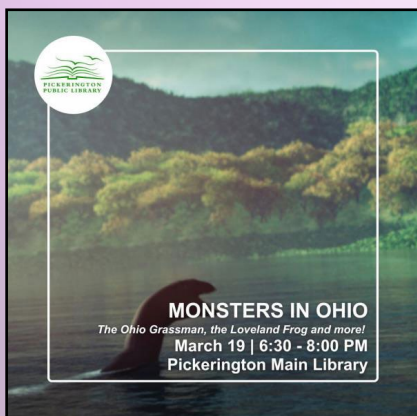
**Frogman Festival III (\$)**

Oasis Conference Center

902 Loveland-Miamiville Road

Loveland, OH 45140

[TICKETS ON SALE NOW](#)



*Wednesday, March 19th @ 6:30 pm*

**Monsters in Ohio presentation**

Pickerington Main Library

201 Opportunity Way

Pickerington, OH 43147

More information [HERE](#)

*Thursday, June 26th-Sunday, June 29, 2025*

**Haunted America Conference (\$)**

Lewis & Clark College: Benjamin Godfrey Campus

580 Godfrey Road

Godfrey, IL 62035

[TICKETS SOON](#)

[www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances](http://www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances)



# 2025

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



**From all of us here at The Ghosts of Ohio**

## Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio have begun scheduling investigations and consultations for 2025. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Do you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>

## Interact with The Ghosts Of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts Of Ohio lurking online:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

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