

People

## She's a real-life ghostbuster!



"It's a special ability," says Jane, of her ghost-hunting talent.

**When forks fly and spirits stir the air, folks give Jane Doherty a call . . .**

there's no one there, a whiff of strange perfume, a shadowy figure at the top of the stairs. Call them ghosts, spirits, whatever—just so long as you can call someone to get them out of your house!

That someone is Jane, a teacher turned assertiveness trainer and psychic. Not only does she claim to commune with spirits, but she can also make them leave!

Looking back, Jane says she was born to do what she does. She says her mother and grandmother had psychic abilities, and Jane has always been intrigued by things otherworldly. After her two children were born,

she left teaching and began to take courses in paranormal phenomena. As skeptical as she tried to be, she came to believe she had a gift for interacting with the spirit world.

Ten years ago, when a distraught woman called the Jersey Society of Parapsychologists to say there was a ghost in her house, Jane volunteered to investigate. The woman's husband had died 15 years before during what was supposed to have been a simple operation. Since then, the house had been filled with freakish things: bursts of coldness, appliances that flickered on.

Suspecting it was the spirit of the woman's husband, Jane went into a trance and made "contact" with his spirit.

"He was only trying to say goodbye," Jane recalls. And once he did, thanks to Jane, he moved on. The haunting stopped and the woman felt better knowing her husband was at peace.

"Ghosts are usually loved ones who want to help us or remind us of something," Jane says. "They can't hurt you."

Mischievous ghosts, like the ones who throw forks, may need more of a nudge. Jane tells callers to order them to "go to the light"—spirit-speak for "go away." If that doesn't work, she suggests sprinkling sea salt in the corners of the house to break up negative energy ("I don't know how it works," Jane shrugs, "but it does.") If that doesn't work, she investigates.

If she senses spirit activity, her stomach pops out, protruding as much as three inches before it contracts again. It's hard to believe until you've seen it.

"Jane's very intuitive," says Christy Igoe, who contacted Jane about flying keys and other odd goings-on in her Cape May, New Jersey, inn.

Jane had barely reached what used to be the servant's quarters when her stomach popped.

"I sense a woman here, a chambermaid from the late 1800s," Jane told Christy. "But she's comfortable and finds no need to move on."

Since then, Christy's named her resident spook Elizabeth—and jokingly asks her to pitch in and clean the place.

"If I can help people, I will," says Jane, who doesn't charge for her investigations. "If I can't, I'm the first to admit it."

Jane's investigations take her all over the state. She even assisted at a dig, identifying sites (a well, a hospital) that archeologists later confirmed.

"These days, people are thinking more about spirits and are not as afraid to talk about them," Jane says. "Especially around Halloween!"

**"There's always more activity at Halloween"**