

# ‘Ten murders in my flat?’: what happened when I called on an exorcist

Worried that a haunting might tank the value of his home, Jack Ling enlisted the spirit world for help



Jack Ling | Saturday March 08 2025, 12.00pm, The Sunday Times

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‘I think people were murdered here,’ says Antonia Harman, an exorcist who has swept into my Tudor flat in Godalming, Surrey, to rid it of a poltergeist. A former TV presenter who once blew bath suds at Keith Lemon in an episode of *Cribs UK*, Harman began her mystical career in 2009 when she evicted a small Victorian child from a Sloane Square townhouse rented by the *X Factor* semi-finalist Diana Vickers. The child hasn’t been heard from since. Nor for that matter has Vickers.

Harman is a peroxide-blond picture of paranormal glamour. Cassocks are *so* out: she is wearing hot-pink lipstick and a fuchsia jumper by the fashion designer Julien Macdonald, another celebrity friend, who helped to dress her while she hosted the TV quiz show *Sweet & Sassy*. There are no crucifixes or vials of holy water in her

Prada handbag, and she won't be chanting Latin litanies while bleeding my radiators to release trapped spirits. This is because Harman's exorcisms are gentle and progressive, and involve consideration of ghosts' feelings. "I retire them to a place which is their version of paradise," she says. "My own version of paradise is the bar at the Ritz."

No wonder she charges £3,000 for a 50-minute session. Ours begins with some context about my poltergeist — which, I tell her, is quite genteel, as ghosts go. It only knocks on doors if it intends to enter a room, and when it rearranges my furniture, it always ends up looking better than before.



The exorcist Antonia Harman

What I don't tell Harman is that I am smug my flat is haunted, because I consider hauntings to be a mark of a property's desirability. You always hear of ghosts living in Victorian piles and elegant Georgian townhouses, but they wouldn't be seen dead in a new-build — they're described as soulless for a reason.

Unfortunately buyers do not see things this way. Last month it emerged that a landlord, [Nicholas Sutton](#), had accused his former tenant Adele of sabotaging the sale of his West Sussex manor house by suggesting it was haunted. Given that Sutton doesn't seem to have budged from his £6 million asking price, some said the only thing spooky about his excuse is how transparent it is. However, numerous estate agents have reported that hauntings negatively impact property values; one of them, House Buyer Bureau, estimated that sellers of affected houses have to reduce their asking price by a chilling 17 per cent on average.



Terrified that a haunting might tank the value of my flat, I had no choice but to call in Harman, whose business is called [Divine Empowerment](#). She is now consulting with three psychics (Spring, Codrina and Jayney) via the medium of smartphone.

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“There is an old unhappy spirit here, a lady spirit,” Harman says eventually. “She feels threatened because you’ve been researching how to get rid of spirits in the house. She’s angry about it. She doesn’t want to go. That’s their home. Who are you?”

“I’m the owner.”

“Yes, but they would have been there with the previous owner,” she retorts, before asking me whether there has been any paranormal activity in my area.



Godalming is filled with ghost stories



Godalming is a ghost town. And not just because everyone who has a life has left. On the high street you'll find the King's Arms hotel, where Tsar Peter the Great stayed overnight in 1698. Some say he never checked out. Nearby is a car park where 300 skeletons were exhumed in 2013 during a routine archaeological survey for an affordable housing development. After that discovery, paranormal activity in the town has exploded, and its ghost population is now Malthusian in scope.

Alarmed, Harman decides to deal with all of the spirits in the immediate area first, by using her most powerful tool: a "cleansing tornado, to sweep up a lot of different beings a square mile around your home".



The King's Arms hotel in the town centre, where Tsar Peter the Great stayed overnight in 1698

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"It's not going to be actual wind," she reassures me after I mention that Storm Herminia has just blown through. "It's more like an energy vortex." Then she falls silent, closes her eyes and begins to breathe deeply.

This goes on for about two minutes. Then Harman opens her eyes and announces that her tornado has sucked up 3,000 spirits, most of whom had been hanging out in the car park, which had become a sort

of Asbo playground for ghosts. This is Martin Lewis-approved exorcising: £1 per spirit removed, going by Harman's standard rate.

But what of the spectral old woman? And the murders in my flat? "There have been at least ten murders over the 450 years in the building, including murders in satanic rituals," Harman says solemnly. "The older woman was psychopathic and murdered people with poison. She was demonic and killed at least four people. She wanted control."

You never truly know someone, I think to myself. Harman falls silent again, bobbing her head and breathing heavily as she mops up negative energy relating to the satanic rituals and ushers my ghost to the astral plane.

"Does everything feel happier and lighter?" she asks after three minutes pass. It does. Not because my serial-killer flatmate has gone – but because the value of my home won't be her final victim.

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