

BOOK REVIEW

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Visitations from the Afterlife: True Stories of Love and Healing, by Lee Lawson. San Francisco, CA: HarperSanFrancisco, 2000, 224 pp, \$22.00 hb.

Lee Lawson, the author of *Visitations From the Afterlife*, says of this book about communication with deceased loved ones, "These visitations are love letters from the infinite." The more than 80 experiences she has collected greatly extend the concept of the near-death experience that emerged more than a quarter of a century ago, when Raymond Moody reported that people who had "died" reported supernal visions of their own bodies and of a glorious realm of love and beauty. Each experience unique, individual, and personal, the effect around the world was enormous and resulted in the formation of the International Association for Near-Death Studies and expanded our awareness of higher levels of consciousness, such as the out-of-body experience. *Visitations From the Afterlife* proclaims that after-death communications are even more common and affecting than other extraordinary states of consciousness.

Lawson's reporting of the numerous people who have heard, seen, or experienced contact with friends or relatives is more than a mere cataloguing. She has arranged her messages into significant categories and explained the circumstances and the impact of these brief but powerful reunions. These accounts reaffirm the reality of a higher realm and of life's continuation, with life-changing consequences and a cheering assurance to everyone that death's somber mien is far less real than the joyous and loving link with those we love.

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