



COLETTE BARON-REID'S
INSIDE THE WOONIVERSE Presents...

I TALK TO DEAD PEOPLE

The Medium Next Door

With Maureen Hancock

Colette:

Oh, hey there and welcome to INSIDE THE WOONIVERSE. Now I am your host, Colette Baron-Reid, welcome to another fabulous episode of our limited edition podcast series called I talk to dead people. Joining us today is one of my most favorite people on the planet I have to say. She is a world-renowned spirit medium, teacher, holistic healer and author of the best selling book, *The Medium Next Door: Adventures of a Real-Life Ghost Whisperer*, Maureen Hancock. Maureen has appeared as an expert guest on so many TV shows, there's too many to name. But radio, print publications, you name it she's been there, including the new Ricki Lake show, Gaia's Open Minds, Martha Stewart and CNN and, and, and. Anyway, Maureen has spent the last 22 years I think even longer, Maureen I think that's probably longer than that, but anyway, demystifying the overwhelming subject matter of death and dying. And spends much of her time giving back by assisting those with terminal illness through hospice. She's really one of the most interesting people I've ever met, and of course we're friends. Welcome Maureen.

Maureen:

Hey, thanks for having me. I'm so excited to be here Colette.

Colette:

I'm excited to talk to you. Obviously we have been friends for a long time and it's great to have you on the show, but I actually know how interesting you are and I want my listeners to know too. Because really your story and how you became a medium and how you fell into all of this and everything that you do I think is just fascinating. If you don't mind, let's go back to the very beginning to your beginnings. What was your childhood like? How did you start sensing energy and starting to sense spirit? What were some of your earliest experiences?

Maureen:

I had lead paint poisoning. When I was two years old I chewed on the window sills and the cribs. Now back then everything was lead paint based. And I slipped into a coma and I was in the



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Children's Hospital in Boston for about a year straight and in and out for two more years. My mom always said, "You were in the hospital for three years."

Colette:
Wow.

Maureen:
And I had brain shunts, my head was swollen and in a coma. When I came out, which was a miracle in itself, I used to see what I now know were dead people walking around my room. I said to one of my sisters, "Who are all these people?" And she was like, "Shut up they're going to take you back to the hospital." I zipped it but I did notice and remember that these people walked through walls. I was five years old at this time, which don't you think that's the age for a lot of us woo woos?

Colette:
Yeah. Sure yeah me too. Anyway, go on.

Maureen:
See that. Then I kept it to myself it was overwhelming and I would pull up the covers and they would just stare at me and they looked like pilgrims. That's all I can describe because they had old garb on and they would just stare at me and oh, go away. I shut it off as a lot of children do at a certain age. Then it came back as a teenager. Hormones I feel for me and a lot of people it sort of re-sparks what you had as a child. At 25 years old I was in a horrible car accident, fell asleep at the wheel. Stormy March night in Boston. Can you tell it's wicked awesome.

Colette:
Wicked awesome.

Maureen:
You did a little cross between New York and Boston by the way.

Colette:
Yeah right I didn't quite get that right.

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Maureen:

I was working in a law firm in Boston, super tired. I had gone out to the Roxy, which was a famous nightclub in Boston for years and years. I was the designated driver, but I was so tired from the work in the law firm that I dropped off my friend, my sister and then it was one of these where your eyes get heavy and boom, I hit a tree. I felt my grandmother with me. My grandmother lived with us, she had just passed away the week before, Maggie Mac, head of the god squad, squeezing the beads rosaries. I just remember I had just taken my seatbelt off because it was going into my neck. Almost home and then I broke every bone in my face on the steering wheel with the impact. I remember hearing my grandmother on impact oh, Maureen. Then I also felt a warm rush go through my body. It was just like gram? Then I was outside of a completely crushed vehicle.

The pictures of my car it looked like an accordion, where you see a car and you say that person did not make it out alive. The woman who called 911 who owned the tree where I hit, she said somebody shook her out of a sound sleep, and she heard "wake up, go downstairs, go downstairs". She lived alone. There I was at the door, Night of the Living Dead by the way, I looked pretty bad. She was so hysterical because I looked awful, she just gave me a towel. The fire rescue team came, they brought the jaws of life, but the victim me was not in the car.

Colette:

How did you get out of the car?

Maureen:

Yes, so they kept asking me over and over how did you get out of the car? I don't remember. But I said to them, "I opened the door." And they were like, "No, your doors aren't functioning it was crushed." And there was no hole even though my face hit the steering wheel and then the windshield, it didn't open. So there was no way. I know it was my grandmother without a doubt. Then I was shipped off to a local hospital where they did the CAT scans and whatnot, saw everything was broken. I had spinal fluid rushing out with a fractured skull my nose, cheeks, jaw right down the middle of my face. Then I was at Mass General and Mass Eye Ear in Boston. They did a second CAT scan because I was supposed to have all this emergency surgery, they did the second CAT scan and all of a sudden everything was healed.

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Colette:

Wow.

Maureen:

I was in there for weeks because they couldn't understand why. I've had no surgery to my face even though everything was broken, strike a pose.

Colette:

I love the way... Pay attention to her face.

Maureen:

Even just-

Colette:

Looks pretty good.

Maureen:

Stitches all the way down the middle, and my nose was just powder. Broke all the bones behind my eye, which is a little bit smaller than the other one. But I never had any problems, it was divine intervention. Then I started to hear dead people, I started to hear them. And it was all the time.

Colette:

That's really interesting. I want to stop you there because it's the auditory piece. Because for a lot of mediums, a lot of people that I know, first of all your story of having the accident and whatever and whatnot. We've heard a lot of stories from other mediums that have had something that jarred them out of their body in some way. But I find it really interesting too about when you saw things and you were scared and like go away, and then all of a sudden started to hear them. Was it like whispering? Was it like... Because I also began by hearing and I'm like no, I just hear the stories. I'm like how do I know all these things? For me it was like I was me remembering voices that weren't voices that I recognized it was bizarre. Was that the same memory or was it like they're right there talking?



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Maureen:

It's definitely just like you, where hearing these voices and they weren't mine. I also was doing all kinds of holistic healing on the side, so Shiatsu massage and Reiki on folks. Meanwhile, I was litigation manager at Logan Airport, so we'll talk about how 9/11 that was the shift for me.

Colette:

Oh my God.

Maureen:

But I would be rubbing somebody's feet and I would hear hey, I'm Billy her father say hello. I'd be like what? Then I'd tap the person and be like, "Do you know Billy?" "Yeah, that's my father, but he is dead." And I'm like I know. It was really bizarre.

Colette:

The physical thing. Okay, so you also found it with touching or massaging the feet. Curiosity too, so you had a regular day job as a litigator, right? Head of litigation at the airport. Then you have, you've got all the legal stuff. Did you know that I went to law school too? That's just so funny, I don't think you and I ever told each other this story that's very interesting. But I never got as far as you did. But anyway, so did you study, because I know you have a lot of degrees in Chinese medicine etc. Is that when you started taking classes and then actually doing it as a part-time job or?

Maureen:

Yes. So-

Colette:

Is that how that came?

Maureen:

I was working at a law firm in Boston and the head of the workers comp department came up to me and now I'm like 20 whatever, 22 years old, 23. She's like, "Oh, could you sign these for me or do this for me?" And she's like, "And I'm a shaman and you're a shaman and I would like to train you in Reiki and holistic healing." This is 27, 28 years ago when people were like what is it



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Reiki, Reiki? That's how that started. Then I would leave my job in Boston, go to Cambridge Mass and studied at the Boston Shiatsu School.

Colette:

I wanted to put those two pieces together for the listeners too.

Maureen:

Yes.

Colette:

Because the relationship between the energy medicine, because those things are energy medicine right?

Maureen:

Mm-hmm.

Colette:

And then touching. Because I also had the aromatherapy, that's how I started hearing. I touched the hand or I touched their back and all of a sudden it's like hence why this is happening. I'm like oh just like how do we know that? I know. Were you totally freaked out?

Maureen:

Yes. Like you said Colette, it's like your hand is going into an outlet like it's a plug. I was freaked out, I was like what is happening? I didn't like it. I had it as a child I could see them, but now hearing the auditory piece is so different. Then tumors would start to disappear for people because I started complimentary therapies for Old Colony Hospice back in the day when they were just starting to introduce it to hospitals and hospices and whatnot. But I would put my hands on somebody dying-

Colette:

Mm-hmm.

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Maureen:

My whole body would shake and then sometimes there'd be miracles and it wasn't me. I always said oh, I was working for the god squad, but amazing things started to happen. I was litigation manager at Logan, and I hope I'm not getting too ahead here but-

Colette:

No this is great.

Maureen:

Then 9/11 happened and my office overlooked where the planes took off and so it was a constant reminder. I had just had my second child, and my whole life changed because they were doing a big layoff at Massport. I said you know what I'm out, I can't take all the energy. I started hearing voices, I call it the voices of 9/11. I started a widows group to help local Boston widows who lost their husbands in 9/11 and families as well. Then just everything changed. I started a cancer foundation to do holistic healing, quit my job or put in for the layoff. I bought a massage table and I was on the road going to homes of people with end stage cancer, any cancer that couldn't leave the house.

Colette:

That's interesting. Why did you move? I want to put the mediumship and the cancer together somehow, because I know that there is, where would those two come together? Give me a tiny bit of the bridge.

Maureen:

When I'm hearing all the voices and whatnot and putting my hands on people, but then deciding I would be best served helping those that are sick and volunteering my time. I started the cancer foundation, but in order to get money for the foundation, you ready for this? I planned a dinner and drinks with the dead at a restaurant. 200 people and I had never done a private reading. I just knew I had these new found abilities. I throw another curve ball, I was doing standup comedy in Boston on the side.

Colette:

Okay.

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Maureen:

I know there's so much.

Colette:

But this is good.

Maureen:

I created this event called postcards from heaven. It was a dinner show, it was like my wedding with the dead to raise money because I didn't know how else to do it. I'm like I have a skill, I also have comedy. I'm going to marry the two. I became the comedian medium, and I never did a private reading, but 200 people come out on stage guess what I heard? Crickets, crickets.

Colette:

Crickets.

Maureen:

I'm panicked, I'm like hello anybody? Bueller, Bueller. Then all of a-

Colette:

Bueller.

Maureen:

All of a sudden I hear, "That's my wife Rose, I died in an explosion." Sometimes it comes in choppy, "this was in my face. I was leaning on this woman's chair I'll never forget this", and I said, "Is anybody rose?" And she raised her hand. I said, "Did your husband die in an explosion?" And she almost fainted. I scream.

Colette:

You screamed.

Maureen:

Because I'm just as wowed as they are. Then it just went and then it flowed and I'm like I can do this. Then had this money, and what I would do is give it to people or other practitioners to help work on. Because then the word got out like that, and everybody was like help me, help me,

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help me. I was always clear to say I'm going to empower your healing abilities. I never said I'm a healer, I say we're all healers and I'm just going to relight your pilot to help you heal whatever part of yourself is willing or is going to open up to healing. Not everybody gets that miracle, but the miracles are found in different ways don't you think?

Colette:

Yeah, totally. I've heard before you and I got to be friends I'd heard of your reputation. I'd heard of all these different things that you had done, and some of the anecdotal stories of people who had outrageous experiences with you both with mediumship and spontaneous healings that you were like wow, I don't know. I love that about you, the fact that you never were claiming to be anything. You just say listen, I just feel compelled to show up let's see what happens. Most of this was volunteer. I do want to mention that to people too, that everything that you did around this particular subject was volunteer. You just did it for people to see what you know hey I don't know what's going to happen, but here I am.

Your reputation still is as profound I would say, because it's definitely profound. The comedian piece I think though too enables people to laugh over something very, very serious. I know you and I have talked about this. When I went to England where they're used to having people that train in a spiritualist church, and I am like you I crack jokes. I'm like "hey so and so's here, this is the street you grew up on is that right? Yes." Then it'd be a funny thing and they were laughing not knowing am I allowed to laugh? Because apparently you just don't laugh. I love your style of mediumship because you're just in there, you became the comedian medium. It made people feel safe to hear and experience these really profoundly painful things too.

Maureen:

I always say it's a celebration of life and memories. They'd rather see you smile, and of course you have times of deep pain and grief. But when you can fight through that a little bit, I feel like a layer of energy is removed so that your loved one in spirit can get through to you better. Because as we know, there's complicated grief and sometimes that is such a heaviness that folks will say to me, "Why can't I feel my loved one?" I'm like well, you might be an overthinker, you're always in your head or maybe you're in complicated grief. I always have a list of grief counselors I can recommend and I make it very clear I'm not a grief counselor, but I can be a bridge. I do it in such a light way that I'll have an audience crack up. But what it does is it opens the aura I find an opening through laughter.

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Colette:

Me too, me too. I find that as well too that, that kind of quick there's the crack, there's the crack I can get in. And it's just natural, I know for you it's just natural. Every medium is very different and individual, but it's like I love the way you do what you do and that's why I love to work with you too. For those of you listening, if you don't know, Maureen and I have done many events together as a dynamic duo, and it's been pretty spectacular. I know that you're self-taught, so that you became what you are by trusting. Would you say that's true, that you trusted? Did you just follow along? How did that work for you? Or did you actually go and get training?

Maureen:

No, no training and it was scary. I didn't know that there was training. At the time 20 whatever six years ago, I didn't know that I could reach out or take classes. I didn't know about the spiritualist churches or folks that you could go with training. And now when I was already a working medium, I found Rita Berkowitz who's a local spirit artist and I trained a little bit. But I was working at Logan, I would come to class late she wouldn't let me in because it disturbed the energy. I get it, so I would sit outside like the bad student and then come in at the end and do some practicing. But yeah, I trusted. At first I questioned, I had lots of panic attacks and I was the anxiety girl, which I think is why I found humor, because I use humor when I'm nervous and I cover up my anxiety disorders. I would be a wreck, sometimes I'd come on stage and I can't breathe because I'm having panic and all of these people hoping and looking and they don't know-

Colette:

Looking at you like-

Maureen:

Literally I'm like don't faint, don't faint, don't faint.

Colette:

Don't faint.

Maureen:

Oh yeah. Then flopping like a flounder. I did almost faint a couple of times, but now I found that way that I'm just going to be me and take me or leave me because I've had people write to me

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and say it's not funny. I'm like I know it's not funny, but if you can just smile you can find joy through grief.

Colette:

It's interesting because when people think it's that humor or having the comedic aspect of it, or a humor of the whole thing that isn't true. It's just that your personality is very specific, and you're able to talk about it in a way that is humorous. But it's not that you make it funny. I think that that's the thing people don't understand, and that's likely somebody who hasn't actually seen you work. Because you aren't making fun of it. Typically, what you think a comedian would do is make fun of something and you don't.

Maureen:

No.

Colette:

But you bring a lighthearted delivery. It's your delivery that's very, you kind of remind me a little bit of Lucille Ball, like the New England ex-Catholic version.

Maureen:

And you know what, it raises the energy in the room so the readings are so out of this world that people are able to laugh and instead of like oh, they're so closed off.

Colette:

To receive it.

Maureen:

Thank you, mm-hmm.

Colette:

They're not so vulnerable. That's what I've seen you do, you've melted some people that have come in they're closed tight because they're so scared and vulnerable. You get so accurate first and then they say oh my God, you can see and hear. It's really the evidence which is so key. Maureen I love this, we are going to take a little break we'll be right back, so listeners please stay with us we'll be right back.

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Colette:

Welcome back. We're here with Maureen Hancock also known as the medium next door. Let's get back into this incredible conversation. Maureen let's talk about what you have experienced. You call yourself a spirit medium. So spirit I'd love to hear your description of that. Also, if we could segue into talking about what you believe the soul is in your experience, because we talk to dead people and what does that even mean now to you?

Maureen:

Spirit medium, I say spirit medium I just never really loved the term psychic medium even though-

Colette:

Me neither.

Maureen:

For me it doesn't work for me and it's all about spirit and lightness and love and whatnot. Yes, can I tune into the past, present future? Yes. Can I read the Akashic records? Of course. I think we all have abilities as well, but my focus is on spirit and the soul just like you said. I love when people ask me like well, what's the difference between spirit and the soul? Sometimes I'll use a weird analogy because folks will say, I'll say, "Oh, did you have your gallbladder taken out?" And they're like, "Yes, but I can still feel pains." I say well, because that spirit, that sort of energy is still there even though they remove the physical thing, hence the spirit body still exists outside of the physical which I call the leased vehicle. So when the lease is up-

Colette:

The leased interesting, the leased vehicle.

Maureen:

Leased vehicle yes. When the lease is up this driver is going to step out and I'm in the light body a different type of vehicle, much cheaper and just fly high. I also will be asked what if, my sister asked me this, her son passed, "What if Sean reincarnates before I get there?" I bet you've been asked this before.

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Colette:

Mm-hmm.

Maureen:

And I say, "Well, he's telling me it's going to take a long time and he's waiting for his soul group which includes you and his sister and his dad and everybody." Then they'll come back as a soul group if they so choose. Then I say, "But you're going to see glimpses of Sean in your daughter's children," which that is more like the spirit and not a full blown soul reincarnation where the soul has come back. Are you on the same wavelength as me?

Colette:

Yeah. I've always looked at it like the soul is the connection to spirit and it's immortal, and it takes its shape. I always say the soul stewards the body, and the personality comes from experiences in a human body and memory etc. But I think the soul holds all memory, I agree. The reason I bring this up, especially around kids, and I don't know if you know about all the studies, but I'm sure you do actually about the reincarnated kids who'll be three or four years old and then describing to their parents that they actually lived somewhere else. That they had a different family and that they could actually tell you everything about themselves. Then the parents then actually go find out that that's true. So it is very interesting.

In terms of soul group I sit on the fence. Like I believe that yes, but I also know that because of all the studies of these kids who are talking about experiences that they had in World War II or whatever, that there's also we don't always know how the soul group manifests itself. I believe too because I'm seeing my dogs show up in my other dogs, like when one dies then one starts to behave like I look in the eyes like are you in there? I've always been curious about that and I know that you have a strong belief around that. I'm just really interested-

Maureen:

I love that.

Colette:

I think that we don't know enough about it, but the soul is always there.

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Maureen:

It's true. And when you just brought that up about the dogs, same with my dogs. I feel like I'm getting little pieces of my dogs, and of course I have one sitting right here she has her own personality, but I think she has many pieces of my chocolate lab, this is a husky. So that they can show up just like you said. And as a matter of fact my son, one of my sons when he was three years old, was writing his name in Chinese at the kitchen table. I brought it to Chinatown in Boston because that's where I live. They said this is a very popular boy name in China. And so it was validated and he said to me my son, "I was an orphan, my parents were killed and we lived in this," he described the place at three years old so I totally agree with you.

Colette:

It's usually around three, four, and then the kids forget about it as they get older. That's what all the studies that I've seen that they seem to all be like three or four years old, and they were having these incredible memories because they haven't yet formed. I do think the soul and the ego, and we know that developmental psychology says a child from zero to six is when we take in everything, we're like a sponge. So that it makes sense that before they're six they're also capable of remembering all these other past lives. That really does prove that the soul is immortal, it really is. And reincarnation, I believe in it and I believe 100% that it's true.

I think what's really interesting that you've talked about, I'm going to borrow your leased car thing. You give the car back and maybe you'll have a new one, maybe you'll take a class or something in between. But I think that, and tell me if you feel this way too, or that you've experienced this. Because you know that we're recording this and when you guys hear this, our listeners, it's going to be a few months after. Some big things have happened in the US for example where there was a mass shooting. I want to talk about your work with kids, because I think kids that die young, who says when their lease was up or not up? There's that whole thing like people say everything happens for a reason. I don't believe that, everything happens to find meaning. What happens to the kids? Because I know you've worked a lot with parents who have lost their children. Let's really just segue a little bit into your experience with children.

Maureen:

I love that you said that because I'm on the same wavelength Colette about it's not everything happens for a reason, and you did say like finding the lessons in things but also free will of this horrible person that made an awful free will decision that changed the course of everything.

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However, these parents are changed and their lives are shaped in a different way now, but it can be beautiful at the end or whatever there is no ending. But I've worked with not only parents who've lost children, that's still my work to this day. I offer free sessions for parents who just lost children, but I have so many on a wait list and I do that every single day. And I just love to give back. The kids that I've worked with, with my hospice work, I go to hospitals and homes and I've helped thousands of children pass.

But mostly the families who are trying to deal with that, the kids are warriors, they are the superheroes of the world. One little boy I worked with over Skype when Skype was a thing. Every day I would meet with this six year old boy Johnny, and we would talk about anything he wanted to. He wanted to know about the angels and heaven and what was it going to be like? His parents were very upfront with this little boy who was such an advanced soul about death and dying, the afterlife and signs. They set up signs and he'd have his cereal and believe me I would go off and ball my eyes out. He would be eating his cereal, "Maureen, tell me about heaven. What's it going to be like?" And my heart would just shred. He's like, "Am I still going to be able to do crosswords?"

He was just like the cutest thing. I'm like oh yes you are, and you're going to have all the answers. And he'd go yes to every answer, so brave. When Johnny passed the parents had me on with them. The dad was a bit of a skeptic at first. He was like, "Who's going to be there for him because everybody's still alive? Who's going to be there for Johnny to greet him?" I said, "Somebody named Helen." He turned white and he said, "My mother was Helen but she passed when I was 12 years old. She didn't know Johnny." I said, "It's an all-knowing, it's an all-knowing." He was John too. I'm like, "John, it's an all-knowing that she does know Johnny and she sent him to you, and she's there for him." Then he passed, the little boy and a ray of sunlight came through the window and they have pictures and made the sign of a cross on his chest.

Colette:

Oh wow.

Maureen:

Then at the services he wanted to be a firefighter, so the whole fire department showed up and they had the hook and ladder, the hook and ladder. And a ray of sunlight, they had an American

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flag, went through the flag and made the sign of a cross saying almost like Johnny smiling from above. The kids are just amazing and pure, and with the tragedy that just happened, the mass shooting in Texas it's like, and even Connecticut, these kids are the warriors. They always say to me like I'm doing great work, I'm working with other children, I'm a counselor, I'm a teacher, I'm helping humanity. We're trying to help you all. But they always say like we are okay and you're not okay, but we're going to get through this.

Colette:

Mm-hmm. I think what's amazing for us as mediums is to be able to recognize when these, I mean the parents are shattered but these kids they really want their parents to heal. They aren't stuck in the tragic ending, they are already over it and they're like okay now, we got to talk to my mom and my dad and tell them they got to stop fighting or whatever. They'll describe everything that's going on in the household, I'm sure you've experienced that too. I think that when we lose these kids, Sandy Hook that whole thing too, I know I think you worked with some of the parents there. And to realize that these kids they want more than anything that the parents find some kind of solace out of their passing, even though it's so tragic. That they're so quick to come through and say okay, this is what they're doing and this is what they got to stop doing. I love them and they got to stop crying all the time. They're so in it afterwards.

Maureen:

Exactly. I also make it my goal now to teach them how to have and create a nonphysical relationship with their child. And with that is I say we're all mediums. There's different levels and it's like we're playing an instrument every day Colette. The parents I hook them up with classes and teach them, send them some of my videos. So many of them say to me, "I am surviving because you taught me how to connect to my child myself." And that I don't need a medium because you know there's such a thing as medium addiction and you have to be careful.

Colette:

I call it oracle abuse. Medium addiction exactly, they just keep going to the medium to want to talk and they can do it themselves. I think that's really a beautiful gift that you have to offer people, is to be able to teach especially parents who have lost their kids a way for them to communicate with the child after that real deep grief. I think it's too hard when you're still in that real deep grief. But then I know that a few parents have said they have been able to make that connection and it's very much a living relationship for them and it's not fantasy it's genuine.

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Maureen:
Right.

Colette:
There's a genuine way to communicate mm-hmm.

Maureen:
For everybody listening and watching, I invite you to listen. So it'll be that inner voice that sometimes comes in your language, your inner voice but it's their words. That's one of the most common questions I get asked is how do we differentiate between our own voice, our own mind, thoughts and whatnot and that of spirit? And spirit will keep repeating, spirit will nudge you, especially a child. It will be like look over your shoulder, look, look, look, look, and you look as you're driving and a truck's coming at you. I have them have conversations. Hey Johnny, what are you doing today? Hi mom, I'm having fun with my friend Mikey. Let that imagination come, but it turns into a reality of a connection.

Colette:
And you feel it in your body, right? Do you notice that? It's like the difference between wishful thinking and fantasy, which is very mental. It's a mental thing, it's in the intellect it's up here or above. Whereas when it's real it just feels like a plunk in your body, it just is you don't even question it. Oh, well that just happened. Oh, why do I think that just happened? Because it did.

Maureen:
I love that.

Colette:
It's not a-

Maureen:
A plunk.

Colette:
A plunk that's what I call it, it's the plunk.



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Maureen:
Kerplunk

Colette:
Kerplunk

Maureen:
Kerplunk.

Colette:
It's just there. That's where the imagination can be the bridge to the plunk. But the plunk is just oh, this is just very real. This just is. You can't even question it. You question it afterwards that's the thing. But I always tell people go back to the plunk, go back to that initial when did you just feel it before you started to decide that it wasn't real?

Maureen:
Or the quickening, right?

Colette:
Yeah.

Maureen:
Do you get the chills, then all of a sudden you're doing the dishes and you just get goosebumps up your legs or the chill. I call that a hug from heaven without a dream. They're present, they're in your aura, Elvis is in the room in the house, they've entered.

Colette:
Just out of curiosity because I know a lot of people would want to know how the boundaries and systems are set, that you would set or teach people how to work with given that we are looking for a container. It can't just be all over the place because that's when it gets weird, when people get very ungrounded and go to too many mediums and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, and give their power away. What are some of your container ideas or boundaries that you work with and you teach people?



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Maureen:

My biggest lesson in this lifetime is boundaries just myself and just regular everyday boundaries with people. And so boundaries with spirit for me I had to come to that point where when I'm off, I'm off. I teach people like listen, when you're out at a restaurant bar whatever, a lot of my students they want to practice then, especially if they add alcohol. It's like no. Having that confidence it's a false confidence, it also can bring in a lower vibration. I always say make sure that you're in the space to receive, get into a meditative or a praying state, quiet spot and let the ego at the door because a lot of them want to show off or like look what I can do and it's not like that.

Colette:

Mm-hmm.

Maureen:

Then just boundaries for parents is setting up that sacred time or space to do that, and that only allowing spirit in when you so choose where so many let spirit run the show. They'll become fearful because at night they're hearing a bang or the door is shutting, water's running. Playful, mischievous spirits come in almost like when you use Ouija board and you're not trained or table tipping. There's a lot with the spirit boundaries that I try to teach and just go with a reputable medium that you have gotten recommendations about. Don't go into the neon sign corner store psychic. I think I'm going a little bit off of what you're talking about Colette, but is that along the lines?

Colette:

Yeah, I mean you just talked about a lot of things that I think will be interesting to people. So setting boundaries, I'll summarize what I think you just said then you tell me if that's what you said. But having a safe boundary where you decide yes or no I've turned a tap on I've turned a tap off.

Maureen:

Mm-hmm.

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Colette:

If I were to imagine that I don't want to see pilgrims walk through my house. That's just not going to work for me, hello no. I saw stuff when I was little too, but I am not interested in seeing anything. When a medium says oh, I see your dad behind you I'm not going to ever say that because I'm not looking to see anybody. I don't mind hearing the story, but you're not allowed to show up behind anybody, otherwise no, that's a boundary for me. I do find that the East Coast of America specifically New England is so busy.

It's my favorite place to do mediumship I swear to God because it's like we have crowds of dead people there that just can hardly wait to talk. But I also have to set triple boundaries there. When we lived in Connecticut and New Hampshire, I'll never forget the time I was on the phone with a client because I was still doing private readings then. And the person I was describing to them I'm saying do you see this? I'm seeing this person in my head and I'm describing them, and then all of a sudden that very guy walked right past me and through into my kitchen and I'm like that's it, I'm not going to-

Maureen:

Let's move,

Colette:

Let's move now. I'm not having that, I'm just not. Saying that I'm now off stage we're done. Also, I want only a safe container, I would never work with Ouija board.

Maureen:

Never have, never will.

Colette:

I have be doing this for eons. Never in a million years will I touch something or table tip.

Maureen:

I don't like that either.

Colette:

No.

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Maureen:

For me.

Colette:

For me. Again, it's for us. So any of you listeners that are loving the Ouija board and the table tipping go ahead, we're not saying you're bad or wrong just for us like [inaudible 00:40:02]-

Maureen:

And be trained. I would recommend be trained don't just go into it raw or say let's have fun with this or giggling. You have to be trained and you have to know what you're working with and how to set the boundaries, so thank you for that.

Colette:

Like to say I'm done now and not be on all the time, because it really is I thought I had to be on all the time in the beginning and it did feel like I was constantly sticking my finger in a socket. My hair was in fire, because it just felt like there was too much energy all the time. Then I realized wait, I'm going to get really sick if I don't do something different. Then I didn't know oh, you can say no, wait a second. You can actually say no, we can say no.

Maureen:

No is a complete sentence, love that. I was at a gathering like a party or something. Back in the day it was like oh yeah, I would just look at someone and they'd come over and be like are you seeing anything? You get anything? Now I can't stand that because I'm like no, I'm out with my husband I'm not on. But at that time my ex-husband's best friend came over to me and he was cocky. And he was like I don't believe in this, I want you to prove it to me right now, tell me who's around me. I was like, "I'm not working right now." He was like, "Yeah well, you need to work." I said okay. I knew he was a CPA and so I went and got my checkbook and I said, "If you balance my checkbook right now I'll talk to your dead father." I said, "Do you want to do my taxes?" And he got it. He got it he was like oh, okay I get it, I hear you. It's okay to say no and you can't always just come out with it.

I was at dinner with my husband sitting at the bar to have dinner, and a woman next to me was like, "I know who you are." And I'm gracious like okay. She's like oh, you've helped somebody it's like okay. Then she was drinking and she said, "You need to tell me right now what my



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husband's mother's saying." I said, "Oh no," the meal came, it's always been the meal came. I said, "No, I don't do that." I said, "I promised my husband when I'm out, this is our date night." She grabbed my arm and squeezed it hard and she was like, "You need to tell me something now." And I said no and she was like, "Am I going to be okay?" I said, "You're going to be fine." She took that as a message.

Colette:
Right.

Maureen:
Started screaming in the restaurant, fell to the floor, had a psychotic break they had to call an ambulance. My husband's a psych nurse and so he tended to her. But my point is, especially you mediums out there, have discretion and have boundaries and be able to know when it's right and when it's not. Because what if you read somebody and you don't know where they're at psychologically or the health of their psyche and you can cause problems. Be very careful out there and have discretion and ethics.

Colette:
I have some opinions about that because I really do think that a lot of people have mediumship abilities. But just like there's a lot of really, really accurate psychics, but that doesn't mean that they're spiritually or psychologically sound. That's one of the reasons why I really like how you teach because you get people to really understand their own shadow content that they, especially mediums who are in training now. They're like okay, so I need to take care of these things and be very aware of where the other person is coming from. And learn to ask what kind of questions you have to ask them about their state of mind before you actually take on the reading. Because you can't always discern that. But I think that that's what we have to get really good at is because you do have a responsibility when you're working with somebody. I love calling you this, you're an Olympic gold medal medium.

Maureen:
Thank you.

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Colette:

Woo-hoo. How do you actually stay in shape, psychically and psychologically how do you stay in shape?

Maureen:

What a great question, I have never been asked this before. I have to get body work done, so self-care is so important as the energy worker. I'm a Shiatsu practitioner so I have a friend who does Shiatsu, and I need to get that done. Do I have it done as much as I should? No. I go every day out in the woods to the conservation land with my three dogs and I tree bathe. I think that is number one for everybody. No matter what you're going through you're grieving, you're anxious, you're doing energy work, get out in nature because that's where you're going to feel spirit that's where you're going to get signs. But for me I prepare because I do three to four live events a week on stage and I need to take care of the vessel.

I just will burn the candle at both ends so often. I need to eat well, I do try to do clean eating. What does that mean? I don't do gluten or dairy, I cut down on sugar. If you cut down on inflammation in the diet your mind is clearer. I teach intuition nutrition, so that if you're doing all organic non-GMO and you're cutting... I was 10 grams or under sugar and my readings were through the roof, just to give you an idea. Do I have time to meditate? Not really. But on my way to a show will I pray? Yes. You should see I'm like Jesus. Blessed mother come in, I have a devotion to the blessed mother, she visited me in my car accident.

I have faith without a brick building, but I've also studied all different religions. I really lean towards the Buddhist way and just compassion. We're just all love and we're light, but really taking care of this vessel no matter what's happening in your life is so, so key just for your sanity. My sanity is taking a vacation and taking a break from spirit. I was just on top of a mountain in Costa Rica holding a retreat, but I still had time for me. I got into the waterfall every day and the beach. Salt water is a teabag for grief and inflammation, so almost every day in the summer I live about a half hour from the ocean I get in the ocean. Even in November, you can see pictures of me in the water, in the ocean because I'm Irish.

Colette:

Yeah because you're Irish. I do salt baths because I also feel like salt baths are like it mimics the ocean. I'll put two or three cups of salt in my water into a hot bath and sit. I'm glad that you

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brought up the intuition nutrition piece because I find gluten doesn't impact me the same way, but sugar for me it's dangerous. I have to be so careful around sugar because it will create anxiety or at least if I have the anxiety to begin with it will exacerbate it, and it does disconnect you from really good readings, etc. I found having no sugar or as little sugar as possible has been an important piece for me, and I can start to feel when it isn't right.

My husband will make a joke because he'll see the little demon come out of me, like I won't share my ice cream and he'll be like well. Then I know it's time to get off the sugar. The sugar demon, that addict of the sugar it's just so bad. But anyway, so I agree with you, you get cut off from spirit when you're into the sugar, I really see that too. And getting grounded in nature, I love that you do forest bathing you call it tree bathing. It is very, very important. When we finally moved away from the city and into nature it changed my life completely. Because all of a sudden like my biggest excitement this week was watching two bunnies at 5:30 in the morning jump over each other in my backyard, going boing, boing, boing.

At first I was like are they fighting? Then I realized oh my God, they're playing with each other. Then I realized what the message was too. Let's talk about signs in nature, how people who've crossed over will connect. My mom will connect through a ladybug. I will always know it's her. It's always a ladybug and I sense her. My dad will always come in an orange butterfly. I totally know those are my parents. You can string me up upside down and I'm telling you I know those are my parents. What are some of the [inaudible 00:48:39] that you know?

Maureen:
I love that.

Colette:
Mm-hmm.

Maureen:
When my dad passed a baby deer showed up at my glass slider, and at the time I had a chocolate lab who would've gone crazy. Allie, my dog was just staring at the window as the deer came up and it just spoke to me like I've had a rebirth because my dad had multiple myeloma, but three weeks from diagnosis he passed. Then my mom loved orioles the bird. And so I pulled into my driveway, 7:30 in the morning after mom passed, came home, be my neighbor because

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this was me. I hear a tweet I look up, there's an oriole and I was like "mom, mom hi". The shades are going up, oh it's just Maureen. I'm like are you good, everything good? We talk to them like, and then my mom's like I didn't turn into a bird. However, they can use their energy to make them show up as a reminder. A lot of people get cardinals, butterflies, dragonflies, the ladybugs, some people even get bees. You just know because it will keep showing up. I always say to people like how do I know which one of my loved ones is which, bird or whatever? And I say trust your gut because it comes into your head who it is.

Colette:

Who it is right then and there, exactly. I had a dragonfly follow me around for a period. Dragonflies and me. I didn't pick the dragonfly, that's the other thing. The spirit animal will choose you, you don't choose it. Because I would've rather had a different animal. Like dragonfly, wait a second. I wanted a blue one and red ones kept showing up, like screw you I'm going to be red. But they would be these giant red dragonflies that would show up just when I needed a sign to answer the question should I get on the motorcycle or not? Or whatever. It's like spirit working with nature is incredible. Sometimes it's a loved one who's crossed over and you just know, and other times it's spirit. It's like hey, I need to get your attention so here's a dragonfly. The same one's going to show up every time with the same question.

Maureen:

Definitely.

Colette:

Here's your answer.

Maureen:

And the energy is just wild. When I was in top of a mountain in Costa Rica, the leaves, the big long leaves will wave. There's no wind, they wave. I went up to one and here I am I put this on TikTok and I'm talking and singing and they're all waving. Then I went up to one and said I just want to say goodbye and I put my hand out. Well, it was almost like how puppies slap someone's hand away, the one next to it slapped that away and came up, I have it on video, and came up and started going like this on my hand. Isn't energy just amazing and nature. Get out in nature everybody because that's how you're going to quiet your mind, and that is how you're



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going to get signs especially if you say I never get anything. You have to do the work. They say easier said than done I say then do the work.

Colette:

Do the work and just show up and see what happens. What wisdom would you offer anybody listening today who may be grieving the loss of a loved one? Do you have any idea of where they go? Do you want to... Just say something that you know that you've experienced that might help somebody who's grieving.

Maureen:

First of all, if you're newly grieving it's baby steps. Talk about your loved one in spirit, because you'll find that your true friends will stick by you and you'll start to lose friends that are either fearful for their own mortality or whatnot. Just sit in space, let them be with you, reach out for help. Then the wisdom from spirit is we are okay, we're not dead we're just different. We are at another level that's just above here that you can reach and it is attainable. So meditate, pray, talk to me I can hear you. I'm like the oxygen you breathe that you can't see that sustains you. I can't prove this, but I trust it. Find a grief counselor, groups, a reputable medium, but you are the medium. Start journaling, write letters to them and then write one back from them, that was a David Kessler move by the way.

Doing things like finding your tribe, that may be a new tribe now if you're a grieving parent. Helping parents heal, different places that you can go to where you feel a part of a group that understands you. But they always say to me we will meet one day, and I really want you to live this life. Treat every day like it could be your last because the inevitable is you will walk down this road. I'll be at the end of the road waiting for you, but I want to see a smile on your face saying we did it. And they live through you by the way and they experience everything you experience. So live this life, that's the biggest message.

Colette:

Mm-hmm.



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Maureen:

Forgive with all your heart, laugh with all your might and just be in each day as it comes, be in the power of right now because we get so ahead of ourselves. I think that's just really important to honor your grief and it's like a fingerprint so you do you.

Colette:

I love that you said that, forgive with all your heart, love with all your might and know that your life is a fingerprint, there's only one. But that finger is connected to the other fingers. There's no such thing as complete independence. We are interdependent, whether we're alive or we've crossed to another level. I love that you said I'm not dead it's just different, I'm just different. That's amazing.

Maureen:

There's so much to learn with that and we won't know till we get there. But they always say like I didn't disappear into oblivion. If you can't feel me or see me, hear me, let's work on that because that's what's going on in here for you.

Colette:

Oh, I love that. Okay let's pull a card together to see if there's anything else the wooniverse wants us to talk about. I'm going to pull from the shaman's dream spirit. Spirit tell Maureen and I what you want us to talk about if there's anything. Oh, the garden of Venus rest and renewal. I'm going to tell you my take on that and then you tell me what your take on that is. I know that some people want to talk to their loved ones who have crossed over right away.

And I feel and then my experience is that that's not always possible, sometimes they need to rest. They need to renew too before they're able to come through. And also to recognize that we need to slow down. That life is about slowing down, and it's also about because we live in a society where it's always about produce, produce, produce, produce, move, move, move, go, go, go plan for the future plan, plan, plan. And instead it's like no, no, no, no, stop and smell the roses. Let the signs come through, let go your expectations. What do you think?

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Maureen:

Oh, definitely because folks are coming to my events with their loved one only being passed weeks or a month. For me personally I find a better connection after two to three months, some say six months. But when I have done readings for folks, especially that have lost children, if there's not enough time for the parent to dig into some grief work and to be able to do some of their own work, it's too soon and the reading's choppy and it's like following the bouncing ball. Spirit needs some transition time and they need to figure out their new voice there without the physical body.

The energy is so fast and fleeting that they need to learn how to take that helicopter propeller, bring it down to a ceiling fan where we are at. That's where we reside, and so doing work to raise your vibration which is going to be praying, meditating, getting out in nature and doing the work. There's a lot that has to go on before you can marry this energy to be able to make a connection, so allowing a little bit of time. And for you to rest renewal and for the medium as well. I don't do that enough, I don't sleep well. Between 3:00 and 4:00 AM is the witching hour so they're going to wake you up then too.

Colette:

I think it's important that we talked about that because I do think that we live in such turbulent chaotic times right now, and that people are so hyper vigilant. I think that's what the card talked about as well too because our work is spiritual work. It's also psychological work, but it's like how do we manage to be here and now and live life to the best of our ability without giving it away to too many, doing too much and planning, etcetera. The message that I heard from you today as well as my own experience as a medium is that we have to stay present, and we can't constantly be on the go.

Maureen:

Something I wanted to add too that a lot of the folks I work with do turn to alcohol because they're trying to drown out the pain. I just lightly suggest to them if you can cut out the alcohol your vibration will be higher and you'll be able to meet them much more quickly than drowning out and lowering, dampening your energy. Do you agree?

Colette:

Well, I'm clean and sober 36 years so yes I do agree.

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Maureen:
Love that.

Colette:
To take the mind altering stuff off the table, especially alcohol really can that's why it's called spirits, right? It's a fake way of connection, it's false. It gives you a fake ego, a boost. It gives you a fake confidence and there's a fake connection. It doesn't really come that way. People want to drown it out or feel that they'll feel more and that doesn't work it's the opposite.

Maureen:
Exactly.

Colette:
That's a good point, I'm glad you brought it up. Well, thank you so much for coming. For more information about Maureen you can find her on Facebook, on Twitter, YouTube and also on the TikTok. I love calling it the TikTok.

Maureen:
Yes. Are you on TikTok Colette?

Colette:
I'm starting to be on TikTok yes, yes I am.

Maureen:
I'm on Instagram as well.

Colette:
On the Instagram.

Maureen:
The Instagram yes, and maureenhancock.com simple.

Colette:
That's right. She recently launched her online school, Maureen Hancock University. That's going to be cool. You have to tell me about that, you and I have to get on a Zoom coffee. Anyway, all



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these links are readily available on our show notes page, along with a link to check out Maureen's bestselling book, *The Medium Next Door*. Maureen you also on a TV show *The Medium Next Door* too. Was that TLC? What was that?

Maureen:

It was called *Psychic in Suburbia* and it was on the Style Network but the *Ghost Whisperer* producers were my producers and then ABC. But *The Medium Next Door* is my new podcast as well so I'd love to have you on sometime.

Colette:

Well I will be on.

Maureen:

Just launched that, and now I am in the works with Gaia for my own talk show. So exciting and we'll have to do another one when we talk about star seeds in the universe and how we were aliens.

Colette:

We can talk about how we were aliens for sure. That would be definitely wooniversal for sure. So thank you so much for coming. I love this conversation with you, I love you tons and thanks everybody for listening. So what did we learn today? What a fantastic conversation with Maureen Hancock. Let's pull a card, I love pulling a card. This makes so much sense it's called in the hand and it's from my deck *The Shaman's Dream* that I did with Alberto Villoldo. The message is the universe is your partner. And I think that if we were to apply that spirit is our partner, our loved ones who have crossed over are still in a partnership with us. That just because they die doesn't mean they aren't still there.

That's why I love what Maureen had said that I didn't die I'm just different. That there is this level of consciousness that still exists after the body or the leased car, we give the car back and we step out of the car and we're in a different place. That's so key that we still can evolve our relationships with our loved ones after the fact and that we don't die we're just different. Thank you so much for listening to our special limited edition series *I talk to dead people* on *INSIDE THE WOONIVERSE*. Until next time I'm Colette Baron-Reid be well.