

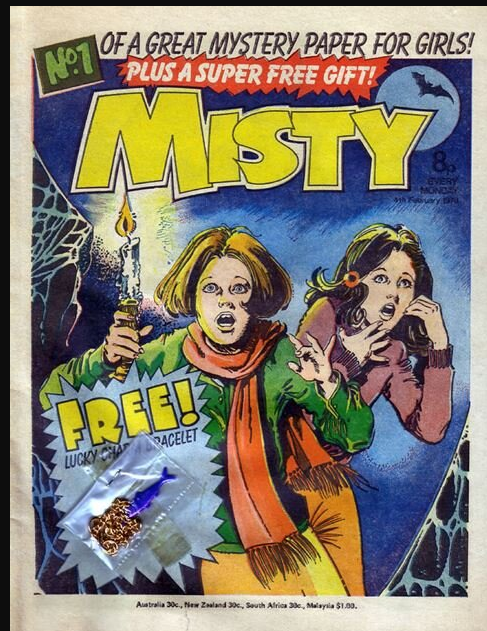
# *Creativity and Community in the Letters Pages of British Girls' Comics*

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[www.juliaround.com](http://www.juliaround.com)





**Zodiac**

**AQUARIUS**  
January 20—February 18  
"Being frank with a close relative? Think again—it is possible YOU could be wrong you know!"

**PISCES**  
February 19—March 20  
"The fish, your child, may be cutting you down. How about using his extra time for studying?"

**ARIES**  
March 21—April 20  
"An exciting Saturday when you could meet that "special" boy in an unexpected setting. Pull his red tie loose."

**TAURUS**  
April 21—May 20  
"If you're not in luck for tonight, you can hold a disappointment steady. Time waits for no one."

**GEMINI**  
May 21—June 20  
"Having trouble with a close relative? Think again—it is possible YOU could be wrong you know!"

**CANCER**  
June 21—July 21  
"This weekend isn't the center of attention wherever there's a social gathering. A swaying time ahead—buckle up!"

**LEO**  
July 22—August 21  
"If you're bored, surfing, hand juggling, a row of tables or tables, could be just the thing you need."

**VIRGO**  
August 22—September 22  
"Remember to wear loose clothing and this week it's single happiness, not fun for you!"

**LIBRA**  
September 23—October 22  
"Expect very little time this longer. Remember the when something about gets you at the week-end."

**SCORPIO**  
October 23—November 22  
"Giving up all the time is bound to get you down. Take a long walk to blow those cobwebs away!"

**SAGITTARIUS**  
November 23—December 20  
"A surprise in the near future could mean a boost in your life. Happy times ahead!"

**CAPRICORN**  
December 21—January 19  
"Don't make any rash decisions when things seem to be in a lull. A little thought could save you some money."

11.12.76. SPG

**Spookspot**

"Spookspot" is your very own page where you have the chance to become for a short time, a ghostly spirit.

**WITCHES**  
In the olden days, witches were said to be women who had the power to cast spells and cause mischief. Some witches were said to be able to fly on brooms, while others were said to be able to turn themselves into cats or other animals.

**THE BATTING BLOOM**  
This is a special section where you can win a prize by answering questions about the world of sports. The questions are based on the latest news and events in the world of sports.

**WITCHES REVEALED**  
A look at the world of witchcraft and the power of the witch. This section is a special feature where you can learn about the world of witchcraft and the power of the witch.

**CHILDREN ALL FRIGHT**  
A special section for children where you can win a prize by answering questions about the world of children's entertainment. The questions are based on the latest news and events in the world of children's entertainment.

**THE MIDNIGHT STRANGER**

It was a dark, stormy night when the stranger appeared. He was tall, thin, and dressed in a long, black coat. He walked with a slow, deliberate gait, his eyes fixed on the ground. The stranger's appearance was mysterious and unsettling, and he seemed to be searching for something. The night was filled with the sound of rain and the howling of wind, and the stranger's presence added to the eerie atmosphere.

SLEEP TIGHT.

Typical  
Spellbound  
content

**SPOT THE PLANET!**  
(SUNBEAM) COMPETITION

**2 BARS**  
**10000**  
**AND 10000**  
**10000**

**Supercars Club**

Get your own club membership and enjoy the excitement of the Supercars Club. The club is open to all members and offers a variety of benefits and services.

**MEMBERSHIP**  
The club is open to all members and offers a variety of benefits and services. The membership fee is \$100 per year and includes access to all club events and facilities.

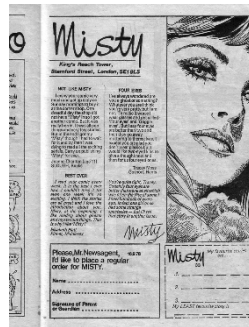
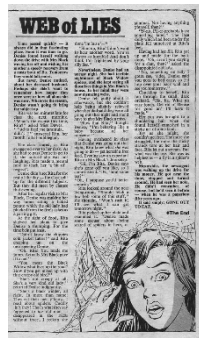
**PRIZES**  
The club offers a variety of prizes and rewards to its members. These include exclusive access to the club's facilities, special events, and more.

"He shall marry you within the fortnight!"

**THE MIDNIGHT STRANGER**

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SLEEP TIGHT.



# Typical Misty content

The **SPELLBOUND CLUB** for **SUPERCATS**—for YOU!

**GIRLS! How would YOU like to join our SUPERCATS' CLUB?**




**with your own SUPERCAT PENDANT**

IN BLACK AND GOLD

It couldn't be easier! Simply fill in the coupon and send it with a 40p Postal Order to:-  
**SPELLBOUND,  
 SUPERCATS' CLUB,  
 P.O. BOX 66,  
 DUNDEE,  
 DD1 9LN.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SUPERCATS' CLUB

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a 40p Postal Order

As a **SUPERCAT**, you will receive a denim-look pouch, a colourful Supercat sew-on patch, your special Supercat Code AND, of course, the exclusive Supercat pendant. The code will enable club members **ONLY** to take advantage of the fabulous competitions and prizes in weeks to come!

Please note! Each week in **SPELLBOUND** there will be a **SUPERCATS' CLUB** section with competitions in code for club members only. Solving our coded mysteries could win you one of our super prizes!



**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE TAKING IT IN TURNS TO INTRODUCE YOUR EXCITING SUPERCATS' CLUB**



**TURN TO PAGE 27 FOR MORE SURPRISE NEWS.**

2.10.76/ SPE

#2

**WRITE TO SPELLBOUND**

We want your letters to tell us about anything creepy, scary or mysterious that has happened to you, your family or your chums. For instance—  
 Have you ever met a ghost? Have you a favourite superstition? Ever had that funny feeling you've been 'here before'? Ever heard something go bump in the night?

**EVERY LETTER PUBLISHED WINS £1 THE WEEK'S BEST LETTER WINS A SUPER MYSTERY PRIZE**

Send your entries to "SPOOKSPOT," **SPELLBOUND, 20 CATHGART ST., KENTISH TOWN, LONDON NW53BN.** Don't forget to let us know your favourite Spellbound stories when you write in.

**OTHER SPECIAL PRIZES FOR YOU IN SPELLBOUND SMART FASHION BELTS\* HANDY HAIR DRIERS\* TOTE BAGS.**

**BE A SUPERCAT**



**YOU'LL FIND OUT HOW NEXT WEEK!**

**STAR SUPERSTITIONS**



**MISS MARY JONES** has always had an odd dark shadow over her life. She's never had a good fortune since she was a little girl. Her mother, who had great good fortune in her life, died when she was a girl. From that day on, she's never had a good fortune since. Her mother, who had great good fortune in her life, died when she was a little girl. From that day on, she's never had a good fortune since.



**MR. JONES** is a very nice man. He's got a very nice job. He's got a very nice car. He's got a very nice house. He's got a very nice life. He's got a very nice everything.



**MISS BROWN** is a very nice woman. She's got a very nice job. She's got a very nice car. She's got a very nice house. She's got a very nice life. She's got a very nice everything.

#1

**Spookyspot**

**WITCH'S CAT?**  
 My grandmother has a black cat which can't stand strangers. If the cat disappears and can't be found, you can be sure my gran is going to have a visitor—someone outside the family!  
 We don't know how he knows, but he is never wrong and he comes back purring, just as soon as the stranger has left. My gran says maybe one of his ancestors was a witch's cat!

**Dear Reader,**  
 Welcome to your very first Spookyspot. **SPELLBOUND** is an all-mystery thriller paper, so we want you to write in and tell us of any strange, ghastly or even ghastly experiences which you, your family, or any of your friends have had.  
 We'll send you a special prize to be won—as you can see.  
 Till next week—  
 a-hunting we will go!  
**The Ed**

**THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING BRACELET**  
 I WAS very upset, because I couldn't find my gold charm bracelet when I wanted to wear it for a party. Mum said it would turn up sooner or later—after all, it was covered with lucky charms! I thought that was silly, because it was just plain **BAD LUCK**—to lose it before a party!  
 Later, though, I thought Mum was right after all, because part of the party treat was a visit to a swimming pool, and while the girls were in the water, a thud rattled their cubicles. My bracelet would have gone for sure.  
 When I got home, I found my bracelet where it was supposed to be—in a box in my wardrobe, yet it wasn't there earlier! Kind of strange, don't you think?

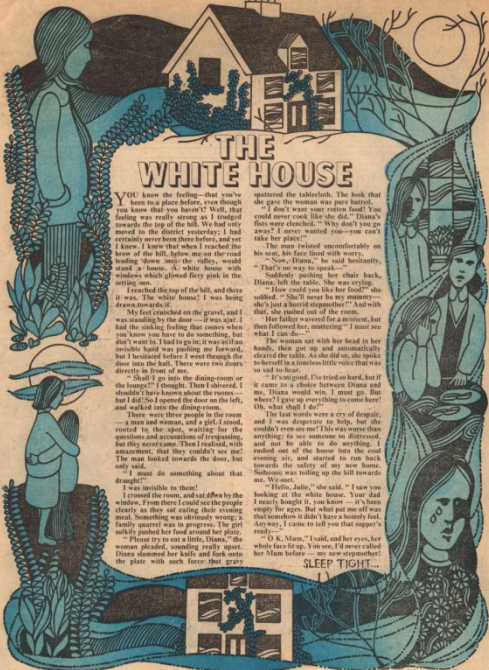
**THE COUSIN FROM AMERICA**  
 WE were going to a family party, and I was very much looking forward to meeting some relations from America, whom I had never met.  
 The strange thing was that when my American cousin and I met, we were wearing almost identical dresses, and as if that wasn't enough, we had our hair the same way too!  
 We have kept in touch by letter since then and even now she is back in America, and we are thousands of miles apart, quite often we find we have done the same thing. She chose almost exactly the same school syllabus as I did, for example.

Hope YOU enjoyed these sample letters. Now, how about some from YOU! The address to write to is "SPOOKSPOT," c/o **SPELLBOUND, 20 CATHGART ST., KENTISH TOWN, LONDON NW53BN.**

Here are just some of the prizes YOU could win in **SPELLBOUND**!

- CLEVER
- HANDY HAIR DRYER
- FASHION BELTS
- TOTE BAG
- POCKET MONEY ET'S

#2



## THE WHITE HOUSE

YOU know the feeling—that you've been to a place before, even though you know that you haven't? Well, that feeling was really strong as I strolled towards the top of the hill. We had only moved to the district yesterday; I had certainly never been there before, and yet I knew I knew that when I reached the top of the hill, before me on the road leading down, under the willow, would stand a house. A white house with windows which glowed fiery pink in the setting sun.

I reached the top of the hill, and there it was. The white house! I was being drawn towards it.

My feet crunched on the gravel, and I was standing by the door—in my mind, I had the feeling that once when you know you have to do something, but don't want to. I had to go in.

The door was open, and I stepped into the hall. There were two doors directly in front of me.

"Shall I go into the dining-room or the lounge?" I thought. There I hovered. I shouldn't have known about the rooms, but I did. I opened the door on the left, and walked into the dining-room.

There were three people in the room—a man and woman, and a girl, dressed, seated in the spot, waiting for the questions and answers of the evening, but they never came. Then I realised, with amazement, that they couldn't see me! The man looked towards the door, but only said:

"I must do something about that draught!"

I was invisible to them! I closed the door, and set off by the window. I saw that I had to be proper, clearly as they sat eating their evening meal. Something was definitely wrong; a family quarrel was in progress. The girl who looked her best looked her spite.

"Please try to eat a little, Diana," the woman pleaded, compelling traffic space. Diana slammed her knife and fork onto the plate, with such force that every-

one noticed the tablecloth. The look that she gave the woman was pure hatred. "I don't want your rotten food! You can't eat it!"

I never wanted you—can't I take her place?"

The man looked unconcernedly at his seat, his face lined with worry.

"Now, Diana," he said bitterly. "That's no way to speak—"

"Suddenly pushing her chair back, Diana, left the table. She was crying. "How could you do this to her food?" she sobbed. "She'll never be my memory—she's just a beautiful stranger!"

At that, she rushed out of the room. Her father watched her a moment, but then turned her attention. "I must go what I can do—"

The woman sat with her head in her hands, then got up and automatically opened the table. As she did so, she spoke to herself in a voiceless little voice that was so sad to hear.

"If it weren't for me, Diana would win. I must go. But when I leave my everything is gone here—"

The last words were a cry of despair, and I was desperate to help, but she couldn't even see me! This was worse than anything I've ever known in my life, and I was not able to do anything. I rushed out of the house into the cool evening air, and started to run back towards the safety of my own home.

Suddenly, I was being pulled up the hill towards me. "Wait, wait," she said. "I am not looking at the white house. You did I mean! I mean, it's not empty for you. But what put me all was that shadow in the Van's house? Look, any way, I came to tell you that supper's ready."

"O.K. Mama," I said, and her eyes, her whole face lit up. You see, I'd never called her Mama before—my own grandmother!

**SLEEP TIGHT!**

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# The Ghost Crept In...

TO see the pop group Mud leaping about the stage, you'd hardly think of them as the nervous kind, but Rob Davis has a few strange tales to tell you...

**R**ob handed me a copy of Mud's latest hit record "Nite On The Tiles."

"You see the title reminds me of the night I spent writing goodbye notes to my girlfriend because I had a premonition that the plane I was due to travel in the next day would crash." He explained, with a smile.

"I spent all night worrying about it and the next morning I tried to persuade the other boys to catch another plane but they just laughed at me."

"We travel on planes almost every week," Dave Mount pointed out. "What's so different about this one?"

"But I still insisted I didn't want to go on that plane. And, in the end, the matter was taken out of our hands, because some sort of fault developed in the engine and it it couldn't take off. Was I relieved!"

I asked Rob if he felt he could see glimpses of the future and he told me he didn't doubt it for one moment.

"Perhaps I get this from my grandmother, who always went to gipsies to have her fortune read"

**R**OB didn't feel too happy either when the group were booked to stay in a

supposedly haunted manor house in Oxfordshire.

"It was a very eerie place and we found ourselves looking over our shoulders all the time imagining there was a ghost creeping about the place. Ray Stiles was so scared he wouldn't even stay there and he had to book in somewhere else!"

Another place Rob can hardly remember without shuddering is a sombre mausoleum in Poland where the boys were booked to do a gig.

"The place was built by Hitler during the Second World War," Rob told me. "Inside was decorated completely in black and the atmosphere was cold and gloomy. As soon as I walked into the place I felt doomed and, when we went on stage, I wasn't surprised when some of our gear blew up for no reason at all!"

Although Rob reads his horoscopes in newspapers and magazines, he told me he takes them all with "a pinch of salt."

"What I really believe in, is that the Zodiac sign you were born under influences your personality. For instance, I was born under the sign of Libra and Librans are supposed to have a love of music, a delight of harmony and always do well if they enter the Arts professions."

As far as Rob is concerned this couldn't be truer. Agreed?



27-11-76. SFC

The Fantastic Crew  
Of The Spaceship Lynx  
Welcome You To

# Spellbound

The NEW Storypaper  
For Girls

FULL OF EXCITING STORIES, EVERYONE A MYSTERY—SUPERBLY TOLD IN PICTURES. EVERY WEEK "SPELLBOUND" WILL CARRY THRILLING STORIES SPECIALLY SELECTED FOR YOU. PLACE A SPECIAL ORDER WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT TO KEEP A REGULAR WEEKLY COPY.




Next Week In **Spellbound**

- A SUPER FREE GIFT
- 7 THRILLING STORIES
- SUPER MYSTERY PRIZES TO BE WON FOR READERS' LETTERS
- And a special invitation to YOU To become a SUPERCAT! —Find out how next week in what you will vote to be THE MOST EXCITING STORY-PAPER OF THE YEAR.


**ON SALE WEDNESDAY  
29th SEPTEMBER  
PRICE 7p**



JOURNEY INTO DANGER



## WHEN THE MUMMY WALKS....



JENNY HUNT'S dreams were coming true. Accompanied by her mother, she was on her way to a new job in London.  
But, as Victorian England flashed past the windows of the express, Jenny little realised that she was travelling towards a nightmare!

Don't worry about me, I've had a very first job, and it's what I want to do.

Jenny's excitement was Giovanni Masoni, when she was to train as assistant curator.

ANOTHER TALE OF MYSTERY FROM DAMIAN DARKE!



This week's tale concerns two sisters, Cassie and Betty Sorrows. After their parents died, Betty took control of all the family matters. Now read on...

One morning Betty had good news for her sister, Cassie.

A letter from Mrs. Dwyer—we're going to Clannore Court for our holidays.

Cassie

Oh Betty! That's wonderful!

Is it all right though—going to a place on our own?

Of course it is. We're capable girls and the girls' club will be there.

### THE RETURN OF THE SORROW SISTERS

So, off they set to Clannore Court.

After a long drive—

You drive as if you've been driving it all your life, Betty.

One must keep all upon the same, you know.

We're here at last.

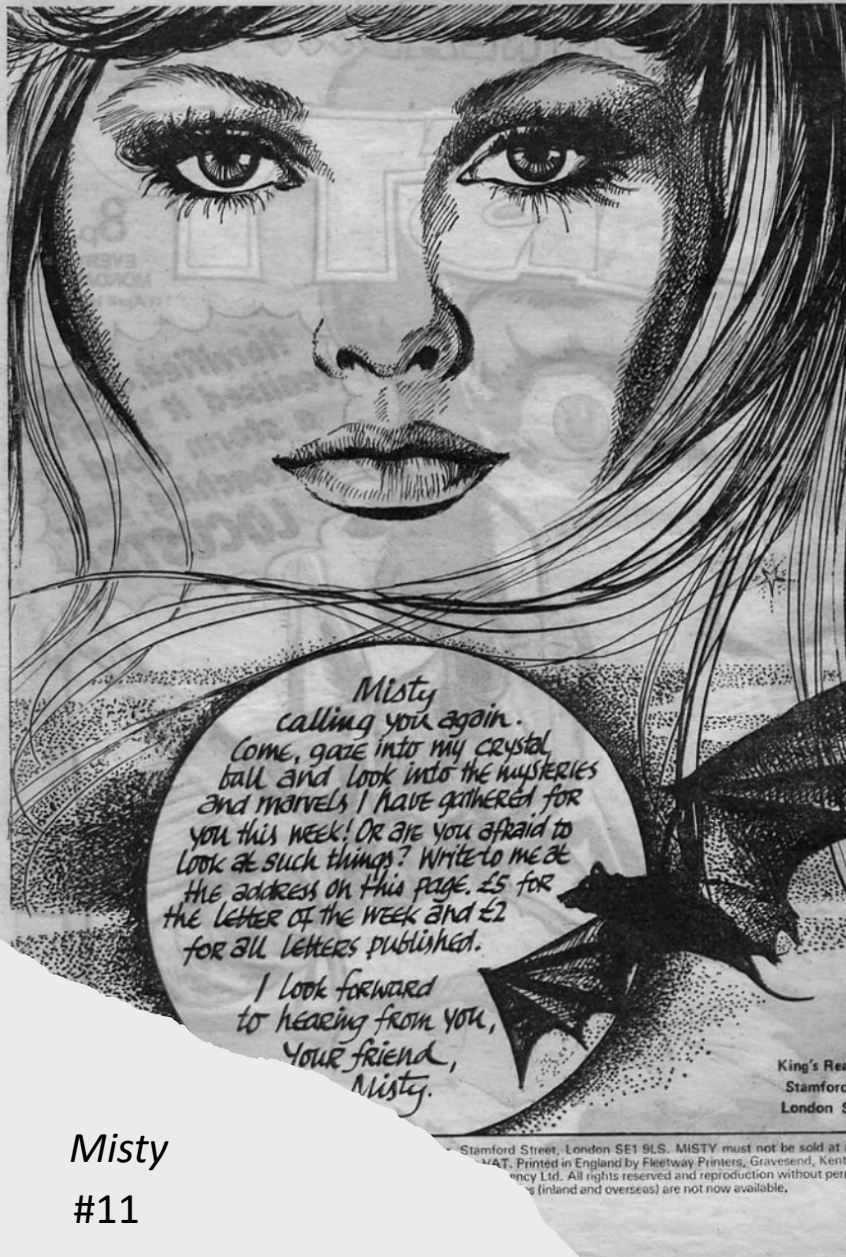
CLANNORE

I'm -jared! Let's do there's some tea waiting for us. The house should be quite nice.

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#1

#8



Misty calling you again. Come, gaze into my crystal ball and look into the mysteries and marvels I have gathered for you this week! Or are you afraid to look at such things? Write to me at the address on this page. £5 for the letter of the week and £2 for all letters published.

I look forward to hearing from you,  
Your friend,  
Misty.

King's Reach  
Stamford  
London S

Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. MISTY must not be sold at a price below 10p. Printed in England by Fleetway Printers, Gravesend, Kent. All rights reserved and reproduction without permission (inland and overseas) are not now available.

Misty  
#11

# Write to Misty...

King's Reach Tower,  
Stamford Street,  
London, SE1 9LS

£2 FOR EVERY LETTER PRINTED  
AND £5 FOR THE STAR LETTER☆☆☆

## Nightie-night!

I really think your new comic 'Misty' is marvellous. The other night in spite of your warning not to do so I read NIGHTMARE just before going to bed. I was so scared when I went upstairs that I had to sing loudly while putting on my nightdress.

Jane Cycles, Mickelover.



## MY STAR LETTER☆☆☆☆

One day in December 1977 I went to my bedroom and saw in the doorway a lady wearing a long grey dress and a green bonnet. She was smiling at me with her arms folded. I ran downstairs scared. My parents didn't believe me at first. Next time I saw her I was watching TV in my room and about 9 p.m. I looked towards the door and she was standing there again looking very solid, dressed the same way, white faced, still smiling but with her arms at her side. I could see no feet. Her eyes were very blue and she looked plump and about 40 years old. I remembered my parents had told me to speak to her if I saw her again so as it was my birthday the following Thursday I said 'Can I have Thursday off?'. She said in a broad accent 'Ask yer Nanny'. I was so shocked I jumped out of bed and hid behind the dressing table. At last I peeped round the leg of the table and could see her grey dress wafting out floating. A little later Dad came upstairs and took me downstairs, trembling and with my teeth chattering and very scared. We have since identified the ghost from an old photograph. It is my great great grandmother.

P. ATHERTON Hyde Cheshire

now a ghost finder. And you got your name Misty by being born in a graveyard one misty night. Am I right so far?

Dawn,  
Dagenham, Essex.

Well, not altogether, Dawn. But one day I really will tell you part of my story at least and then you'll know, Misty.

## Tap-Tap!

I would like you, if possible, to print my letter as I would like to thank my Mum for a very nice surprise on my birthday, something I have always wanted. . . a pair of tap dancing shoes. You see, my Mum reads Misty with me each week and I thought this would be a way of thanking her, and you for the lovely stories that I enjoy reading.  
Susan Sanders, Brockley, London SE4

## Misty-fied!

Dear Misty,  
I wonder what you're really like?  
I think you're an extraordinary person with great powers and responsibilities. I should imagine you live in an ancient house with 2 butlers and six maids. You have no mother but a father, a sort of mad professor who built a brain controller in the cellar and is



YOU'VE NOW GOT THE FEELING OF MISTY, SO LET US HEAR WHAT YOU THINK OF IT.

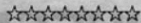
My favourite stories are . . .

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

My LEAST favourite story is \_\_\_\_\_

My age is \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUR FORTUNE WALLET SECRETS REVEALED!



This week we continue to unfold the secrets of YOUR WHEEL of FORTUNE WALLET by giving you the answers to questions J to O.

For anyone who missed last week's issue, we've repeated the info about how to calculate your LUCKY NUMBER, YOUR CHARACTER NUMBER, and YOUR DATE CODE.



## HOW TO GET YOUR ANSWERS

Firstly, take out the NUMEROLOGY TABLE from your wallet and find the numbers for each letter in your first and last name. Add double figures together until you reach a single number - that will be your LUCKY NUMBER. For example: KAREN HUNT  $2+1+9+5+5+8+3+5+2 = 40$   $4+0=4$

So 4 is the lucky number in this case. When you've worked it out, write it in on your POINTER (which is on the back of the numerology table)

Next thing you'll need is your CHARACTER NUMBER. Just add the numerals in your birthdate together until you arrive at a single figure. We'll show you how it's done. For example, if your birthday is 10th MAY 1967 the number will be:  $1+0+5$  (5th May is the month)  $+1+9+6+7=29$   $2+9=11$   $1+1=2$ . So 2 is the number.

Write the character number on your POINTER. Once these two spaces are filled in, things are much easier for you won't have to work them out again!

The only figure you'll need to work out freshly each time is the DATE CODE. You get this in the same way as you found your character number - but using that day's date.

Once you've got these three numbers (your LUCKY NUMBER, your CHARACTER NUMBER, and your DATE CODE) all you do is add them together and point that number to the QUESTION LETTER on your wheel. (B-2 anything special in store?) See which symbol is indicated in the gap in the wheel and look up that symbol on the answer sheet. Your answer will be under your star sign.

## J. (WILL MY SECRET WISH BE GRANTED?)

	Aries	Taurus	Gem.	Can.	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scor.	Sagg.	Capr.	Aqua.	Pisces
A	2	3	4	5	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
B	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
C	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
D	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
E	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
F	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
G	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
K	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
L	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
M	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
N	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
O	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
P	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
Q	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
R	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
S	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
U	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
V	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
W	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
X	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Y	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
Z	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2

ANSWERS

- 1) If you wait long enough
- 2) You will soon want something else
- 3) Only by your own efforts
- 4) Unlikely. Make another wish tomorrow
- 5) You can make this happen
- 6) Not immediately
- 7) Never give up hope
- 8) If you work a little harder
- 9) Perhaps, when you've almost forgotten it
- 10) Yes, in an unexpected way
- 11) In the near future
- 12) The signs look good

## K. (HAVE I BEEN NOTICED BY.....?)

	Aries	Taurus	Gem.	Can.	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorp.	Sagg.	Capr.	Aqua.	Pisces
A	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
B	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
C	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
D	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
E	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
F	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
H	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
L	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
M	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
N	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3
O	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
P	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
Q	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
R	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
S	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
T	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
U	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
V	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
X	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
Y	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2
Z	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3

ANSWERS

- 1) Yes
- 2) Not yet
- 3) Among others
- 4) Without being aware of it
- 5) Your identity is still unknown
- 6) Curiosity will pay off!
- 7) You will be, quite soon
- 8) Someone else will notice you first
- 9) You have been noticed by many
- 10) No. But wait a little while
- 11) Turn your attention to someone else
- 12) Yes, but the outcome may be disappointing



# a ghost could help you win... £25!

NELL GWYN'S GHOST IS OFTEN SEEN DRIFTING THROUGH THE GARGOYLE CLUB IN LONDON'S DEAN STREET. WHEREVER SHE GOES SHE LEAVES BEHIND HER A POWERFUL SCENT OF GARDENIAS...

Do you know a strange story like that about your local area? If so why don't you write it down in no more than 250 words, and send it to us. We're looking for stories about ghosts, ghouls, myths, legends, or just any unexplained, mysterious

happening about your local neighbourhood, to include in a series we're planning called, THESE MISTY ISLES. We'll pay £25 for every story we publish. But remember, it MUST be about your town or county.

Send your entries to:

THESE MISTY ISLES, MISTY, KINGS REACH TOWER, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON SE1 9LS.





# Comics letters pages

Ian Gordon (2012)

- active engagement; becoming creators
- 'A social network and a discursive community'

Daniel Stein (2013: 167) re letters in 1950s/60s American superhero comics:

- 'serial paratexts' that foster collaboration

Coman (2012) and Pustz (2007)

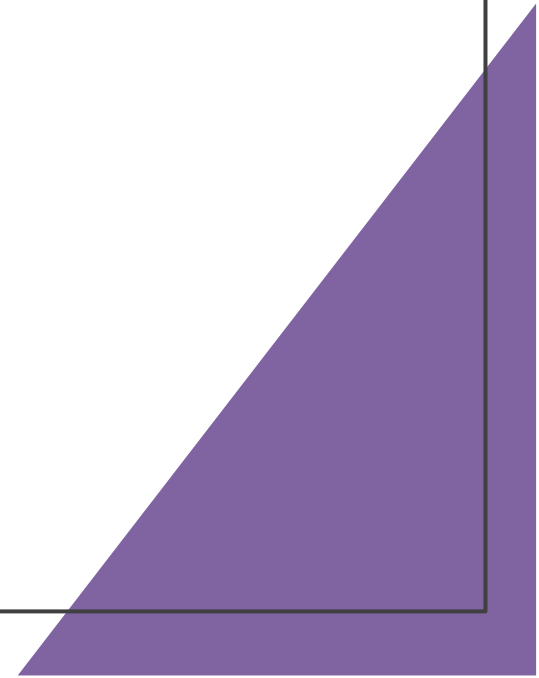
- part of a process of community formation

Mel Gibson (2015: 170) re letters in American superhero comics:

- allow readers to feel part of 'a mature and expansive international community'

Martin Barker (1989: 47) re: letters in the British boys' comic *Action*:

- selected, solicited, function to construct a particular 'self-image' for the comic



# Spookyspot

"Spookyspot" is just the place for you to tell other "Spellbound" readers of any spine-tingling tales, hair-raising adventures or ghostly goings-on that have happened to you, your family or your chums.

Every letter printed wins £1, and the week's star letter wins the super, mystery thriller game, Cluedo—so start writing today!  
Send your letters to:-

"SPOOKYSPOT",  
c/o SPELLBOUND,  
20 CATHCART STREET,  
KENTISH TOWN,  
LONDON NW5 3BN.



### THE SAILOR RETURNS

This is a true story that my art teacher told our class at school.

His grandfather was an engineer on a ship. One day the engine broke down and he was sent to fix it. He was just about to put a small spanner into a piston when a ghostly figure of a sailor appeared.

He was holding up one arm to show that he had lost his hand, and was shaking his head. Then he vanished.

My teacher's grandfather took this to be an omen and immediately went to fetch a larger spanner. When he put it in the piston, the end snapped off!

If it hadn't been for that poor sailor appearing, it could have been his hand and not just the spanner he lost.

—Jackie Stead,  
Dewsbury.



### THE WAIL OF THE PIPES

The riverside near our home is supposed to be haunted by the sound of bagpipes.

One night, my mum and dad were walking along the riverside. It was a still, dark night when suddenly they heard the eerie wail of bagpipes floating through the air.

Mum was rather scared and insisted on going home. Just as they were crossing the road a car went by and, there in the beam of the car's headlights, Mum and

Dad saw a terrifying sight! It was a Scotsman, dressed in full traditional Scottish attire, playing the bagpipes!

Mum and Dad were so frightened, they ran all the way home.

But to this day, they often wonder if the bagpipes were real or if they had imagined the whole thing.

—Mandy Gargett,  
Newcastle Upon Tyne.



### THE DISAPPEARING STRANGER

One night last summer, my friend and I were looking out of my bedroom window at the people passing by.

There was one man we took particular notice of. He was carrying a shot-gun and there was a retriever dog by his side.

Suddenly a car came along the road but, when the car lights shone on the stranger, he just disappeared! But as the car passed, he appeared again.

We didn't know what to think and we both felt a little scared. The following day, we found out that the "stranger" had probably been the ghost of a Mr Angus who, with his dog, had died in a shooting accident a few years ago.

—Nicola Kelly,  
Tyrellspass.

### YOU AND YOUR BIRTHDAY

Wednesday's child is full of woe, as well she might be! You see Wednesday is named after Wodan, a Viking God of Battle! He was a very gloomy guy, who loved nothing better than to hear bad news.

But cheer up, all you Wednesday girls, that was in days gone by—all is not black for you.

You're a super person to know, and will defend a friend to the end—without going into battle like old Wodan.

### AQUARIUS

January 20—February 18

A super weekend is ahead. Perhaps even a surprise trip or visit. Lucky you, have fun!

### PISCES

February 19—March 20

Feeling a bit under the weather? An unexpected invitation could be the thing to make you feel your old self.

### ARIES

March 21—April 20

This week you may have to help a friend out with a problem that's been bothering her for a while.

### TAURUS

April 21—May 20

That new guy at school could become a good friend in the future. So keep smiling!

### GEMINI

May 21—June 20

An old friend may turn up out of the blue, who will make it a very exciting weekend for you.

### CANCER

June 21—July 21

You'll be feeling a bit down in the dumps over something trivial. Try to snap out of that silly mood.

### LEO

July 22—August 21

Been neglecting yourself lately? You have to look good to feel good, you know. Violet brings you luck.

### VIRGO

August 22—September 22

Can't decide about something important? How about asking your mum—she is your best friend after all!

### LIBRA

September 23—October 22

You may be in a bit of a mood, just now. Try to find a new interest, or hobby.

### SCORPIO

October 23—November 22

Don't put on an act to impress someone you just met. He might prefer the real you.

### SAGITTARIUS

November 23—December 20

Saturday looks like a fun night. Put on your best dress, you won't go wrong!

### CAPRICORN

December 21—January 19

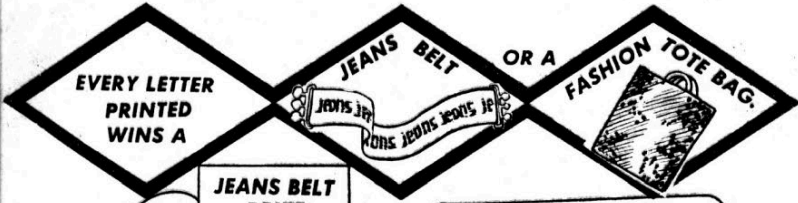
Someone is just dying to ask you out and you'll never guess who it is! Silver is lucky.



27.11.76 SPE



Once you join the SUPERCATS' CLUB, write and tell us about any 'out-of-this-world', fantastic or fascinating happenings that YOU think would interest or amuse other SUPERCATS.  
Please state which prize you prefer.



JEANS BELT PRIZE

Dear Supercats,  
Recently I have been having bad dreams about horrible monsters. The other day I visited my friend's house. After we had our tea she took me to her bedroom, to see a new poster she had just bought. The poster was of a monster just like the one in my dream! Since I saw the poster I have had no more bad dreams. It's very odd, isn't it?  
Jane Leach, Hull.

Dear Supercats,  
I love to read about the Supercats in "Spellbound." I'm so happy that I'm a Supercat too now! Could you please sign all your autographs for me? I would be very grateful.  
Lorraine Todd, Glasgow.

*Janna Eledra Helen Heruka*

TOTE BAG PRIZE



JEANS BELT PRIZE

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL...  
There are many superstitions connected with mirrors. Here are just a few—  
To break a mirror means seven years' bad luck.  
It is very unlucky to see your face in a mirror by candle-light.  
There's good fortune for a newly married couple who stand side by side in front of a mirror.  
No child should see themselves in a mirror before they are twelve months old.  
If a mirror breaks of its own accord, it means that the person owning the mirror will lose her best friend.

Dear Supercats,  
Last year my cousin from Australia came for a two week stay. We decided to play hide and seek, because it was a very wet day.

It was my turn to hide so I hid in our attic. It wasn't very dark, but it was really creepy. I hid in an old box, and didn't move.

Suddenly I felt something on my neck! I screamed and fell out of the box almost breaking my leg in my haste. I found out it was a spider spinning a web on my neck! And I hate creepy-crawlies!  
Elaine Pennicott, London.

Dear Supercats,  
Fireball in the boys' magazine "BULLET" is a secret agent and so am I, a 'Fireball' agent. But I have also joined the Supercats' Club! And although Fireball has an enemy called The Cat, she can't hold a torch to the Supercats!

So, if Fireball now turns his attention to Spellbound's four lovely space girls they can count on me to be on their side.  
Richard Savine, Birmingham.

JEANS BELT PRIZE

4.12.76 SPE

# *Spellbound* letters content

Corpus: #12, #28, #31, #41, #58, #64

	Spookyspot	Supercats Club	Combined
Synchronicity	3 (8%)	2 (5%)	5 (13%)
Saved	3 (8%)	0	3 (8%)
Supernatural sustained	8 (22%)	10 (27%)	18 (49%)
Supernatural explained	0	3 (8%)	3 (8%)
Creative	0	8 (22%)	8 (22%)
	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>

# Write to Misty



King's Reach Tower Stamford Street London SE1 9LS

## ☆☆☆☆☆ The STAR Letter ☆☆☆☆☆

The story I enjoy most is 'Moonchild' perhaps because telekinesis is a true thing. I've often tried moving things across the room just by staring at them and concentrating but for me it's easier to pick them up and carry them. I bet I could stare at this letter all week and still have to post it to get it to you.

MARY BARNES, LONDON SE12



### MISTY MEDICINE

I am nearly 9 years old but get miserable sometimes because I have an over active thyroid gland which makes me gain weight. Having no friends at home and being on a special diet upsets me but your comic is the one thing that cheers me up and I look forward to it every week.

Jasmin Foster,  
Berkhamstead, Herts.

### IS HE A CISSY?

Yesterday my sister bought 'Misty'. I read it through twice and thought it was great. In fact I like it so much I want to order it, but one small problem is I'm a boy and I'll feel a cissy. Can you help me?

Sean Newton, Penzance, Cornwall.

### ☆☆☆☆☆

### MISTY FEVER

I'd been in bed ill for a few days and was bored stiff till my mother brought home 'Misty'. When my friends read just the first story they were down at the newsagents like a shot to order it. The comic really cheered me up. 'Paint it Black' and 'The Sentinels' had me shaking so much my mother thought I was getting a fever but when she realised I'd just read 'Misty' she understood.

Una Fitzpatrick, Dublin.

### RIDDLE

Here is a riddle for you and your readers to try:  
My first is in Mystery  
But not in Storey,  
My second is in Giving  
But not in Glory,  
My third is in Slot  
But not in Machine,  
My fourth is in Dirty  
But not in Clean,  
My fifth is in Yellow  
And also in Grey  
My whole is a comic  
which I read today  
(ANSWER) MISTY

### "MISTY FAN"

Bolton, Lancs

### ☆☆☆☆☆

### MAGGIE & MARCELLA

I think your stories are very good and it is a coincidence that Maggie is the story 'Paint it Black' has the same initials as me. Each week when I get my 'Misty' everything that happens to Maggie I shall pretend is happening to me. It will be very thrilling to see what Maggie and I get up to.

Marcella Cox, South Harrow, Middle

DO NOT FORGET NOW - I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### FRIGHT OF THE DOG

My dog 'Cindy' is a cocker spaniel and frightened of gas. One day while walking we came to two monuments of wild cats and all of a sudden she started barking and yelping. When my Mum lifted her she got even worse. She was barking and crying because of the stone monuments of the cats. I don't think she'd be rough good in 'The Cult of the Cat'

Diane Morrison,  
Inverness

### ☆☆☆☆☆

### TOPS

I think your comic is really fabulous. I read it from cover to cover and I agree with you, it certainly is NOT to be read at night. I can't think of a better way to spend 8p. How much more for so little money! I'll be one of hundreds. I'm sure to place a regular order for my favourite comic. All my pals agree with me when I say it's really TOPS

Yvonne Cox, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland

### TRUE OR NOT?

I would like to know whether you make up your own stories? And I think you're pretty, too but I bet you're prettier than they make you look in the comic.

Alison Whitford,  
Newmarket, Suffolk

Some of the stories I have known for years. Others are told me by my friends at the mists. Misty.

### ☆☆☆☆☆

### BEST EVER

I think Misty is a super mag. full of exciting stories which I enjoyed. One of my favourites was 'The Cult of the Cat' which was very exciting and I'd like to see more of those kinds of stories in the future. The opening page has a lovely message from you which would just make anyone want to read on. I even caught my younger brother reading it and when I told him it was a girl's comic he didn't put it down which just goes to show how interesting it must be. I know I'm going to get 'Misty' every week and enjoy everything in it. Everyone who's enjoyed it ought to recommend it to their friends. Misty's the best magazine I have ever read.

Joanne D'Acci,  
Billingham, Cleveland



### SPOOKTACULAR!

Here is a poem I wrote about your comic. Hope you like it:-  
I bought your comic last week  
And it was without a doubt  
The best and most  
spooktacular comic that is out.

Moonchild is my favourite  
And if you print my rhyme,  
I'll buy a year's supply of Misty  
and read it all the time.  
Jacky Insite, Barking Essex.

## Misty first letters page (#7)

- Star letter – telekinesis and 'Moonchild' [Comment]
- Misty Medicine – self (illness) [Connection]
- Is he a cissy? – male reader, praise [Compass]
- Misty fever – self (illness), praise [Connection]
- Riddle – answer is Misty [Creativity]
- Maggie and Marcella – self [Connection]
- Fright of the Dog – self (pet dog) [Connection]
- Tops – praise [Comment]
- True or Not – do you make up your own stories? And think you're pretty. [Comment]
- Best ever – praise [Comment]
- Spooktacular – poem, praise [Creativity]

# *Misty* letters content

Creativity (creative work from readers)	22%
Curiosity (questions about the comic or Misty herself)	12%
Connection (with readers' lives) [32%]	32%
Community and conversation (dialogue between readers)	17%
Comment and criticism (comments on stories)	37%
Compass (diverse readership re: ages, location, etc)	9%

# Creativity

*Poems, acrostic poems, rhyming verse and blank verse, limericks, prose poems, myths...*

‘She comes in the fog  
pushed on by the seas,  
Her hair caressed by  
the nymphs of the breeze.  
The mermaids come and  
watch from the streams  
This beautiful maid from  
the Cavern of Dreams.  
Her dress is made from  
the crest of a wave  
And lined with moonbeams  
Diana will save.  
She sits in the mist  
and tells of her land,  
A place no mortal could  
ever have planned.’  
(Beverley Moses (age 12), #44)

*...recipes, plays, audio, reviews,  
mathematical, jokes, cross-references to  
history/fact*

‘Add 2 ounces of terror to 1 ounce of horror,  
bind together with 1 teaspn of fright and  
beat in 2 teaspns queasiness. [...] Ice with  
colour after baking in a cold, creepy dungeon  
and decorate with animals, e.g. cats, bats,  
spiders, snakes...’ (Misty Fan, #27)

‘The stories are so good and my two children  
wrote a play based on one of them. The  
school performed it and raised £124.50p for  
charity I am very proud to say’ (Mrs Jane  
Guffick, #27).

‘Each copy has 32 sides of paper. If you  
divide 8 between 32 you get the cost of one  
side...’) and combines this with the average  
number of words per page (200) to get the  
average price of one word (‘ $0.25 \div 200 =$   
 $0.00125$  or  $1/800$  if you prefer fractions.’  
(J.F.D. Wood, #26)

# Curiosity and Community

'I think your comic is the most breathtaking, most frightening, most enchanting comic out and every time I go to bed I think of you.' (Lisa Wilder, #45)

## Discussion:

Déjà vu (#54) followed by five readers' responses (#63): similar experiences and possible explanations (both spiritual and scientific)

'to thank all the girls who sent me their instructions for the Wheel of Fortune after I'd asked for them on your letter page [#62]' (Jane Allen Maerdy, #74)

## Comics societies and fan clubs:

Worldwide, invitations

## Selling/swapping back issues and annuals:

Aileen McMahon (#60)

## Debate – factual and preferences:

'Your reader was wrong when she said there were only two other ways of killing vampires other than a stake through the heart.' (Nichola Layzell, #95).

'I disagree with the two girls who suggested less monsters and more mystery [...] an element of mystery's all right but overdoses would make Misty commonplace [...] I prefer a comic that puts tingles in my back, not tangles in my book.' (R. McInnes, #76)

# Compass

Diversity of age, gender, location:

Misty claims aged 7-21 (#10)

Letters page shows aged 9-85 (#84, #52)

'My daughter at the age of nine

Thinks your comic is just fine

Her Nan now at the age of fifty

First introduced the comic Misty

I never thought I'd be on the hook

For any comic or any book.

Which go to show it suits all ages

And excites us when we turn the pages.'

(Ms J. Broadley, #29)

France [#35, #75], Holland, Australia, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates [#46], USA [#32, #45, #86] and Germany (all cited by Misty in #89); also Bolivia (#58), Mallorca (#59) and Romania (#73).



## Final thoughts:

- Guidance vs free rein
  - Creativity
  - Trends and conversations
- 

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