

Perdita Finn Part 1 of 2 Transcript

0:00:01 - Annncr

Julie Ryan, noted psychic and medical intuitive, is ready to answer your personal questions, even those you never knew you could ask. For more than 25 years, as she developed and refined her intuitive skills, Julie used her knowledge as a successful inventor and businesswoman to help others. Now she wants to help you to grow, heal and get the answers you've been longing to hear. Do you have a question for someone who's transitioned? Do you have a medical issue? What about your pet's health or behavior? Perhaps you have a loved one who's close to death and you'd like to know what's happening? Are you on the path to fulfill your life's purpose, no matter where you are in the world? Take a journey to the other side and ask Julie Ryan Hi everybody.

0:00:44 - Julie

Welcome to the Ask Julie Ryan Show. It's where we blend spirituality and practicality to help you live a life of purpose and joy. We have my dear friend Perdita Finn with us on the show today. You guys are going to love her. A prolific author and former Columbia University writing professor, Perdita, alongside her husband Clark Strand, founded the Way of the Rose Fellowship.

A masterful storyteller, Perdita seamlessly blends ancient goddess and Madonna wisdom into modern-day guidance for those wanting to activate miracles in their own lives. With profound knowledge and a boundless heart, Perdita's words awaken the sacred, guiding us towards the maternal power woven into the fabric of existence. We decided to divide our far-reaching conversation into two episodes. In part one, we discussed the goddess-slash-Madonna concept of feminine power. It's been in existence since the beginning of time. In part two, Perdita and I talk about the hidden history of women healers being burned as witches throughout Europe and the Americas. Please remember to subscribe, leave a comment and share this episode with your family and friends. Now let's go chat with Perdita. Perdita, welcome back to the show for the third time. Girl, you're a returning champion.

0:02:13 - Perdita

Julie, you know I'll be honest, I'm not doing a lot of podcasts right now, but the opportunity to be with you and be in your presence and talk with you is such medicine that I've been looking forward to this all week.

0:02:27 - Julie

Oh, me too, because I just adore you. The feeling is mutual, I know, I know, and I adore your husband too, and you approve. So it's a good thing. All right, let's just get into it. How'd you become so fascinated with the ancient maternal history of the world?

0:02:49 - Perdita

Oh, Julie, you know I've just finished writing a book about this, another one because there's always another book. When I became a mother and I realized I had no idea how isolated women in our culture are who become mothers and you know our beloved friend Gertrude Lyons has written a wonderful book about this right and the Mother Code and I think I was stunned. There was no resources, no support and it was really hard work and I felt so isolated and I also felt very excluded in all the spiritual settings I was used to because I had two children and my husband and I were juggling work and kids and when I went to a religious experience on the weekend I didn't want to be apart from my children. I wanted to be sharing some experience with them, which meant that first, at the Zen monastery, where I got kicked out of the Zen for having my kids there, I was running a program for all the children on the weekends whose parents were coming to the Zen Do and I was just like what's going on here? Like who are the spiritual teachers? The spiritual teachers are the children here, excluded from

everything, and what is this thing everybody's doing if it's excluding the most important part of our world, which is children.

So then we left and we went to the Episcopal Church and raised nothing ex-Buddhist. I've been put in charge of the Sunday school, okay, and again I have all the kids in the back room. And eventually we just looked at each other and said, eh, we'll just do our own spiritual instruction with the kids. And we did what we'd always done, which is, you know, to sit down with them regularly at the end of every night and say you know, what are you grateful for? What do you want to say thank you for? What do you want to say thank you for? What do you want to ask for help for, you know? And so our family, spirituality, and I think women have always maintained folk practices because they're in the home, you know, and they don't have time for all this foolishness. They've got their rosary beat. And I think I began.

My grandmother was long since dead at this point, but I began to realize that this old woman and it's St Patrick's Day and my Irish grandmother, she was born Molly Arland, Finn, you know she raised six children who lived during the Depression with no money, and she kept them all alive, and she kept them alive with prayer. And I began to realize that this woman, who was very dismissed by my father as an old, superstitious, uneducated, uncultured person, was really wise, like my father said about her. You know, she got us all around my sister's bedside when she had strep throat and her fever went up to 104 and she made us all pray the rosary and he acted like this was so stupid. And I looked at my father, who was a doctor, and I said antibiotics hadn't been invented yet, she didn't have Advil, she didn't even have money for the doctor and that, and my father's sister, who everybody prayed around while her fever spiked, she lived to 96.

0:06:46 - Julie

There you go.

0:06:48 - Perdita

So I think that was my transformation. I know that's a long. My grandmother also kissed the Blarney Stone, so I have the gift of gab. So forgive me.

0:06:57 - Julie

You're right, and it is today while we're recording is St Patrick's Day and, interestingly enough, my grandma Ryan was born on St Patrick's Day. And interestingly enough, my grandma Ryan was born on St Patrick's Day and she would be 125 today and she would hate that. She would have hated that. She would have been like, oh my God, just let me go to heaven. So that's hilarious. Two things, too, about what you just mentioned are parish praise, John Fallon, another Irishman. He says bring the kids, bring them to mass. If they're noisy, I'll just talk louder. And he always, at the end of every service, at the end of every mass, he always thanks the parents for bringing the children. And they don't. They have nurseries but most of them are in there and they have a cry room that makes it quieter. But he says bring them. You know, this is all part of the whole thing.

0:07:50 - Perdita

They're why we're here and they're going to remind us. You know, I always say you know this children and old people are closer to the other side. Right, we're the wise ones.

0:08:01 - Julie

And then, when you were talking about how hard it is as a mom, especially with little kids, when you were talking about how hard it is as a mom, especially with little kids, when you don't have any support, I remember when Jonathan was I don't know a week old or something, I went in for my you know postnatal whatever with the doctor and I said how do these indigent mothers do this? I have resources and I have help. How do they do this? And she said, well,

it's not the same. And then I always laugh when I talk to somebody who has a big age difference between their children and I'll say, well, did you wonder how you raised your 20-year-old now without all that equipment that you need for your newborn today? And they laugh and they go no kidding.

0:08:47 - Perdita

I know. But what we really need, more than all this stuff, is we need, you know, we need the old grandmothers around us and the old women around us. I mean, what I missed was Lore. You know, and like you know, my own mother was very ill when my daughter was born. You know, she was just getting over terrible treatment for cancer that really left her debilitated, and you know, and my mother-in-law was far away and I missed nothing. You know, my prayer is that my children have grandchildren soon, so I can give all that to them.

0:09:22 - Julie

My mother gave Jonathan his first bath and I remember thinking thank you God, because I'm afraid I'm going to break him Exactly right. Like, yeah, she showed me how to do it. My parents came out to LA and my mother stayed three weeks and I cried when she left.

0:09:40 - Perdita

I thought, oh my God, how am I going to do this on my own In the next 20 years? You know yeah, and you know yeah.

0:09:46 - Julie

If you hear these stories. So, yeah, I'm always fascinated with your tales of motherhood and the maternal and the Madonna and all of that, because I never really thought about it much until I met you and got to know you and fall in love with you with all of your wisdom, with this, and that's really what I want to talk about today is the whole Madonna, energy and the you know, the goddesses and the Madonna and all of that. What is a Marian apparition?

0:10:22 - Perdita

Well, oh, you know, there are two answers to this question. And one is everyone's had a direct experience of the Divine Mother, and almost all the hands would go up. So lots of people have experienced her. For some it's been a dream, for others it's been an intuition or an intimation, you know, and some have heard her voice. Some, you know I mean people have very profound.

There was a man who came, a very older man who had been an unhappy, grumpy Buddhist and he was taking out his trash. One day, he told us, and he saw a card of the Madonna that somebody had thrown away in the trash. Can. He thought you shouldn't do that, it's a terrible thing. And his heart went out that somebody had thrown away a postcard of the Madonna and he found himself taking it out of the trash, cleaning it off and bringing it inside, and then he thought, well, I should put it in a frame. And he got a frame for it. And then he thought I wonder if I could learn the Hail Mary. And so then he started praying the Hail Mary. He had a direct experience of the mother. She came for him and he honored her, and when we met him he had been praying the rosary for 10 years, wow, wow, just because she showed up in his life.

0:12:22 - Julie

Right In such an obscure kind of way.

0:12:27 - Perdita

Right In the trash. I've never forgotten that story. Like he was unlikely, she showed up in the trash. He just said oh, you can't do that, you know. You can't throw Mama away, don't put Davey in the corner, you know. And she answered his prayer and he said and I, and we said well, why have you kept praying the rosary? And he said well, she answers prayers, you know.

0:12:48 - Julie

There you go. Well, one of Jonathan's nuns when he was in grade school, our son Jonathan, she was the principal. She was at a parish I don't remember which one it was, it may have been in Virginia or Chattanooga or someplace like that and it was one of those Virgin Mary statues that wept. Oh yes, I've seen them. And she saw it firsthand as well. And she said I promise you, I saw it. And she said and I touched the tears and this woman had been a nun for like 40 or 50 years. I mean, this is like Jesus himself coming down and telling me this story. And I thought, okay.

And then I read recently about a nun in, I want to say, Kyoto, Japan, where they have one of the statues and I think this was back from the 70s, I'm sure you know about it and it not only shed tears but it also had droplets of blood, like on its hands, and they had the local universities, big universities, come test these and they were. The tears were made out of saline, like normal tears, and the blood was normal blood. They even knew the type of blood it was.

0:14:13 - Perdita

There's so many stories like this. I mean, the amazing thing is how many there are and how many there have been for hundreds and hundreds of years.

0:14:21 - Julie

This is what's going on forever.

0:14:25 - Perdita

Why? Well, you know, here's the thing. Skeptics will make fun of Marian devotion by saying, oh yeah, you think you can see, you know the hail, the vision of the Madonna in a piece of toast. Or you know the Madonna in a tree stump, tree stump. And I go absolutely right, because matter M-A-T-T-E-R is mater M-A-T-E-R, which is the Latin word for mother. Our mother is the body of all that is, she is the body of the trees, she is the body of the food, she is the stones.

So the ancient sculptors, you know, Herman has this beautiful book I don't know if you've ever read it Narcissus and Goldman. Oh, it's a beautiful story about a monk and an artist during the plague years and each searching right. And the artist goes out into the world and sees horrors beyond imagining after the plague and knows that what the world needs most is a mother. And he sets out to train himself as a sculptor so he can bring her form out of the wood, so that people can know that they are not alone. And the beauty of it he knew he's not just making a work of art, he is giving the mother a portal to come through and access people. You know, in medieval devotion. People would kiss these statues, they would bring them offerings, these statues, they would bring them offerings. They knew that the mother was really there in the wood or in the stone and that different statues had different flavors. Right, Like you go to Lourdes for healing but you go to Ainsedale to get through blockages and problems. So you know, different mothers have different powers and it's like, oh, there's different flavors of help that we can get from these Madonnas and these statues are not all the same and mothers know you need every mother, I know, knows you want nothing but mothers in the room. You want someone doing the dishes, you want something cleaning up. You know you. You know a mother. You know she arrives in your house and knows how to do the laundry and clean the kitty litter. You know, and you want a lot of different mothers in the house and the Madonna's no different. So she shows up. You know, I'll never forget Julie.

There's a museum in New York called the Cloisters. It's part of the Met I don't know if you've ever been there and it's a replica of a medieval monastery. The Rockefellers brought it stone by stone from Europe and built it over the Hudson and there's a room of Madonna's and my daughter had to have a very, very scary cardiology test and there was a high likelihood they were going to find this abnormality in her aorta that she was going to need surgery for, and it

was really scary. So before the test, I went to all the Madonnas, each one in that room and I said I'm saying thank you, I'm telling your story. You're not just here to be looked at as works of art, you're working girls. You bring me my miracle Right.

And lo and behold, my daughter had the test. She was fine, she doesn't need to have the surgery. We escaped that high statistically likelihood of that. So then my husband and I, Clark, we buy roses, because this is what you're supposed to do. We got to bring roses to the mama, right, and we sneak our roses into the museum and Clark distracts the guards. Well, I put roses in all of the hands of the Madonna.

0:18:15 - Julie

And then we snuck out my gosh. You're lucky they didn't catch you on camera and come get you, I know.

0:18:22 - Perdita

Well, actually one of the guards stopped me and said what are you doing?

0:18:29 - Julie

I said I'm saying thank you, you're Catholic, right, and I knew she was. She understood. Yeah, tell everybody the story about when you sent Clark out to buy some milk and he came back.

0:18:42 - Perdita

And what he came back with, I love that story. This was in the early days, you know. You said you love my husband and I'm so grateful that you see his gifts because, you know, not everybody does. You know, we were a young family with two young children and two writer parents, and money was very tight and a book Clark had thought would sell had not sold and we were on our credit card and we were down to a hundred dollars on our credit card and a very little cash until the next month. And so I sent Clark over to the next town, which was had a much cheaper grocery store, and said you know, milk, eggs, bread, that's it. You know, come home We'll have French toast for dinner. And Clark returns much later without the milk, without the eggs, without the bread Classic fairy tale.

And he has a statue, a stone statue of the Virgin Mary, it's about this tall. And I said what's that? He said I found her in an antique store in Socrates. I had to buy her. I said you bought her. I said how much was she? We had a hundred dollars on her credit card. She cost a hundred dollars and I wanted to kill him, Julie. I mean, you know, this is what this is. Our relationship is often like this, like I'm the practical one and he's the dreamer, and you know. But she was magic and that statue brought magic into our house. And I will tell you two other secrets about her. One is, when we went to France, 20 years after we got her, we were in, uh, l'église de madeleine, the church of the magdalene, the site madeleine, one of the oldest, very profound site where ancient evidence of human beings is, and there's this church devoted to Mary Magdalene, and inside this old church is nothing but the exact same statue that we have in our house.

0:20:57 - Julie

Yeah, and it's a black.

0:20:59 - Perdita

Madonna too, right? Well, you know how she became a black Madonna the day we finished writing Way of the Rose. She's made of gray stone and probably you know we had antiques. People look at it. They think it's an actual medieval statue that probably came down from Canada to where we are. But the day we finished the Way of the Rose, we were sitting at this table where I am and she's above the altar right in front of me we had a candle lit. We often have a novena candle lit on our altar and Clark and I looked at each other and said I think we're

done with our book about the Rosary and he said I think we're done and we shut the computer and the Novena candle on the altar exploded and it sent up black smoke that covered the stone statue and she's now jet black.

And what's the significance of that? Well, all over the world actually all over Europe, but all over the world many of the Madonnas are black. They have black faces, black hands, and you know, some people will say oh, they got. You know, they turned black from candle smoke, but then they would never be cleaned, and many of them were made from ebony wood or walnut. They were deliberately made to be black. And what is? Why are so many of you know, why are so many of the Madonnas, the earliest Madonnas, black? And there are a number of reasons for this, and I'll give you the scientific and the historical and then I'm going to give you the mysterious ones. How about that? Okay, perfect, you know. A scientific response would be to say that people knew that we're descended from our ancestors in Africa. Our original mothers are Black. Right Until probably five or 6,000 years ago, everybody in Europe was still black, right.

So it's an evocation of our ancestral past. Okay, that's true. There's also Isis was black, the Egyptian goddess, and many of the Isis statues of her holding her baby Horus and nursing him. When Christianity came to the forefront, everybody was devoted to Isis. They took the statues of Isis and Horus and said, okay, they're marrying Jesus, no problem, say mama, do new names, right. So those statues got recycled. Very often Our Lady of Rocamadour was probably a statue of Isis and Horus that was recycled.

But there's a more interesting idea about the mother's black face and why she's dark. You know the Song of Songs? If you don't, do you know that book from the Bible? You know it's so beautiful. It's a love song between a man and a woman, probably King Solomon and Queen Sheba, and you know she says I am the night, my face is black and she is the Sabbath bride, the Shekinah, the Sabbath bride we call in as darkness descends.

And so the world knew our ancestors had two different forces, right, yin and yang, sun and moon, light and dark. And the father was associated with the sun and clarity and daylight and getting things done, and the mother was associated with rest and dreams and the darkness of the womb and the darkness of the soil and that life needed a balance of these two energies. Right that we need both. We need both the sun and the moon, the light and the dark to feel whole, both the sun and the moon, the light and the dark to feel whole. And so the Black Madonna is the other side of our Lord the Son. Some people pray you know, our Lord the Son, our Lady of the Earth, mother Earth.

0:25:01 - Julie

Interesting. I don't remember the details, Perdita, but I remember that we did kind of a genealogy or a provenance on that Black Madonna one time. You and Clark and I were talking and we did it. I don't remember the details, but I remember it came from France, yes, through Canada and then down. We'll have to do that again because I don't think I wrote it down. I'm sure you guys probably didn't either.

0:25:25 - Perdita

But do you remember doing that? We don't really know the provenance, but we've talked to a number of antiques people and they think it probably came to Montreal through some French you know a lot of. There were a lot of refugees and you know, during the revolution in France all of these churches were gutted and all of these you know, I mean they burned a lot of the Black Madonnas.

0:25:44 - Julie

Right. Well, talk about a score in an antique store, right.

0:25:48 - Perdita

Well, talk about a score in an antique store.

0:25:50 - Julie

I know right, you know that antiques roadshow where people bring in great grandmas, whatever, and then the experts are going, yeah, but you know this is worth \$5 million or something, I think.

0:26:04 - Disclaimer

Well, I don't think it's worth it.

0:26:05 - Julie

Your Madonna is something I don't know, that it's worth \$5 million Probably not, but it's worth \$5 million?

0:26:09 - Perdita

Probably not, but it's worth a lot. She's worth our hearts. She gave us back our hearts.

0:26:15 - Julie

Yeah, exactly. Why is the goddess Madonna energy so powerful? Why is the goddess Madonna energy so powerful in every culture throughout all of ancient history?

0:26:32 - Perdita

Why is your mother so powerful? You know, I had a cousin this morning, Julie, my mother's been dead now for 23 years. What I wouldn't give is to walk through the door of her kitchen, have a cup of tea with her and sit on the couch and catch up. I mean, I talk to her all the time. I experience her as phenomenally close. My cousin today sent me a letter. She wrote him 30 years ago and just to see her handwriting, you know, our mothers are our first home, right, her body is our first home and the mother is the mother of all life. Right, she holds the cosmos in her womb. There's a beautiful piece of art I have in my kitchen which shows it's, I think, an orthodox image and it shows the mother and insiders the whole cosmos. You know, all the stars in her womb, all that is all life in our bodies, and we know that's true.

I used to meditate for a long time when I first started praying the rosary. Now, I wasn't raised Catholic. My grandmother was Catholic but my father was very. You know, I'm an educated science man and my kids are not going to grow up with any of this hoo-ha. So of course we all became very religious. You know how it goes. But when I first started praying the rosary I kept thinking of the words Mother of God. I kept thinking it's so big. You take God, the biggest thing in the world, the universe, the cosmos, right Everything, the totality of all that is the divine. And then you say, well, I know, but he has a mother, right. Yeah.

0:28:21 - Julie

Yeah, good point.

0:28:23 - Perdita

Everything has a mother, everything has a mother.

0:28:27 - Julie

Good point, yeah.

0:28:28 - Perdita

every plant, every animal, every human, every yeah, we talk about things you know we talk about. You know, in funguses, mushrooms, we talk about the mother. You know people who

grow their own kombucha, or they talk about the mother fungus that grows the kombucha, the mother yeast right, it is that generative energy of the world we talk about there. You know, I had the great joy once of going to a mother tree grove of redwoods in California and you know what will happen is, at a certain point the redwood grows and she seeds her children all around her right and she drops her limbs to feed them and eventually she makes a choice to die back in the soil so they can grow bigger and there'll be a huge declivity from where she died. And I went with a friend of mine and we went and prayed the rosary inside the mother tree in this redwood forest.

0:29:27 - Julie

So powerful, wow. Well, I'm thinking about here in the deep South, which your husband's from Alabama, for those that don't know that, and the magnolias and the live oaks. You know to your point. The branches come down to the ground, yeah, and a lot of times they have to put supports on them to help hold them, and they're massive.

0:29:53 - Perdita

Oh, those trees. I mean, and you know, a lot of the old lore was to put Black Madonnas inside trees where people would go and be devotional to them. Before there were churches, there were just sacred forests.

0:30:07 - Julie

Huh, I didn't know that.

0:30:08 - Perdita

And our cathedrals. Cathedrals are designed to give you the experience of being in the forest the stained glass windows with the light pouring down, the high arching. But if you really want the original cathedral, go to an old growth forest.

0:30:26 - Julie

Never thought about that.

0:30:27 - Perdita

Yeah.

0:30:28 - Julie

I love the energy in the Magnolia alleys. Here in the South there's a garden out between Pawleys Island, south Carolina, and what's the other resort town that's in South Carolina, that's North Myrtle Beach and it's called Brookgreen Gardens and it's four I believe four former rice plantations and the Huntington family the railroad Huntington family that they have the largest outdoor sculpture garden anywhere in the world and it's all American sculptures and these sculptures are massive but they've kept several of the original magnolia alleys leading up to the old plantation houses. Oh my God, the energy in there is amazing, amazing.

0:31:23 - Perdita

I mean, you know these great old trees are really. You know they feel like mothers, don't they? With their roots deep in the ground and their arms stretching out. And you know Joan of Arc. You know she used to go to a beech tree in her village of Domremy which had a Black Madonna embedded in it, and that's where she heard her voices.

0:31:45 - Julie

Interesting, interesting. Well, at this Brookgreen Gardens too in South Carolina they brought the slave cabins's just there. The energy in that garden is. It's just so extraordinary.

0:32:17 - Perdita

I want to introduce you to a friend of mine who's just written a book about the love story between human beings and flowers, and the first flower she writes about she's from West Virginia is the magnolia, which is one of the oldest flowers in the world.

0:32:31 - Julie

Yeah, yeah, and I have gosh. How many magnolia trees have we planted? Oh, they're massive. Now they were probably four feet tall when we planted them and I probably have maybe 15 of them. I planted them so I could use the foliage and the flowers. I could use the foliage at Christmas and I could use the foliage and the flowers. I could use the foliage at Christmas and I could use the flowers in the summer. And now they're just. They're probably 40 or 50 feet tall.

0:32:55 - Perdita

25 years later. Yeah, I love them Amazing.

0:32:58 - Julie

They were a hundred bucks a piece. I paid for those trees and planted them, and now they're just massive. All right, I digress. And now they're just massive. All right, I digress. Who are some of the pagan goddesses that morphed into Marian icons? You talked about Isis.

0:33:14 - Perdita

This fascinates me. Isis is the big one, and Isis' story is really Mary Magdalene and Jesus' story, you know, and I think one of the things that's so interesting is to see. You know, are these stories being appropriated, or are these beings reincarnating into different stories at different times, which is what they say in India? Right, you know? And so Isis, her husband Osiris, her beloved husband Osiris, is murdered by his brother, by his brother, and she is distraught, heartbroken, and she goes out to find his body and she resurrects him. But you know, we're not inside Christianity yet, so the resurrection of Osiris is only for long enough for him to impregnate her so she can give birth to her son Horus, him to impregnate her so she can give birth to her son Horus. And we find much of the same imagery in this story about. You know, this is going to be a little blasphemous for people who maybe are traditional Catholic, but it's all there in the old storytelling, when Mary Magdalene resurrects Jesus.

The first thing, Jesus, she says to Jesus when she sees him, she doesn't recognize him, right, but she says are you the gardener? And are you the gardener is not a case of mistaken identity. In fact she's identifying him. Is he now the one who impregnates the mother and brings life back into the world, which is what Osiris does to Isis, what Dumuzi does for Inanna, one of the old Sumerian goddesses. Inanna says to Dumuzi are you the gardener? He says I am. She says, you know, make me pregnant, renew the world. And so Mary Magdalene, when she says to Jesus, are you the gardener? She's saying are we going to do this, are we going to resurrect the world? Are we going to bring the world back to life? And my daughter, you know, has written a book about this called the Madonna Secret that says you know, the resurrection is when Mary Magdalene gets pregnant.

0:35:26 - Julie

Yeah, yeah. Well, and there's that whole chain of thought with the Da Vinci Code and the and all of that, which is fiction, but fiction based on what based on?

0:35:37 - Perdita

you know, in the middle ages Mary Magdalene was frequently presented as pregnant and in fact there were lots of groups of folk catholicism around Mary Magdalene and her child coming to France, and you know that was ubiquitous information. And so the Da Vinci Code is based on a lot of research called Holy Blood, holy Grail, about looking at all that old folklore about Mary Magdalene and Jesus and why it gets suppressed.

0:36:06 - Julie

Well, and then so many of the legends, like even King Arthur, the Arthurian legend and Camelot, and all that, knights of the Round Table and all of that, lady and the Lake, you know, there's another Madonna figure for you history, and there have been novelists who go do their research and then they'll put the footnotes in the back of the book and you do that, and here's where this stuff happened. And okay, so this is a novel, but we've based it on this element of truth.

0:36:44 - Perdita

I don't know if you've read the book the Immortality Key by Brian Murakowski. It's a wild book. He got permission from the Vatican to get into the deep treasure trove. I don't know how he did it he was a Washington Post journalist. Jesus and Dionysus, and Dionysus also had a beloved Ariadne, who was queen of heaven and earth. Who he crowns queen of heaven and earth? You know just the way. Inanna is queen of heaven and earth, Isis is queen of heaven and earth, Mary is queen of. You know, names change, titles are the same. But it's really fascinating about how Dionysus was a real rebellious figure in Roman mythology. He was a liberator of slaves and he was a liberator of women and he's very much like Jesus. You know he's coming in to empower people, to feed people, to turn water into wine All of these old stories about and so that a lot of the early Christian communities were quasi-Dionysian communities as well.

0:38:00 - Julie

So is it all the same energy coming in and it's just retold in a different way for the time, for Don't you think? Well, I think that it's kind of hard to just do away with all the coincidences. Are they coincidences? I mean, there's so many similarities and you know more about this stuff than anybody that I know. Certainly there are many scholars At the Wing of the.

0:38:28 - Perdita

Rose. What we say is we invite people to come pray the rosary with us and we pray the traditional rosary Our Fathers and Hail Marys. But we say you call the lady any name you want to call her. You want to call her Isis, call her Isis. You want to call her Guadalupe or Tenanson, call her Tenanson. You know we all have different names for our mothers, but mother is mother right, yeah, she's going to show up.

0:38:59 - Julie

However we call her, it's fascinating to me. And then you think of all the edits throughout history, like just in the Bible got the King James version and the Nicene version and the whatever version and all of that and the translations, and I find that stuff all really fascinating Me too.

0:39:16 - Perdita

Have you ever read the Jesus Seminar books at all?

0:39:19 - Julie

No, you need to make me a list of books that we need to read.

0:39:23 - Perdita

You know, the Jesus Seminar was a group of scholars who got together and said what can we figure out that Jesus actually said based on all these documents?

Which is really interesting because you know, what people don't realize is Jesus was probably illiterate and was an oral storyteller. He didn't speak Greek or Latin, he spoke Aramaic. I mean, I've learned the Our Father in Aramaic because I want to be able to speak in the words that Jesus used. So you can go to a wonderful website called abunorg, I believe, to learn it. It's very

hard, clark says. It sounds like I'm speaking hairball, but I really, for whatever reason, it really resonates with me and it is my way of honoring Jesus, is to use his language.

So you have this illiterate, traveling wild man, right, and I think of him. He's coming into communities that have been devastated by war, devastated, you know. People have had their land taken away. The Romans have come in and conquered them. Jesus isn't the first person crucified. They're crucifying everybody and they're oppressing people.

Why do they pay attention to him? He must have been so charismatic, right, such a good storyteller, an entertainer and with something to say that radically changed their lives. But his words and stories don't get written down until the very earliest 50 years after he dies, and they get written down in Greek by people who may have just heard stories about him from other people who knew him. Do you know what I mean? Like it's a game of telephone. So you know, the Jesus Seminar is really interesting and my daughter had the great good luck to study with one of the main scholars of it when she was in college and you know she wrote a book about Jesus. But he had written a lot of books about what's added on to what Jesus said and what do we see him saying everywhere?

0:41:48 - Julie

Yeah, interesting, it's fascinating. Back to the pagan goddesses. What are some of the more well-known pagan sites that became Marian pilgrimage destinations?

0:42:04 - Perdita

Find any. Okay, our Lady of Mount Carmel. Okay, I love Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I say a prayer to her every morning. I love it. She's beautiful.

You know, mount Carmel has seen human habitation, Julie, for almost a million years. Wow, where is it? It's in, it's in, um, it's in, uh, northern Israel, near Haifa. And and it's a place that has been a holy place since there have, since before we were human beings, right, like when we were homo erectus and when we were just making our stone tools. That place was sacred to us and we were going to that mountain to meet our mother, and there have been reports of apparitions all throughout history there.

And you go to Lourdes. People all have heard about Lourdes, right, you know when Bernadette went to collect the firewood at the trash heap, you know she was going out to the dump. She was a poor girl going out to the dump to get fire for her family firewood. And the lady appears to this poor peasant girl at the dump to get fire for her family firewood. And the lady appears to this poor peasant girl at the dump. But the place where she appears and the spring wasn't flowing at that time you know Bernadette digs in the ground to get the spring flowing. There has been evidence of human habitation 300,000 years in that area, in that spot where the Virgin appeared to her. So you know, our Neanderthal ancestors may have been seeing their mother there too.

0:43:54 - Julie

Well, what does it mean that I was born in Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

0:43:59 - Perdita

It means everything, it means everything. Does that mean?

0:44:03 - Julie

that I was living with the Neanderthals back in the day, I think well.

0:44:12 - Perdita

I think there are people who have a deep connection to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and I often find that the people I feel the deepest soul tug with not surprising. It's just a kind of confirmation of how I feel about you. I always oh, of course. Of course you were born in our life.

0:44:34 - Julie

Of course you were, and so were my parents, and so were all my siblings. All of us were born and they pronounced it Mount Carmel, but it's still. It's big, it's one of the big hospitals in Columbus. Yeah, still is my. My nephew's wife works there as a nurse. So what is it about these areas? Is it the energy in the ground? Is it ley lines? Is it? What do you think?

0:45:01 - Perdita

I'll tell you what I think, well, and then you tell me, because you've got a sense of this stuff too. So Our Lady began appearing where we live in Woodstock, new York, right, and on June 16th 2011, my husband had a very different experience. He had really started experiencing a lady showing up and talking to him, and she delivers messages that still, even now, 15 years later, we're offering to the public.

0:45:26 - Julie

And they're amazing and we'll talk about how people can hear those.

0:45:30 - Perdita

Yeah, and people often say like I don't see her, I don't hear her. I'm just, you know, emptying the kitty, litter and doing the dishes, you know. But my husband does, and I help bring her messages and share them. But I know my husband, I know the words he uses, I know his thoughts, I know what he's capable of and, believe me, Julie, as much as I love him, he is not capable of these messages. And the first time, you know, when it first began, I was very skeptical about the whole experience. I mean, I really felt a little bit like Cher and you know Moonlighting, like snap out of it, baby. You know, we can't handle a Marian apparition right now. And then, when she began to share her messages, my life was transformed.

But why does she appear here in Woodstock? Why, when Clark and I found this house, Julie, we had looked at a lot. We were going to buy a house in this area. We knew and, against all logic, we bought this little rundown house where we live because we loved the land so much. Only 10 years after we moved in did we discover that this house is built right atop cairns that may be 13,000 years old. What's a cairn? There are stone walls and stone creations that were built by the indigenous people here, and they were built in devotion to the land here. This was a devotional site to indigenous people and so, oh so, we intuitively felt some energy in this land.

Right, and I'll be honest, you know, when we first moved here to Woodstock, I was a little unnerved because I realized I would go out to do something, go take the kids to a play date, and this was in the days before Google Maps. I wouldn't need a map. I knew all the roads, I knew my way around, I had been coming here in my dreams my whole life and I had been visiting these roads, these mountains, and I think both Clark and I had a feeling of. You know, the mother is the earth and I think she speaks. The earth speaks in certain places and she takes the sound of. You know, water coming up through stone takes the flavor of the rock it comes up through and the minerals, and so you know, the lady here, the lady of Garbondal, is going to speak one way and the lady of Woodstock is going to speak another, right?

0:48:15 - Julie

Based on to whom they're speaking Exactly, and we hear that they can intuit it Well you've told me, too, that you've found seashells and fish fossils in your backyard.

0:48:25 - Perdita

Well, you know this area where we live. I got curious about the mountains. It's not real mountains, you know. Real mountains are formed by tectonic plates going to the ocean, wearing away the land, and that creates these seabeds being compressed over millions of years. And so you find oh, look out in my backyard and you pick up a piece of stone and there's a shell in it.

0:48:57 - Julie

Yeah, that's wild, it's wild. Well, there's a shrine here about an hour and a half north of me. I think I've told you about it in Hantsville, Alabama. It's called the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and it has some serious mojo going on in there and they in the basilica that Mother Angelica, who's deceased now built with five families, gave her the cash for it. She paid cash for it. I mean, you never seen so much gold leaf outside of Europe in your life like there is here.

So anyways, they have this healing service in the undercroft of the Basilica and when my dad was still alive he was visiting my mom had already passed no-transcript all the way down the communion rail. They'd bless them, they'd light up. They'd bless them, they'd light up. And then what I noticed too in this service and I've been there probably three or four times now on different occasions usually when somebody's visiting that's really Catholic. And so I take my son Jonathan calls them mysterious Catholics and I'll take them up there and everybody during that service has a tongue of fire on top of their head, like Pentecost, like they talk about in Pentecost, and it just looks like a flame, like burning up above their head.

0:50:42 - Perdita

I think there are places. We go to the land and we plug in.

0:50:47 - Julie

We've all been to those places right, we've all felt it when you plug in, right. Yeah, the first time I saw that I'm like what the heck is there one above my head and I couldn't feel any heat, but I could see it and it was suspended because I put my head back to look at it and I put and I could see, and it just looked like it's depicted in the, in the, you know the Pentecost depictions, and so that's what it looks like. So I think these sacred sites, certainly the all of the ancient civilizations, they, they've seen them, they're everywhere, all over the world, and so my next question is did they originate, in some instances, from beings outside of the earth?

0:51:38 - Perdita

Oh, you know, this is above my pay grade, Julie. I don't know, but it's coming into my zeitgeist. I know it's a big topic right now. Like you know, we are Stardust right. Stardust is part of what we are. That's what the song says. I know right, and I mean sometimes I think it's like you know, those Russian nesting dolls, I love Russian nesting dolls. Like you know, those Russian nesting dolls, I love Russian nesting dolls.

0:52:03 - Julie

I'm excited for you to hear part two, where Perdita and I talk about the hidden history of women healers being burned as witches throughout Europe and the Americas, and then Perdita shares how praying to ancestors can help us create miracles in our own lives.

0:52:21 - AnnCR

Thanks for joining us. Be sure to follow Julie on Instagram and YouTube at AskJulieRyan, and like her on Facebook at AskJulieRyan. To schedule an appointment or submit a question, please visit AskJulieRyan.com.

0:52:35 - Disclaimer

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