

# City of Secrets

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
AUTHOR PATRICE CHAPLIN  
WITH COMMENTARY  
by ANI WILLIAMS

*...in Girona, medieval Cabbalists were experimenting with ritual journeys into other dimensions. Their preparation for rituals included fasting, meditation, and their use of breath and continuous chants to reach a hypnotic state and open a portal... a Jacob's ladder to other dimensions of reality.*

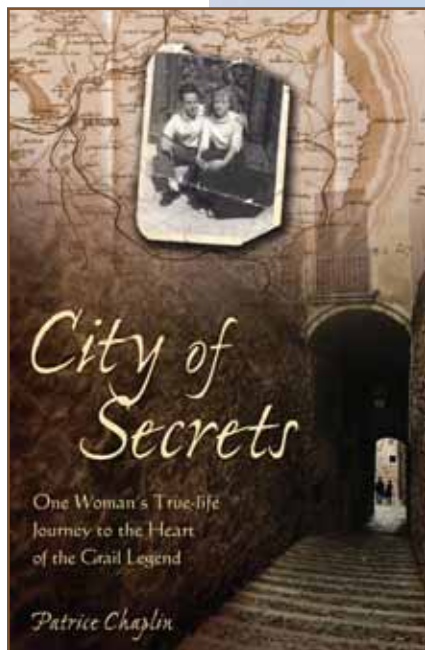
Patrice Chaplin is an internationally renowned playwright and author who has published more than 25 books, plays and short stories.

As a Bohemian in Paris during the 50's and 60's, she spent time with Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. She was married to Charlie Chaplin's son Michael and during her avant garde journeys through occult circles, her friends included Salvador Dali, Jean Cocteau, Lauren Bacall, Miles Davis, author Umberto Eco and experts on the esoteric practices of the Cabbala in Spain. *City of Secrets* is the extraordinary true story of one woman's journey to the heart of the Grail legend.

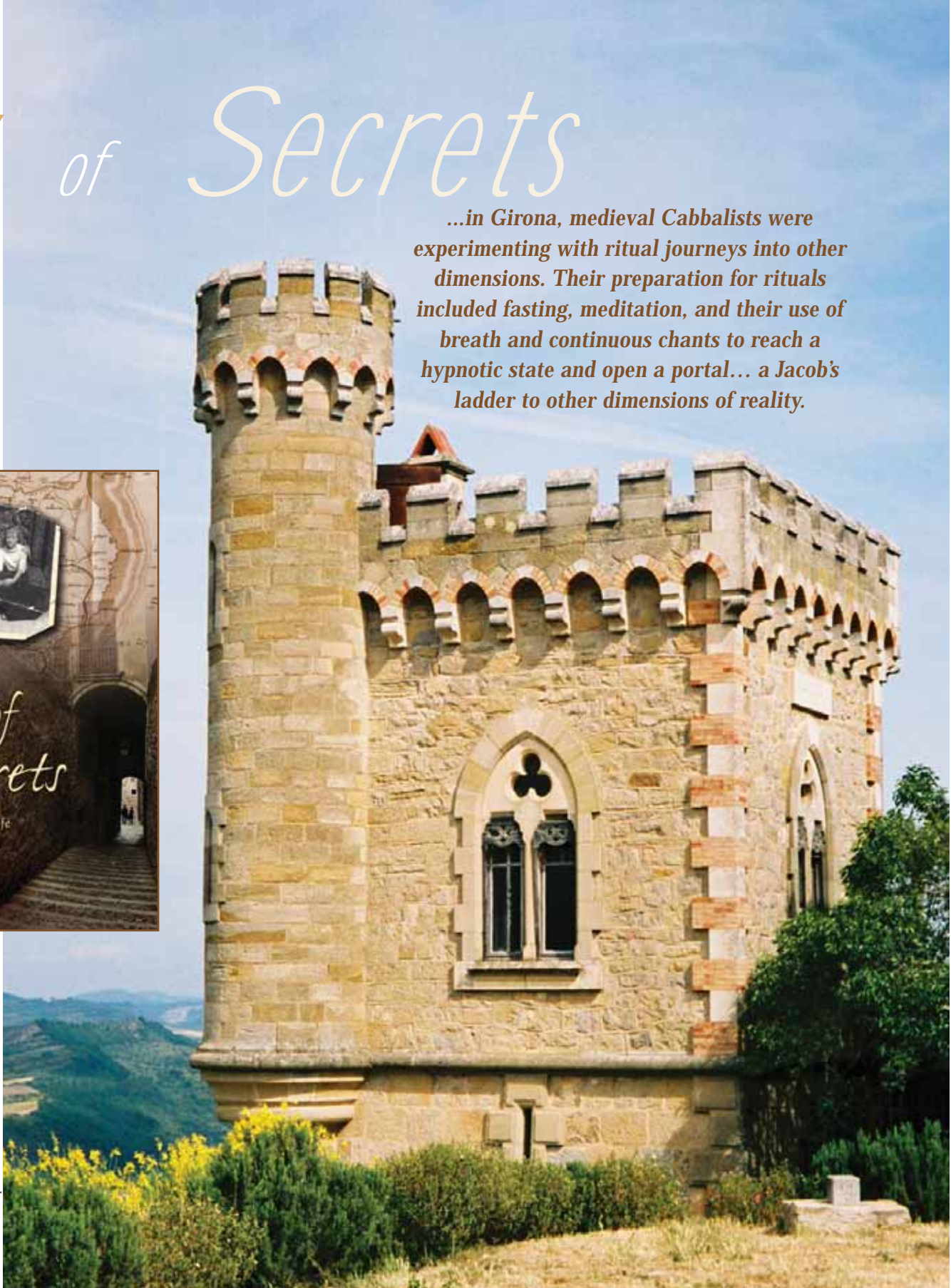
In Patrice Chaplin's book *City of Secrets*, she traces her journey through the foothills of the Pyrenees, the land where the wanderings of the Grail and its Troubadours of the heart have left their indelible imprint.

In the 1950's Patrice, then just a teenager, left England to study languages and taste the life of a true bohemian in France and Spain. She stumbled upon an ancient mystery in Girona, Spain, a town steeped in medieval grail secrets, Caballistic documents and a mysterious history. According to Chaplin, Girona was host to numerous famous European actors, mystics, priests, alchemists, and artists mentioned earlier and including the 19th century mysterious priest Berenger Sauniere. This priest and his little church dedicated to Mary Magdalene in Rennes le Chateau, France became famous in the many books written in the last century on the grail legends and the heretical Bloodline stories as posed in *Holy Blood Holy Grail* and *The Da Vinci Code*.

Patrice was enchanted by the magnetism and power that exudes from the region surrounding the Pyrenees' Mount Canigou. Over her many subsequent journeys to Girona, Patrice was told of numerous appearances there of a Lady of Light with a cup, thought to be Mary Magdalene. She was pulled into a strange series of experiences regarding ancient Cabballistic grail traditions by her associations with her Spanish lover, a member of a local secret mystical sect.



Rennes le Chateau photo Ani Williams



*Ani:* Patrice, you were one of the first to write about these grail mysteries and Mary Magdalene, years before the recent popular books by Dan Brown and others.

*Patrice:* Yes, I guess I was.

*A:* I think it's wonderful that as a young woman in the 1950's, you were pioneering in this work at a time when few others were delving into the grail story. In *City of Secrets* you mentioned that in Girona, medieval Cabbalists were experimenting with ritual journeys into other dimensions. You describe their preparation for rituals, which included fasting, meditation, and of particular interest to me, their use of breath and continuous chants to reach a hypnotic state and open a portal... a Jacob's ladder to other dimensions of reality. Do you know of any sources for further information on how these rituals were conducted?

*P:* You could look at Umberto Eco's books, because he witnessed some of these rituals in Girona. He wrote a book called *Foucault's Pendulum* and he got a lot of information from Luiz at the Girona bookstore. Umberto certainly witnessed a ritual, even though he will always deny he did. There's also a Caballist book called *The Sworn Book*; there are only a few copies of it in the world. Umberto Eco said he had based his ritual on the information in *The Sworn Book*. This book was in Girona, but the Caballists have it now.

A: Is *The Sworn Book* from the medieval times?

P: Yes. (Author's note: The full title is *The Sworn Book of Honorius of Thebes*, or *Liber Juratus*, (Book of the Laws). According to author Joseph H. Peterson, "... it is one of the oldest and most influential texts of medieval magic." The *Sworn Book* lists the 100 sacred names of god and 42 angels, each representing a letter of an alchemical alphabet. The sacred names and letters constitute the vibrational aspect of Cabbalistic initiation rites. Also listed are specific herbs and aromas suggested for purifying the archetypes of the twelve zodiac signs.

A: What are the titles of your two upcoming books?

P: The second one is called *Mr. Lazarus*. Lazarus is a nickname they gave to Saunier. The other book is called *Make the Next Call to God*, which is about the journey through the portal. Both books are a continuation of all the material which keeps coming. The second book has a lot about Salvador Dali. I spent time with Dali at his home in Porlligat on the Mediterranean.

A: I was interested in the Caballistic sound traditions mentioned in your *City of Secrets* book, as I have sung and observed the transforming power of Hebrew, Aramaic and Egyptian chants for many years.

P: A lot of the work I'm doing now is on F# sustained. I've witnessed transformation with F# sustained. Some of the physicists know about it. It's the tone I've been told about. It comes from one of the portals. It certainly transforms blood and DNA. It's like in Roslyn Chapel, with the musical instruments on the ceiling. When they are played together, they form an F# tone. And if you play an F# sustained on a drum with powder on it, it makes the maze at Chartres Cathedral. F# does many things. The second book *Mr. Lazarus* has a lot about that.

(Author's note: Patrice refers above to the principle termed Cymatics, in which grains of sand, powder or liquids form coherent patterns when specific sounds are generated. Although I am not familiar with the research in F# that Patrice refers to, in my work with sound, F# corresponds with the Heart Chakra. Is it a coincidence that the bell in the Magdalene Chapel in Rennes le Chateau rings in F# every day? Each frequency has unique correlations and qualities and each individual responds differently to specific sound frequencies, according to their needs. For more information on specific tone correlations see [www.anwilliams.com](http://www.anwilliams.com))

A: In *The City of Secrets* you suggest that Mary Magdalene may have landed south of Narbonne at Leucate. Do you know of any documents that mention this?

P: It's all heresy. I really don't know. The area has amazing waterways and it's just parallel with Rennes le Chateau. It's a wonderful place. It's worth looking at. And that's where Magdalene would have landed if it's true. We don't really know if it's true. I have no proof. I get my information from things that come in the back door from the Vatican or from things that people tell me in Girona and materials that have been given to me that have been hidden away in people's cupboards. They will pull out a paper, and there will be Saunier's face looking up at me.

(Most French legends speak of Mary Magdalene traveling in a rudder-less boat without oars or sails, arriving at Saintes Maries de la Mer in Provence, where the gypsies still celebrate in an annual festival in late May. The stories tell of Magdalene arriving with her sister Martha, brother Lazarus, Mary Jacobe, Mary Salome, perhaps Joseph of Arimathea, and a young girl named Sarah. In several ancient traditions, the person arriving in a rudder-less boat would have been the heir to the throne. Many believe Sarah was the daughter of Jesus and Magdalene and would have been the female heir to the Davidic royal line.)

A: You have been on quite a trek. Are you still going back to Girona?

P: Oh, very much so, but I don't do any searching anymore, although I have been offered things that are interesting. Girona has many secrets.

A: I'll have to explore more in that area. There are many mysteries and legends there. You mention in *City of Secrets* that Isis worshippers brought a secret to Spain when they came ashore at LEscala 4000 years ago.

P: It was actually at LEmporius Brava, which is above LEscala, which is the more well-known name. The Phoenicians came there and the Greeks, and we know the Romans came there. The Phoenicians came in their ships and went to Mount

Canigou to mine the salt.

A: In your book you mention the ancient ritual sun stones. I was shown one near St. Michel de Cuxa, at the foot of Mount Canigou. There is also a mysterious large rectangular stone with symbols at Rennes le Chateau. These could be the relics of ritual traditions in the region more ancient than we know. We do know of Druid and Mithraic sun worshipping groups that were active in the region of the Pyrenees.

Regarding Magdalene and the appearances of the Lady of the Cup in Girona, did you ever meet anyone who witnessed this vision?

P: Oh yes, many. Some experienced perfume, others perceived her made of smoke or honey colored light and she gave the feeling of great healing, unlike anything else. The people who witness the vision are completely changed.

A: Many of the other appearances of Our Lady are experienced with sounds of bells, chimes and birdsong, such as Maria Guadalupe in 1531 at Tepeyac, Mexico. In your book you mentioned chimes and a gong being heard when she appeared.

P: Yes, that's right. In another appearance of the Lady of the Cup, she came to the well by the barraca near the French Lady's garden near the Torre Magdala. It's where Charlemagne stayed when he first came to Girona. He also had a vision of Our Lady there. When she came they said at first that it was a fallen angel and then it appeared clearly to be the Lady with the Cup.

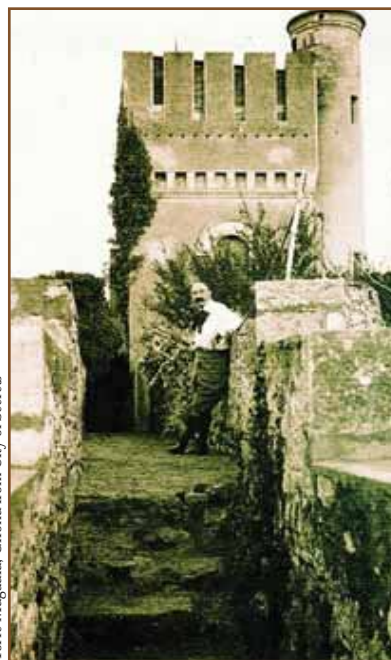
The effect of the Lady with the Cup is like a million gurus in one, so that the divine nature of that apparition or presence, is such that people feel that everything is alright and always will be. That is what the people who were there have said. Her appearances have occurred repeatedly there, but the church won't accept it. They say that it's Jesus and they created a shrine to him where her mark was left at the site. Those who witnessed the appearances were never allowed to say much about it. The woman who voiced her experience, the vision of The Lady, was put into a mental home until she agreed to say that it was really Jesus. All the witnesses there saw the Lady with the Cup and they were familiar with it. They have images of her in the Catalan art, even from medieval times...

...it was the lady with the cup.

A: Is there a message that you would like to leave the readers?

P: The important thing in the story is that people work with the resonance, the energies to bring about good. All of the other details are less important. One must be prepared, though and sufficiently developed on the path of awakening. When working with the strong energies at these sites one should use protection, spinning golden light from the top of the head downward and around the soles of the feet.

Ani Williams is a harpist, singer and sound therapist residing in Sedona, Arizona. Visit Ani's website for expanded version and images of *City of Secrets* and articles on Mary Magdalene and the Grail mysteries, *Songaia Sound Medicine*, and *May and September, 2009 Grail Pilgrimages in Southern France*. Her May tour includes the annual Gypsy Festival of St. Sarah in Provence. [www.anwilliams.com](http://www.anwilliams.com) or call 928.204.1124



Torre Magdala, Girona from City of Secrets

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