

### Chapter 1 : 10 Eerie Omens Of Death - Listverse

*Death Crowns are usually elaborate, interlocking designs that resemble a disc or crown. The quills always point inward, and though rare, are only found in the feather pillows of the seriously ill or recently deceased.*

In Appalachian culture, a bizarre phenomenon of feather crowns found in the pillows of sick people became known as an omen of death. Feather death crown dating somewhere between the 1700s and the 1800s. Long ago, the people of Appalachia began to notice a peculiar phenomenon: These objects became known as Death Crowns or less-commonly, angel crowns. Death Crowns are usually elaborate, interlocking designs that resemble a disc or crown. The quills always point inward, and though rare, are only found in the feather pillows of the seriously ill or recently deceased. Because of the isolated, rural nature of the area, the phenomenon appears to be unique to Appalachia, or locations where some of these mountain folk migrated, such as Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio. My family has lived in Hall County, Georgia for generations, just miles from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. My great aunt paid us a visit when I was maybe 5 years old. She started talking about the recent death of her elderly father. A car sped by without caution, striking the old man. She started to throw the pillow away, but something compelled her to open it up. She reached inside and probed with her fingers in search of what she had felt. She took this as a sign her father had gone to heaven. After several minutes of convincing, she persuaded me to go play. After a while, I forgot about the whole thingâ€”until bed of course. Finally, I fell asleep. Vintage death crown in a bell jar with post-mortem photo and funeral card. Photo by Lori Kimball. These odd formations are usually interpreted as a heavenly sign, but skeptics believe that the movements of a dying personâ€”tossing and turning combined with fever sweatsâ€”could cause these objects to take form. If you are one of the few that still sleeps on feather pillow, do not lose all hope if you find a Death Crown in your pillow tonight. A collection of these oddities can be found at the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee. Nathan Couch is the author of *Goatman*: Find more of his work on his website at [www.nathancouch.com](http://www.nathancouch.com). Lori sells unique vintage oddities at [www.lorikimball.com](http://www.lorikimball.com).

Chapter 2 : What is the pillow that the Queen's crown sets on called? | Yahoo Answers

*That meant that a death was coming. People opened the pillows, pulled out the feather crowns, and kept them as memorials to the deceased. Jill Garrett's own family kept two such crowns in their own family, one from and one from*

Share Shares No one wants to have their own death predicted. And yet we humans are inquisitive creatures, wishing to foretell the future and run into the supernatural to satisfy our curiosity. We search for signs and meaning in almost everything we do. And what could be more interesting than signs for destruction and death? Below, we have a list of 10 omens that people used to believe brought death. Strangely enough, in some cultures, these omens are still widely believed. These feather crowns measured 3â€”5 centimeters 2â€”3 in diameter and were about 1. However, the phenomenon also traveled to places like Missouri and Indiana or anywhere else where the mountain folk migrated. It was said that one way to break the omen was to break the feather crown. However, if a death crown was found in the pillow of a recently deceased, it was viewed as a comforting sign, as it meant that the person went to heaven. Many of the still existing death crowns today have made their way into museums. Today, the largest collection of death crowns can be found in the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee. Spotting a black butterfly in the house supposedly means that a member of that household would die, although on rare occasions black butterflies appear in the house after a family member has already died. According to the Celts, black butterflies are the souls of deceased people. When a deceased person fails to find their place in the afterlife, they turn into black butterflies and sometimes return to the places they used to live. Certain folklore also suggests that witches turn into black butterflies so that they could steal food without being recognized, although in Caribbean populations, spotting a black butterfly that is really a witch means that someone has cast an evil spell on you. In southern Texas, however, it is believed that a death occurs only if the butterfly visits all four corners of the house. In Hawaii, a black butterfly is an embodiment of a loved one who has come to say goodbye. NASA In ancient cultures, people were baffled by comets since they were unlike other celestial bodies, which traveled across the skies at regular intervals. Instead, their appearance was erratic and unpredictable, and thus many people believed that comets were messages from the gods. Most cultures read the messages through interpretations of the images that they thought they saw upon looking at the comet. So, for example, many thought that the elongated form of the comet symbolized a fiery sword blazing across the night sky which meant war and death. Thus, it is not surprising that comets were blamed for various disasters. For example, the famous Bayeux tapestry portrays an attendant rushing to tell Harold about the celestial happening as he sits on his throne. Shortly after, Harold was overthrown, and William took the throne. This, of course, was not true , but the story persists to this day. However, the doppelganger phenomenon is not confined to Germany only. Thus, they would often steal healthy human babies and replace them with their exact replicas. It was believed that these replicas eventually fell sick and died young. Thus, doppelgangers were often considered bad omens and sometimes even as signs of impending death. As a result, people were often advised and discouraged from making conversation with their doppelgangers. The doppelganger became a popular symbol in horror literature. Fyodor Dostoyevsky, for example, explored the phenomenon in his book *The Double*, in which a poor clerk is driven to madness by poverty and lack of success in love. He then meets his own double, who is successful in everything he does. Finally, the double succeeds in disposing of the original clerk. However, there have been famous reports of the doppelganger phenomenon in real life, too. For example, it is said that Abraham Lincoln told his wife that he saw two faces one much paler than the other of himself in the mirror soon after he was elected president. His wife thought this meant that he would be elected to a second term but would not survive it. As it turned out, she was right. During mating season, mature deathwatch beetles make tapping or ticking sounds by hitting their heads against the wood to attract mates. This sound is heard quite clearly on quiet nights in old houses. Over time, this sound became associated with sleepless nights that people spend beside a dying or dead person. As a result, the noise that deathwatch beetles make came to be interpreted as an omen of misfortune and death. Luc Viatour In the past, solar eclipses were regarded as a mysterious disturbance in the natural order of the sky. It was seen as an indication that something was going wrong. In Vietnam, for example, it was

widely believed that a giant frog was eating the Sun, while Viking cultures blamed wolves for gobbling down the Sun and causing a solar eclipse. In ancient China, the solar eclipse was blamed on a celestial dragon lunging on the Sun, and in ancient Greece, it was a sign of angry gods marking the beginning of disasters. Thus, it is not surprising that solar eclipses came to be known as omens of death, destruction, and disasters. Many tragic historical events, deaths in particular, were associated with solar eclipses. When Louis of Bavaria, who was the head of a great empire, witnessed a solar eclipse in AD , he was so terrified that he died shortly afterward. Another eclipse, which occurred in , was visible both in Germany and England. In England, the eclipse was regarded as an omen of death for King Henry I. Shortly after, the king died in Normandy, and his death was seen as a confirmation of the omen. In Germany, the solar eclipse was associated with the sack of the city of Augsburg and the massacre of its inhabitants by Duke Frederick. Even today, in some parts of the world, solar eclipses are seen as an omen of death and disaster. In some cultures, it is believed that eclipses are dangerous to pregnant women and children. In many parts of India, people fast during a solar eclipse due to the belief that any food cooked during an eclipse is poisonous. Daniel Mekis Throughout history, some stones were prized and admired for their magical qualities, while others were denounced as vessels of evil. Opals were assigned to the latter category. It was widely believed that witches and sorcerers used opals to increase their magical powers, and it was said that they sometimes even focused them like laser beams on the people they wished to harm. Medieval Europeans tended to avoid opals because of their resemblance to the evil eye and their likeness to the eyes of cats, toads, and snakes. An opal that was utterly contaminated with evil was said to be capable of maiming or even killing the person wearing it. As the Black Death spread across the whole of Europe, a great number of people began blaming opals for the numerous deaths that occurred. It was noticed that opal-wearing victims of the Black Death had their opals turn brilliant, but just as quickly, that brilliance would soon disappear. The stone was thus associated with the death of the victim, and wearing an opal soon became seen as an omen of death. In Scotland, the knocks are perceived as a sign of death if they come at regular intervals of one to two minutes in duration. The three knocks superstition is also part of many Native American tribes. And of course, since spirits are not bound by physical restrictions, they can make noises in various ways, such as by thumping a stick on the ground as opposed to knocking at the skin wall of a tepee, which could be quite a difficult feat. The three knocks of death can also be found in Jewish, Indian, and Arab traditions. The brothers were also supposed to become Oriates through hard work and many rituals. However, the two older brothers had no patience and were jealous of their younger brother, who was patient and hard-working. Thus, they decided to throw the younger brother of a cliff. Unbeknownst to them, he survived. Shortly after, when the two brothers were practicing divination with seashells, they predicted death. At the same time, they heard three knocks on the door and saw the younger brother come in. Sometimes, the witness of the phantom funeral can even recognize participants and see details that are later observed at the real funeral. However, it is said that if the person witnessing the phantom funeral peeks inside the casket, they will see their own dead body inside and thus death will inevitably follow. The phantom funeral phenomenon can be found in the folklore of the British Isles as well as in Germany and in Switzerland. Phantom funerals can only be seen by those with a special gift, although some churches are notorious as sites of phantom funerals. The mysterious procession of the phantom funeral can also sometimes be heard. However, it is said that phantom funerals only touch one sense at a time , which means that when it is heard, it cannot be seen. Nevertheless, sometimes, when it has already been heard by the ear, it makes itself known to the eye also but in silence. They are especially common in marshy areas, and one possible explanation for the eerie light is that they are balls of glowing marsh gas. However, many far more sinister explanations exist, most of them explaining these lights as messengers of doom and death. It is believed that some corpse candles hover over the home of the person who is about to die. Other corpse candles hover halfway between the home of the person who is about to die and his ultimate grave site. Still others will supposedly hover over the chest of a sick person. Corpse candles also hover over the boats of fishermen who will soon drown. It is also believed that the corpse candle foretells the death of the person who sees it or of someone who is close to them. In Ireland, corpse candles are believed to lead phantom funerals. Laura Martisiute is a student from Ireland in love with books, writing, coffee, and cats.

### Chapter 3 : Theresa's Haunted History of the Tri-State: The Appalachian Death Crowns

*Feather Death Crowns A bit of Appalachian folklore: Back when feather pillows were the norm in Appalachian households, it was not uncommon to find a hardened mass of feathers whose quills had turned inward and locked together forming a disc, or crown, in the pillow of the gravely ill, or recently deceased.*

Death Crowns This is a very unusual story; one not ever heard by many people especially those under 60 years old. I suppose one would say it is a story for we older folks. The first time I recall hearing the story was in the later part of ; I was eleven years old at the time and my Mother had just died in August. She took ill during the night and was rushed to the hospital in Colorado City early the next morning where she soon died. We later learned it was from a large brain aneurism. Momma always had a certain feather pillow that she slept on; being very young and missing her, I asked to sleep on her pillow. I was sleeping that night with my Dad and I could not get comfortable on the pillow as there were little knots in the feathers. I told my Daddy and asked him why the knots were there. He said to me, "I will let your Grandma Phariss explain". She then began to tell me the story about Death Crowns. Here is what she said: It was called an Angel Crown The best I recall they were from her mother and grandmother. She said I could have them when she was thru with them. She explained to me that since Momma did not actually die on her pillow the "crowns" did not have time to completely form; they were only beginning to form. I could hardly wait to get back home to Colorado City to investigate. It was not there! I went thru the feathers of that pillow completely and found nothing; so I sewed it back up and, again, there were the knots. If I remember correctly, I opened the pillow several times looking for the Death Crown but never found one. I never did get the Death Crowns that my Grandma Phariss had. After her death so many people went thru her things, I supposed someone else got them. She gave me the two I have now in the photo but she could not tell me to whom they belonged. Here are several links that you can go to in order to get more insight into Death Crowns:

### Chapter 4 : NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

*Angel Crowns. Clinton, Tennessee Angel Crowns (aka Death Crowns or Feather Crowns) were an eerie Appalachian phenom. The belief was that if a swirl of feathers was found in the pillow of a person who had just expired on it, that person was already heaven-bound.*

### Chapter 5 : Feather Death Crowns: Appalachian Omens of Death

*The next time I was in Breckenridge, Texas visiting my Grandma Phariss (my Daddy's mother) I told her about Momma's pillow. She then began to tell me the story about Death Crowns.*

### Chapter 6 : Tennessee Moments: Feather Crowns (death crowns, angel crowns ) Tennessee folk lore

*Death crowns were known to form in the feather pillow of someone who had died, signifying that the person had gone to heaven. Crowns could also form in the pillows of sick people who were near death.*

### Chapter 7 : Feather Death Crowns

*Angel crowns, more often referred to as death crowns, are an eerie piece of Appalachian folklore. Death crowns are created when a clump of feathers inside of a pillow takes the form of a crown when someone dies after falling asleep on their pillow.*

### Chapter 8 : 21 Bad Omens Telling You You're Probably About To Die

*Finding a crown in a person's pillow meant that the person has gone to Heaven. The phenomenon was reserved for the deceased faithful, and those who had been saved before death. Most of these tightly wound crowns measure in at about inches in diameter by 1 to inches thick, but some are much larger.*

## Chapter 9 : Crown His Blood-Stained Pillow

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