

A Disturbed Reading

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Part of my work as a writer concerns celebrity interviews and three years back, one involved talking to Stirling Moss about the motor cars he had owned in his life, for an *Autocar magazine* feature. During these interviews, I have my cassette tape recorder running. This one filled one and a half sides of a C90 cassette.

Back in my office, I proceeded to transcribe the contents on to my word processor, but before that was done the second half-side of the tape had also been used for a separate short interview with another person. Working late at night and concentrating hard with the word processor, I transcribed the Moss interview on to paper and removed the cassette from the recorder when finished with. Later, reading through what I had written, one part was unclear and I retrieved the cassette to play it again. To my dismay, it was blank; both sides were erased and replaced with a just discernable very low frequency beat.

Puzzled, I checked other cassettes that this one had been placed with, but none was erased. I checked the area with all office equipment switched on, seeking contaminating electromagnetic fields but could find none; the mystery remained. I spoke to a friend who studies 'mind energy' and she told me this has happened for her; working her mind hard can sometimes erase magnetic tape messages in her experience. Then I was phoning another colleague a couple of days later and happened to mention the message loss. This colleague is an audio recording expert who also works closely with a religious group in his home town. He asked if the mystery loss was important and I said, yes - I was still prevented from completing the magazine article as fully as possible.

A few days later again, I happened to pick up the erased cassette and decided to listen to the curious beat once more. To my surprise, the Moss interview was back - complete. But the final half of the second side with the other interview was still erased, leaving just the low beat as before; only the Moss part was restored. Even more puzzled now, I was able to complete my article. Then, a week later, I was speaking to my colleague again on something else and he suddenly asked, 'Have you tried your Stirling Moss tape recently?' I told him yes - to my delight that the recording was back.

'I know;' he replied, 'the night after you had told me of the erasure, our Group prayed for it to be replaced'. I still have the cassette as described above as evidence of this curious event and would be interested to hear if any member has had a comparable experience.