

### Quite a scoop

**Quite a scoop for the *Mail Online*, the website overseen as editor-in-chief by Paul Dacre, on 2 August: "EXCLUSIVE: Diana thinks Kate is perfect but doesn't believe Meghan's 'the one': confidante reveals the princess still speaks to her from beyond the grave."**

- 1 The confidante in question is Simone Simmons, whom the *Mail Online* described as "an alternative healer and trusted friend of the princess... a member of her inner circle." Or, if you would prefer a different description, you can have this one from the, er, *Mail Online* in 2008, when it denounced Simmons as one of the "parade of crooks and charlatans" who had "shamelessly exploited their royal connection in sensationalist memoirs... those who profit from the Diana industry" — and protested that her appearance at the inquest into the princess's death meant her "assorted half-truths, wild fantasies, tittle-tattle and downright lies are being dignified as worthy of serious consideration."



- 2 No such errors at the *Mail Online*, which pointed out that Simmons had "parted company with reality long ago, informing the court she was still in touch with Diana from beyond the grave and that the dead princess had given her a lot of information." Yes, dear, of course she has.

adapted from *Private Eye*, 2017