

# SOULMATES

We've all given in to the temptation of Googling our own names – let's not pretend – and been amused (and a little affronted) to find we are not entirely unique; other versions of us are out there doing all manner of weird and wonderful things. Or discovered in the course of polite party chit-chat that we share a birthday or a cousin or an interest in beekeeping with a total stranger. One coincidence between separate lives is remarkable enough, but when one extraordinary parallel turns into a series of them it can be hard not to believe that it's fate rather than chance that connects us, as these stories reveal.

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### ROYAL RESEMBLANCE

King Umberto I of Italy certainly had a meal to remember on 28 July 1900, when he and his entourage visited a small restaurant in the town of Monza. When the owner emerged to take his royal guest's order, Umberto found himself face to face with a doppelgänger. Not only was the restaurateur almost identical to the king, but his name was also Umberto, his wife, like the queen, was called Margherita, and the restaurant itself had been opened on the day of the king's coronation. Chef Umberto died in a shooting the following day, just hours before King Umberto was shot and killed by an assassin.



### THE TAXMAN COMETH

It's rare indeed for a tax bill to herald happy tidings but that is precisely what happened in 1983 to Patricia Ann Kern (née Campbell) of Colorado and Patricia Ann Di Biasi (née Campbell) of Oregon. When the former received a demand for \$3,000 in