

INTRUDERS:

The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods

By Budd Hopkins

Random House, \$17.95

Aliens are on the prowl

UFO author suspects a genetic-engineering plot

By Dennis Stacy

With novelist Whitley Strieber's recently published account of his alleged abduction by alien beings, "Communion," already making an appearance on national best-seller lists, no one should be startled to find a second new book treating the same subject, given publisher's penchants for bandwagons.

Literary incest in this case, however, is more than skin deep. In fact, the author of "Intruders," New York abstract artist Budd Hopkins, plays a major role in "Communion" as well. It was Hopkins, a specialist in UFO abduction cases, to whom "Communion" author Strieber turned for help when he thought he was losing his mind.

Hopkins arranged for Dr. Donald Klein of the New York State Psychiatric Center to serve as Strieber's hypnotherapist, and later introduced him to a small support group of "abductees" who claimed similar experiences — that they had been taken bodily aboard flying saucers against their will and there were subjected to physical examination. The two authors have subsequently suffered a falling out and are no longer on speaking terms.

Without choosing sides, what are terrestrial readers supposed to make of such cosmic shenanigans?

"Communion" author Strieber, in a style reminiscent of a space-age Carlos Castaneda, believes he was kidnapped by "visitors" who appear to share a hive-like mind. Though their origins and motives remained obscure, Strieber speculated that the extraterrestrial hive "seeks the very depth of the soul; it seeks communion."

Hopkins, on the other hand, be-



Budd Hopkins

lieves the aliens may have something more mundane and considerably less cerebral in mind. The case his book argues for UFOs and their mysterious occupants is that they are practicing a widespread program of genetic engineering aimed at human beings.

Focusing on a series of bizarre but apparently UFO-related events that befell several members of the "Davis" family of Indianapolis (virtually every case history Hopkins recounts is anonymous), "Intruders" relates the story of an alien conspiracy.

Hopkins offers a mountain of anecdotal testimony, mostly obtained under regressive hypnosis, that points to repeated extraterrestrial abductions of certain chosen individuals beginning in their childhood and continuing throughout their adult years. Unfortunately, the evidence Hopkins adduces is contaminated by the fact that much of this testimony springs

from vaguely remembered dreams (not to mention the hypnosis itself, which is notoriously problematic) — a plague that also plagues Strieber's book.

Still, the scenario Hopkins arrives at isn't quite so outlandish as it might be, given 1) our own present state of genetic engineering technology, with which we are already able to clone various organisms, and 2) the assumption that any intelligent life form capable of interstellar travel would be at least as proficient in such techniques as we are.

What Hopkins proposes, if you haven't guessed by now, is that our alienaut visitors have been collecting samples of human sperm and ova for their own as-yet-unrevealed purposes. Male abductees Hopkins has talked to have reported instances of what amounts to extraterrestrial rape, while their female counterparts recall operations similar to both artificial insemination and laparoscopy — the extraction by tube of eggs from the ovaries.

In at least one instance, that of "Kathie Davis," the aliens supposedly impregnated her during the course of one abduction, then extracted the fetus before term in the course of another. She was later supposedly abducted yet again and allowed to see her female child, a hybrid of human and alien genes.

But we humans may yet have the last laugh. Two of the males Hopkins interviewed told him they had had vasectomies before their abductions.

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