

The man who talked to E.T.

THE UFO is back in vogue. You can expect a spate of sightings in coming weeks, courtesy of author Whitley Strieber.

Mr Strieber didn't see his first alien until he was 12, but since then he has been beamed up to a spaceship, tortured and had all manner of grisly experiments carried out by 'non-human beings'.

Before you jump to any conclusions, Mr

Strieber wants me to assure you he is not several boosters short of a complete rocket.

Now the 42-year-old trained lawyer has sold the rights to his newest book for £60,000. It is top of the New York Times' best seller list, selling 100,000 copies a week. Not bad for someone who 12 months ago was on the point of 'cracking up' under the strain of his secret.

Communion — the controversial 'true

story' of a man's contact with unknown beings — will be released in Britain on May 21.

Until he woke up to discover one of them hiding behind his bedroom door, Mr Strieber didn't believe in little green men. 'I would have laughed in the face of anybody who claimed contact with UFOs,' he says. In fact the little men were brown and leathery, not unlike E.T.'

Michael Robotham