

# STAR SPOTLIGHT ON A TERRIFYING AND BIZARRE STORY

# KIDNAPPED — BY E.T. INVADERS



## 'They operated on my brain'

By MICHAEL HELLICAR

IN THE middle of a cold December night, author Whitley Strieber suddenly awoke, filled with the instinctive fear that something was horribly wrong.

His deep slumber had been disturbed by a strange noise downstairs in his house.

"It was a whooshing, swirling sound, as if a large group of people were rushing around my living room," he recalls.

He sat bolt upright in bed, shocked, curious — and terrified.

### Incredible

His wife, Anne, slept on beside him, unaware of the terrifying story that was about to unfold.

*It is a story so bizarre and so incredible that many people have dismissed it as the fantasy of an unstable mind.*

Others have suggested that 41-year-old Strieber has cynically invented the story to make a quick fortune for himself.

For Strieber claims that on the night of December 26, 1985, he was kidnapped from his log cabin in a lonely wood outside New York by a group of ET-like alien invaders.

He says they whisked him into a spacecraft, carried out a medical "operation" and subjected him to other indignities.

Then they let him go — although he says they have kept in contact!

A lie? A dream? Or the unbelievable truth?

"Yes, it happened," he says. "I wish I could say it didn't. Or even that I just think it happened.

*"I've been through mental agonies, wondering if I'm going mad."*

This is Strieber's account of the night the intruders came into his life:

"As I sat up, I saw that the lights on the master control panel of my bedside burglar alarm were still glowing.

"That meant that every door and window was still closed. No one could possibly have got into the house without the alarm going off.

"But slowly the bedroom door began to open wider. At this stage, my heart was beating wildly, my mind was sharp and I KNEW I was awake.

### Smooth

"A little figure began to edge around the door. It was too small to be a person, unless it was a child.

"It had a smooth, rounded hat on, with an odd rim. As the figure moved closer to the bed I saw the face better.

"There were two dark holes for eyes and a black down-turning line of a mouth that later became an O.

*"I vaguely remember being carried away by*

sitting to my left. It was wearing a grey and tan body suit and seemed to have on a face mask.

"To my right was another figure wearing dark blue overalls. It seemed to be doing something to the side of my head.

"At that point, we all seemed to rise above the treetops and then I was sitting in a round room.

"I was so scared that all control had now left me.

"Tiny people were now moving around me at great speed. It was a truly awful sensation of being in a trap. I was absolutely helpless.

### Terror

"I was shown a tiny grey box with a sliding lid. When it was opened, I saw a shiny, hair-thin needle sticking out.

*"I realised — I think they told me — that it was going to be inserted into my brain. I became quite literally crazy with terror, and I began screaming."*

"One of the creatures asked me: 'What can we do to help you stop screaming?'"

"This voice was remarkable. It had a subtly electronic tone to it, with flat accents.

"I heard myself reply: 'You could let me smell you.' I don't know why — it was hardly a normal request.

because I could actually smell something.

"The hand smelt like a mixture of cheese and cardboard. It wasn't a human smell, but it was unmistakably the smell of something alive.

"Then there was a bang and a flash and I realised that they had performed the proposed operation on my head. I felt like weeping and I recall sinking down in a cradle of tiny arms.

### Unease

"Later, they worked on me again. But this time the examination was more intimate.

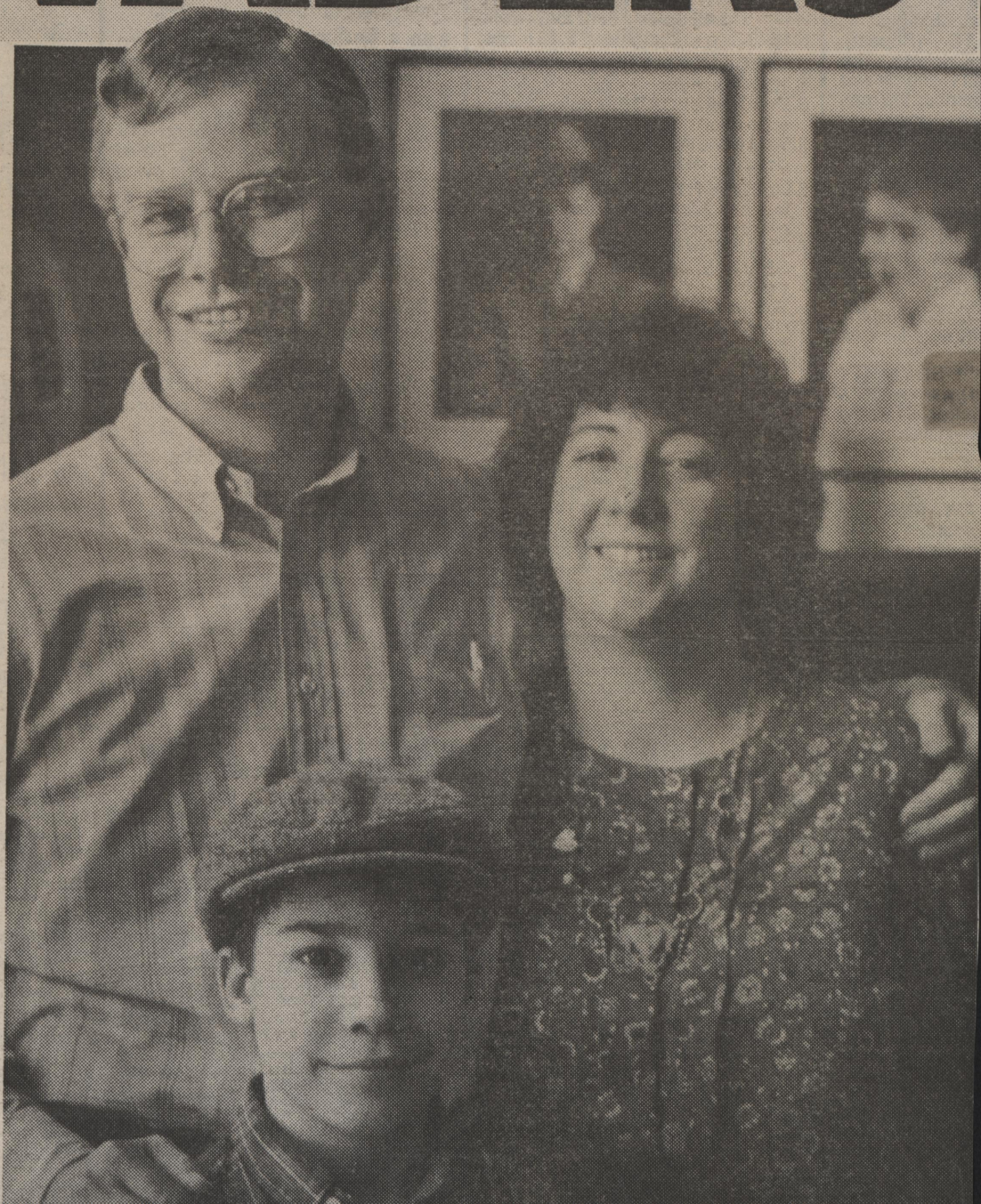
"At the end, one of the creatures took my right hand and cut the forefinger. After that I was somehow transported home, where I climbed back into bed and slept until morning."

Next day, Strieber remembered nothing. "I had a sense of unease, as if I had had a restless night, but life seemed to be normal."

A headache set in, the pain apparently located behind his right ear. When Anne Strieber looked, she found a tiny pin-prick scab there, as if a needle had been inserted.

### Disbelief

An infection appeared on his right forefinger — yet Strieber did not remember cutting himself.



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Strieber, who is visiting Britain this week to publicise his book about the strange affair, smiles sadly.

"There were two dark holes for eyes and a black down-turning line of a mouth that later became an O.

*"I vaguely remember being carried away by unseen hands and the next thing I knew I was sitting in a small dip in the woods near my house."*

"There was a small being

remarkable. It had a subtly electronic tone to it, with flat accents.

"I heard myself reply: 'You could let me smell you.' I don't know why — it was hardly a normal request.

"One of them held his hand against my face. It was exactly what I needed to convince me that I was really experiencing this

inserted.

## Disbelief

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Strieber's behaviour changed, too. He became feverish, distracted, fearful, moody and irrational.

But over the following weeks the physical pains brought Strieber's memories back into focus.

*"At first I tried to brush them aside, but gradually I realised that I couldn't ignore them. I just about exploded with terror and utter disbelief."*

*\*Communion: Encounters With The Unknown, published by Century Hutchinson, on May 21.*

# 'He is telling the truth'

STRIEBER is a respected writer and intellectual with several novels to his credit.

His logical, inquiring mind would not allow him to live with visions of the impossible. "I was certain that I was going mad," he says.

He volunteered for hypnosis to see if any further details could be dredged from his subconscious mind.

If it had all been a dream, or a lie, hypnosis would expose the flaws. Instead, hypnosis confirmed his memories and even produced evidence that he had had an earlier visit from the aliens. His hypnotist, Dr. Donald Klein of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, says: "His story did not waver. And he is perfectly sane."

Strieber also had a lie detector test—and passed with flying colours.



SPACE GUINEA PIG? Strieber, with wife Anne and son Andrew Picture: MICHAEL BRENNAN