

They do not believe me

"You are so right when you say I look tired," he said. "This has been going on for months now. I talk to people. They question me. They do not believe me. I accept all this."

"It is all so very, very tiring. But I have written the book, not for sensationalism, not to make money out of a bestseller, although it does seem to have caught the public's imagination."

"I am the author of two highly successful novels, *The Wolfen* and *Hunger*, both of which have been turned into movies."

"I could have fictionalised my extra-terrestrial experiences, a sort of another version of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and I could have possibly made lots more money."

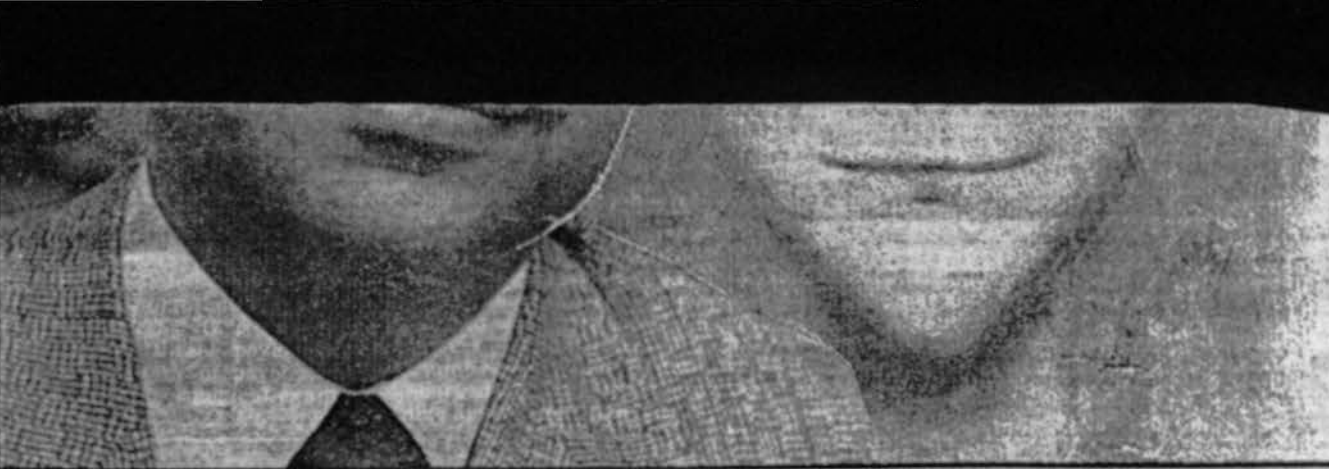
"Instead I chose to sit down and set out my experiences as they actually happened to me."

"My experiences frightened me. And I wrote the book for all those other people who have been just as frightened — and perhaps too frightened to come forward and tell others about what they consider to be a nightmare."

Mr Strieber, married with a six-year-old son, looked hard at me: "I did not believe in UFOs before this happened."

"And I would have laughed in the face of anybody who claimed contact. But now I know how some people must have suffered."

"I have shared their sensations. I understand that they have been reluctant to come forward because



Whitley Strieber and his vision of the extra-terrestrial he claims to have sighted.

they were frightened not only of what happened to them, but of other people, their friends and even close relatives laughing at them and dismissing it all as stupid nonsense.

Battery of tests

"To all appearances, I have had an elaborate personal encounter with intelligent non-human beings."

"At first I, too, thought I was losing my mind, but I have been interviewed by three psychologists and three psychiatrists, given a battery of psychological tests and a neurological examination.

"And in all respects I was found to fall within the normal range."

"I was also given a polygraph by an operator with 30 years experience."

"I was also given a lie-detector by an operator with 30 years experience and I passed without qualification."

His "experiences" took place in an isolated cabin in upstate New York with his wife, Anne, and his son, Andrew. They started in December, 1955.

In his book, Mr Strieber says the aliens reminded him of grasshoppers or crickets.

"The hands were very long and tapered when in repose, with three fingers and an opposable thumb... On the fingers were short, dark nails of a more claw-like appearance than ours."

"Either what is happening is that 'visitors' are actually here or the human mind is creating something that, incredibly, is close to a physical reality."

"Since I have been in your country I have already heard about other, strange, out-of-this-world encounters and one, most vividly recalled, actually happened here in the Midlands."

Hundreds of others

"There was a case near Wellington in Shropshire where three women said they were kidnapped by a UFO. They were able to describe their experience in tremendous detail."

"But there are, I am sure, many hundreds of others who are still too frightened to come forward."

His book leaves the final choice to the reader. Whitley Strieber knows and accepts that he will be accused of being a charlatan. The fact remains that it is a fascinating, gripping story of one man's repeated contact with apparent aliens or visitors.

Now the question is: Who and where are the others who have shared his experiences?

More importantly: have YOU experienced anything similar?

Let us know. Write to: Features Department, Birmingham Evening Mail, 28, Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AY.

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