

'I WAS ABDUCTED BY ALIENS!'

WHITLEY STRIEBER WAS SPEAKING TO PETER HOUGH

THE PHOTOGRAPH on the inside cover of his book *Communion*, shows author Whitley Strieber looking not unlike old J. R. Ewing. But all they have in common is the place where Strieber was raised — Texas.

This best-selling writer trained as a lawyer, although his current success will ensure he will never have to fall back on that profession.

Strieber is reported to have received a million-dollar advance for *Communion*, and sales over there topped the 100,000 mark for weeks. In Britain, publishers bid high and hard for the rights to the book.

Why? Because Strieber claims to have encountered a series of frightening experiences involving small beings with large domed heads and black almond-shaped eyes!

"I was asleep in my cabin with my wife and son in upstate New York," he told me. "Suddenly I was awakened by a noise. I was taken from my bed by what were clearly *not* human beings.

"They carried me through the woods, then I remember going up into the air and finding myself in a little room."

Strieber says he was then subjected to a terrifying physical examination. They

"I arrived back at the cabin, although I don't remember that too well. I ended up on the couch in a state of considerable confusion.

"From the next morning onwards I slowly pieced this thing together. I thought I was losing my mind."

That happened on Boxing Day, 1985. Strieber lost no time in seeking the help of psychiatrists.

"It was obvious after a while there wasn't anything wrong with me except for this strange experience. To this day I'm not absolutely sure what it's all about," he says.

"I'm best known for my horror fiction, but I don't think this was a novel. It certainly didn't feel like one at the time it was happening. If my fiction is going to structure itself this realistically, then I'd better change professions before it's too late!"

But how *real* was it? Could it have been just a vivid nightmare?

"I've passed lie detector tests on questions, like — are the visitors real? Have they ever touched you? My answer was 'yes' in both

cases, and it was evaluated as 'true,'" says Strieber.

"But it's also true that no-one has ever actually seen me being taken away, although my wife has woken up on a few occasions to find me gone."

Evidence of some kind is what Strieber needs in order to stop the ridicule he

faces when his experiences are related.

"I get used to it. But people begin to realise the emotional pain I've gone through, because I'm not afraid of letting it show. When a thing like this

comes into your life, it's overwhelming. But I have to live with it."

But this tall Texan isn't just referring to the past. According to him, the visits continue. One of the most recent ones happened on December 23, 1986.

"I was woken by a being much like the one on the cover of my book," recalls Strieber. "I've no idea who they are, but since my book was published in the States I've learned of eight hundred new cases similar to my own."

"They can't *all* be put down to imagination."

SUFFERED TERRIBLE ORDEAL

showed him a long needle and explained it was to be inserted into his brain. There was a bang and a flash, and he knew they had carried out the operation, up through his nasal cavity.

"They also did something to my finger and inserted an instrument up my rectum. It was awful."

Strieber showed me two tiny scars which he claims were caused by the beings, or "visitors" as he calls them.

4TH JANUARY
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