

★ ABDUCTION: Human Encounters with Aliens

John E. Mack. Scribners, \$20 (352p) ISBN 0-684-19539-9

Mack, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of T. E. Lawrence, *A Prince of Our Disorder*, has done clinical work for more than three years with 76 alleged UFO abductees. In a groundbreaking study focusing on 13 cases, he concludes that these traumatized patients—among them an electronics technician, a fine arts professor, an accountant, a business executive—underwent authentic experiences not based on delusion or hallucination. Like Budd Hopkins's *Intruders* and David Jacobs's *Secret Life*, Mack's subjects reported being "floated" aboard a craft by "grays" (or other aliens), subjected to intrusive medical exams and having sperm and egg samples taken, apparently as part of a breeding program to create alien/human hybrids.

Where Mack's report differs is in its emphasis on the purported spiritual aspects of the abduction experience. Many of his patients reported deep personal growth and heightened awareness of human destructiveness and of Earth's ecological crisis. Some abductees seemed to relive past lives during therapy sessions; others became open to contact with spirit-entities; still others said they possessed a "dual identity" as both alien and human. Unlike Hopkins and Jacobs, who tend to view such phenomena with skepticism as deceptive ploys in the aliens' overarching game plan, Mack wishfully embraces them as signs that a higher intelligence is attempting to intervene in humanity's destructive course. Whether that intelligence involves extraterrestrial humanoids or multidimensional spirits is a question Mack leaves open.

His searching inquiry is among the most credible and thought-provoking of this genre. Photos not seen by PW. \$200,000 paperback floor; Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Club selections; author tour. (Apr.)

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