

LIFETIME

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Respected author can't make UFO abduction tales credible



BETTY HILL in 1991, 30 years after her alleged abduction.

By JACKIE LOOHAUIS
of The Journal staff

WE ARE NOT alone. Nor are we going to be let alone.

That's the message on extraterrestrials from an unusual source. Pulitzer Prize-winning author John E. Mack writes in his new book, "Abduction" (Scrivners, \$20), that not only are Hollywood-style close encounters real, they are happening with increasing frequency.

Mack has a bit more credibility than most writers in the "alien abduction" genre. Although his 1977 Pulitzer was for biography ("A Prince of Our Disorder," about T.E. Lawrence

BOOKS

aka "Lawrence of Arabia"), Mack has other credentials. He is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School who has done extensive research into nightmares and psychological disorders.

None of these explains the "abductee experience," Mack writes. In 1990, he began studying people who say they were kidnapped by aliens; he now has done clinical work on 76 such patients.

The abductees range from a music student to a psychotherapist, and Mack says there are probably at least 3 million others like them. This sort of thing has been going on for a while. "UFO-associated visits have been going on from the time of

Ezekiel in the Old Testament," with visions of wheels and angels coming down from the sky.

Perhaps the most famous UFO abduction came in 1961, when Betty and Barney Hill claimed they were shanghaied by aliens in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

The "experiencer" accounts all have a similar ring, according to Mack. The victims are captured by a stream of light or some other energy, sometimes "beamed" through walls, doors or closed windows, then transported to what is commonly described as a spacecraft that's metallic and saucer- or cigar-shaped. The humans may be anywhere when they're taken — driving down a dark stretch of road or seemingly safe at home in bed.

The description of their abductors is generally something right out of a movie Mother

Ship. Almost all the aliens are small and have big, black, slanted eyes, bald heads, and skinny arms and legs.

The humans' visits with ET usually are unpleasant. The aliens take tissue samples and sometimes extract sperm and ova. Even more frightening, Mack says, are the encounters in which victims allegedly are implanted with human-alien hybrid eggs and are later recaptured and the fetuses removed for rearing in spaceship incubators.

The humans then are released with instructions to save Earth from environmental destruction. But the aliens aren't through with them yet. Some victims, Mack writes, have "virtually lifelong encounters with alien beings and UFOs."

At the moment, Mack is in Brazil studying abductees among natives there, according to his publicist. She does admit, how-



JOHN E. MACK, author of "Abduction."

ever, that Mack's theories have met with varying degrees of support from his Harvard colleagues.

After all, besides the inherent loopiness of the tales, Mack has yet to produce any firm physical evidence to support the abduction stories. He writes that many alleged victims sported unusual injuries and "scoop marks" from their kidnapper's experiments, but these remain medically unconfirmed.

Still, she said, "Our science is limited. The aliens are more sophisticated than us technically. We're not going to be able to find an element that doesn't exist on our planet."

Just exactly who are these aliens who have been harassing humans for so long? Mack is not sure. They may be high-tech visitors from another planet or they may be from another dimension "outside of linear time and space." They may indeed be "angels," all spirit and no physical substance.

Whoever they are, they can be amazingly humdrum. One, named Mengus, was asked by an abductee what he was doing on Earth.

"Oh," Mengus said. "Just looking around."

AP about Dr. John Mack from Cambridge, Mass., by Anne Thompson. P: includes the photo; R: includes name of the reporter; *: omits para. 10-12, which present the CSICOP viewpoint. All articles April 20, 1994, unless noted otherwise.

Appleton Post-Crescent, "Alien abduction tales get respected support/ Harvard's John Mack relates his findings in a new book." Para. 1-8, 10-12. (P, credited as "AP photo by Susan Walsh")

Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, "Doctor puts stock in alien abductions/ His new book details sexual encounters aboard spaceships." Para. 1-9, 13-21.* (P)

Green Bay Press-Gazette, "Aliens mate with humans! Harvard professor says yes/ The teacher said he has talked to people with close encounters." Para. 1-9, 13-21 (except last sentence).* (R)

Madison Capital Times, pp. 1A and back page of that section, "BOOK TELLS ALL/ Space aliens have sex with humans! Harvard professor believes it's true." Para. 1-20, 23 (first sentence only). (R)

Shawano Evening Leader, "Aliens mate with humans! Harvard professor believes it!" Para. 1-9, 13-20.*

Sheboygan Press, "A really close encounter: Professor believes humans, space aliens have mated." Para. 1-9, 13-21 (except last sentence).* (P)

Stevens Point Journal, p. 20 (The "National" Page), "Harvard psychiatrist believes alien stories." Para. 1-9, 13-16.* (P, R)

Waukesha Freeman, "Alien encounters? You bet, Harvard prof says." Para. 1-3, 4 (except the part about Peter), 5-9, 13, 14 (drops first quote, and puts the second quote there instead).*

April 21, Racine Journal Times, p. 2A, "Aliens mate with humans? Harvard faculty member studies extraterrestrial sex." Para. 1-23. (P)

April 23, Watertown Daily Times, "Doctor's book on 120 who say they've had 'sexual' contact with space aliens." Para. 1-16. (P in color, R)

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ON TAPE

Entertainment News Wire

"STANDING FIRM, A VICE-PRESIDENTIAL MEMOIR," By Dan Quayle, (HarperAudio; performed by the author; 2 cassettes; \$17): As a member of Congress, Dan Quayle was respected for his skills as a legislative tactician and for his integrity. But when he was made Vice President in 1988, all that changed. Is Dan Quayle the most misjudged man in America? Here Quayle presents his side of the story.

"FUNNY PEOPLE," By Steve Allen, (Dove Audio; read by the author; 1 cassette; \$10.95): Steve Allen conveys by anecdote and example the unique genius of four of the great comedians of our time: Jack Benny, George Burns, Milton Berle, and Jimmy Durante.

"ABDUCTION: HUMAN ENCOUNTERS WITH ALIENS," By John Mack, MD, (Simon & Schuster Audio; read by Josef Sommer; 3 hours; 2 cassettes; \$17): Pulitzer Prize-winning Harvard psychiatrist John Mack brings the UFO phenomenon to life with accounts of abduction. He relates many of the case studies of more than sixty patients who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"INCA GOLD," By Clive Cussler, (Simon & Schuster Audio; read by Howard McGillin; 4.5 hours; 4 cassettes; \$23): Adventurer Dirk Pitt and his friend Al Giordino undertake a marine expedition to Peru, where Pitt finds himself caught between a ring of

artifact smugglers, the FBI, the Customs Service, and a tribe of local Indians as he tries to escape with his life.

"THE CHAMBER," By John Grisham, (Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio Publishing; performed by Michael Beck; 6 hours; 4 cassettes; \$24.95): Prolific author John Grisham here presents his newest legal thriller about how one family comes to grips with their dark and complex past. Klanaman Sam Cayhall — convicted for a hate crime committed in 1967 that killed two people and destroyed at least one family — sits on death row. Just a few weeks before he is scheduled to go to the gas chamber an ambitious young lawyer volunteers to take on Cayhall's case. Why? Grisham weaves the answer through the tale.

"SHOT IN THE HEART," By Mikal Gilmore, (Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio Publishing; performed by Will Patton; 4 hours; 4 cassettes; \$22): Mikal Gilmore, the brother of Gary Gilmore, whose execution made headlines in the '70s, tells the grisly story of growing up in a deeply troubled, violent, and notorious family.

"FATHERS," By Jon Winokur, (Penguin-Highbridge Audio; performed by an ensemble cast; 90 minutes; 1 cassette; \$11): This compilation features memories of dad from a long list of celebrities, including Candice Bergen, Natalie Cole, Malcolm X, and Arthur Ashe.

RICHARD W. HEIDEN

OVER

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Aliens mate with humans?

Harvard faculty member studies extraterrestrial sex

Associated Press

Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John Mack has never had sex with a space alien, nor does he care to. It could compromise his objectivity.

Mack, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Harvard faculty member, firmly believes those people who claim to have had extremely close encounters with beings from other worlds.

And in his new book, "Abduction," he relates his findings after spending four years studying 120 "experiencers" — people who say they had sexual or reproductive experiences with aliens who abducted them and took them aboard spaceships.

The 13 case studies in his book include Ed, who remembers an alien woman taking a sperm sample from him when he was in high school; Jerry, who says she gave birth to a human-alien hybrid; and Peter, who tells Mack he had an "alien wife" in a "parallel universe."

"There is a consistent reproductive theme," Mack said. "Now, do I mean by that literally there are millions of babies being made? I don't know. I can't claim that this is occurring literally in our physical dimension of reality."

What Mack does claim is that experiencers are not mentally ill and not working out the effects of rape, incest or other abuse. Their emotional and psychological state resembles trauma, he said, and trauma is the response to something outside his body, not inside the mind.

"They don't want to believe it any more than we do," he said. "They want me to find them crazy."

Descriptions of abductions are consistent from patient to patient, Mack said. So he believes the

experiencers, even if he can't explain exactly what they experience.

As for having such a close encounter himself, he said: "I think my role is to be uncontaminated by the phenomenon. As soon as a psychiatrist reports they had an abduction, then they're immediately disqualified as an objective observer."

One of Mack's patients, a 37-year-old undercover debunker, told Time magazine that Mack gave her UFO literature to read before he hypnotized her.

"John made it obvious what he wanted to hear," the patient, Donna Bassett, said. "I provided the answers."

There was no answer at Mack's office Wednesday and he could not be located to respond to Bassett's allegations. He declined to comment to the magazine about her case.

As "Abduction" hits bookstores this week, Mack hits daytime television. His fellow academics have been less welcoming than talk show hosts.

"There's a split between how people regard him as someone with past accomplishments and skills and how they regard this project," said Dr. Malka Notman, chairwoman of Cambridge Hospital's psychiatry department and Mack's boss. "People are skeptical because it just seems quite remote and unsupported."

Mack is on the staff at Cambridge Hospital, a Harvard teaching hospital. He also leads



Associated Press

▲ Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John Mack sits in his office in Cambridge, Mass. Mack, author of "Abductions," believes his patients' claims of being abducted by aliens, taken aboard spaceships and having their sex organs violated.

the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, which is overseen by the medical school-affiliated Center for Psychology and Social Research.

His accomplishments include founding the psychiatry department at Cambridge Hospital and winning a 1977 Pulitzer for his psychoanalytic biography of T.E. Lawrence, or Lawrence of Arabia.

Since then, Mack has developed an interest in Eastern philosophy and religion, and believes it helped liberate his thinking.

"We don't have room in our culture for this. It's the elite people, my colleagues, who decide what we're supposed to believe," he said, "and to them this isn't supposed to be."

Even Mack's fellow researchers into the otherworldly think "Abduction" is a little, well, out there.

Dr. William McCall, a physician in Anaheim, Calif., said that for 10 years he used hypnosis to evaluate experiencers. His theory: They're

actually remembering being born. People's memories of going aboard spacecraft match their hypnosis-evoked memories of passing through the birth canal, he said.

Budd Hopkins, a pioneer in UFO abduction research, said that while he agrees with Mack that these people had sexual encounters with aliens, he has reservations about Mack's counseling of people to see the experience as somehow enriching. Hopkins said it sees such experiences as neither good nor bad.

"I think John is putting a quasi-religious spin on the material that makes the book more vulnerable to criticism," said Hopkins, a New York-based artist who has researched and written about experiencers for 19 years.

Mack said he believes that through hypnosis and therapy, experiencers can overcome their trauma. "The person moves beyond the victim to another level of awareness of themselves and who they are in the cosmos," he said.