



Mary Oscarson sits on her bed in Newport, R.I., near paintings on walls of aliens she has met.

Alien tales upheld

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John Mack, a Harvard psychiatrist, is being ridiculed for his book arguing that people who say they've been abducted by aliens may be telling the truth.

When critics start attacking the abductees, Mack the academic becomes Mack the Knife, cutting down their arguments and motives.

"What they're doing, in their desperation, is attacking people who are a vulnerable minority," says Mack, 64, whose recently published "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens" has proved to be a hot book-of-the-month. "It's a cruel tactic. They think if they can intimidate the experiencers themselves, then they won't want to come forward and that will attack this in a more basic way."

"Abduction" is based on Mack's 3½ years of work with more than 100 "experiencers" — UFO parlance for abductees — through recall and hypnosis.

"These people are speaking authentically, genuinely and that's a mystery I can't explain," he says.

One of them, **Mary Oscarson** of Newport, R.I., had an encounter one April morning with the beings she says have visited her bedroom for years.

"I was standing there with them and there were some other humans there, too," says Oscarson, 33, a data management specialist. "We were looking at one of my paintings and the beings were telling us something. I don't know what it was, but I could feel this anguish in my heart, almost like when someone dies. I was crying and crying. The next thing I remember was being in my bed. I was still crying."

Oscarson's encounters range from a tiny metal pellet implanted in her arm when she was 7 to an experience in South Carolina seven years ago when gray beings handed her a half-human, half-alien baby. "I have not held an infant since," she says.