

Things grabbing us in night

"ABDUCTION: Human Encounters with Aliens," by John E. Mack, M.D.: Scribners, New York, 1994, \$22

A woman, driving through a wooded area in New England, is taken from her car by a being with "huge black eyes, a pointed chin — his entire head is like a teardrop inverted." A hand reaches to get her, "long and thin and very light colored and it's only got three fingers."

He takes her up on the diagonal. "We just kind of fly off" to a "huge" ship, where her clothing is removed, she is forced onto a table and a fetus or fetus-like "hunk" is removed from her body.

A man, under hypnosis, tells of being carried through the air to a "pod," balanced precariously over a bluff on the Atlantic coast, where he is subjected to a suction device that takes his sperm.

ANOTHER MAN recalls numerous experiences with the aliens, beginning when he was just a small boy and a witch would fly up to his window, force him to look into her "huge eyes," and make him climb out onto the broom. She would "whisk me away."

A woman recalls walking along a corridor inside the spaceship or UFO and seeing along one wall, row upon row of plastic-like "cases" stacked to the ceiling with lights behind them. Each case contains creatures, "like baby versions of them (the aliens), all in a liquid."

A woman describes the inside of a UFO as an enormous room, like "an airplane hangar" with "hundreds of tables in here (and) there's hundreds of humans in here and they're all having things done to them."

Is this real?

After reading Dr. John E. Mack's book, the more apt question seems to be, "What is reality?"

Dr. Mack is professor of psychiatry at the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School and founding director of the Center for Psychology and Social Change. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in



Mack

1977 for his book, "The Prince of Our Disorder."

DR. MACK HAS investigated nearly 100 cases of alien abduction and has conducted hundreds of hours of interviews and treatment.

Skeptical in the beginning — abductions by aliens was not a topic taken seriously at Harvard — Dr. Mack could not discount the recurring experiences of several of his patients.

None of Dr. Mack's clients' experiences are attributable to mental illness. There are eerie similarities in most of the experiences recalled by his patients. And there is an abundance of physical evidence substantiating many of the encounters: independent sightings of UFOs, burned and blackened earth where spaceships might have landed, unexplained lapses of time, minor physical lesions, odd nosebleeds, and the recovery of tiny objects from the bodies of abductees.

Some of the abductees spoke of past lives: one was an Egyptian painter, another was a brutally tortured Irish poet. Others spoke of an unexplainable kinship with the aliens.

DR. MACK EXPRESSES a belief, or at least would have his readers believe, that the experiences the abductees relate are real. In his summary chapter, he writes that the aliens seem to partake of properties belonging to both the spiritual and material worlds, bridging the division between these realms which has become increasingly sacred and unbreachable since science and religion went their separate ways in the 17th century. It is this false dichotomy (division) that makes our confrontation with (alien) beings so shocking. We do not know what to do with a phenomenon that crosses that sacred barrier. Our minds have no place to put such a thing.

Abductions, he writes, seem to be concerned primarily with two related projects: changing human consciousness to prevent the destruction of the earth's life, and a joining of two species for the creation of a new evolutionary form.

"Abduction" records 13 case histories, each unbelievable, with a summary chapter that is provoking and deep, deep reading.

—GEORGE EVANS