

ALIENS IN OUR MIDST?

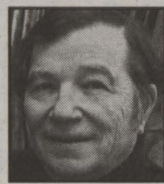
STARTING TODAY: A SERIES WHICH COULD CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT THE WORLD

Can everyone who claims alien abduction be a lunatic or a fraud? And how could one, a 14-year-old virgin, possibly have been pregnant? A leading British writer and criminologist set out to investigate – and came to believe the unbelievable



Close encounters: Thousands believe they have been abducted

LAST Saturday, the Mail published a sceptical analysis by James Dalrymple of the latest British account of alien abduction. The UFO phenomenon has always been controversial. But a distinguished British writer, criminologist and former university professor has meticulously examined the principal evidence from around the world. Now Colin Wilson has written a fascinating book about his search. Starting today, with the first part of an intriguing new series, Wilson sifts facts from fiction on his



by **Colin Wilson**

to live on the other side of the country with a mistress. Why assume there was anything more to it? In this case, because of something that would happen nearly half a century later.

In 1992, a conference was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and its subject — amazingly for such a prestigious institution — was Alien Abductions: people who

After this, Beth's father admitted, he had experienced many episodes of 'missing time'. In fact, when she was five, Beth had shared one with him. He had been driving to Doylestown, Pennsylvania, for a business meeting, when the car broke down on a lonely road.

While her father was looking under the bonnet, the car filled with freezing air. When he got back in, the engine started of its own accord, yet her father seemed unsurprised. And when they arrived at Doylestown, they were too late for the meeting. Although the place where the car had stalled was only a short drive away, they had somehow lost several hours.

Beth not only believed that she was the third generation that had been abducted, but that the same thing was happening to her son and granddaughter.

At the age of four or five, Beth had memories of waking at night and seeing 'cat-like beings' at the window — she thought they were cats because they had oval eyes.

The same would happen to her son, Paul, when he was the same age — he would wake in the middle of the night, screaming that cats were looking in the window.

So Beth was shocked when her five-year-old granddaughter drew a flying saucer, with faces looking out of the craft's window, and a small being with cat-like eyes, whom she called Nu, who, she said, often took her on a journey down a long tunnel.

day. Then, suddenly, she remembered what had happened.

The fog bank had moved down the slope and three small, grey creatures had emerged from it. They had seemed oddly familiar. One of them told her telepathically: 'Come with us,' and she felt unable to resist. As she went, she said: 'I want to remember this one.'

She had been engulfed in blue light and taken on board a craft. There were more small, grey creatures there, with huge wrap-around eyes,

were convinced that the 'aliens' were using them as surrogate mothers, implanting babies in their wombs and then removing the foetuses when they were three months old.

Moreover, many scientists and psychologists in the audience agreed that the evidence pointed in that direction.

The conference at MIT was organised by John Mack, a Harvard professor of psychology.

I had known John since the Eighties. But when I happened to meet

they flew, Arnold later told a reporter, 'as a saucer does when you skim it on the water'. The term 'flying saucer' was born.

During the following months, there were hundreds of reports of flying saucers — which the U.S. Air Force preferred to call unidentified flying objects, UFOs. They were reported from all over the world and there was soon a widespread belief that they came from other planets, and that possibly they planned an invasion of Earth.

AT 16, I certainly didn't believe in a Martian invasion. These stories about flying saucers seemed a

university professor has meticulously examined the principal evidence from around the world. Now Colin Wilson has written a fascinating book about his search. Starting today, with the first part of an intriguing new series, Wilson sifts facts from fiction on his way to an extraordinary conclusion . . .

ONE evening in 1943, a normal American family was having dinner when the father — a violin teacher — stood up and said: 'I'm going to get a pack of cigarettes.' His family stared in astonishment — he was a non-smoker. But for some time he had been suffering from odd lapses of memory.

He drove away and was never seen again. His car was found parked outside a local store. Nine years later he was declared legally dead.

It sounds plausible enough — an overworked teacher walks out on his family and disappears, perhaps to go

olive on the other side of the country with a mistress. Why assume there was anything more to it? In this case, because of something that would happen nearly half a century later.

In 1992, a conference was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and its subject — amazingly for such a prestigious institution — was Alien Abductions: people who were convinced that they had been kidnapped by the occupants of flying saucers.

And one of many 'abductees' who came forward to tell her story was Beth Collings, granddaughter of the man who had disappeared in 1943.

Her father, she said, had also told her how, in 1930, he had been on the beach with his brother. Suddenly, a dense mist rolled in and his brother vanished. Her father walked up and down, calling to the missing man. Then a shiny object caught his eye, and as he bent to look at it, his brother reappeared.

But, even more strangely, his brother had also been searching frantically up and down the beach believing the other brother had gone missing. And when they arrived home, they found they were several hours late, and their grandmother had sent for the police.

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WHEN Beth was 14, she experienced all the symptoms of pregnancy — cramps, morning sickness, tender breasts. A doctor confirmed that she was pregnant. Yet it should have been impossible — Beth was a virgin.

Then, a month or so later, she woke and was no longer pregnant. Moreover, there were no signs of a miscarriage. The doctor was baffled.

Beth later worked on a horse farm with a close friend, Anna Jamerson, and both women experienced the same 'phantom pregnancies', as well as spells of missing time.

On one occasion Beth was driving when she saw dazzling lights in the sky and felt dizzy. Then she found herself eight miles further on, having passed the horse farm. When she arrived back, she found that more than an hour was 'missing'.

Paul, when he was the same age — he would wake in the middle of the night, screaming that cats were looking in the window.

So Beth was shocked when her five-year-old granddaughter drew a flying saucer, with faces looking out of the craft's window, and a small being with cat-like eyes, whom she called Nu, who, she said, often took her on a journey down a long tunnel.

Beth's son Paul seemed strangely upset by his daughter's drawings and tore them down when she stuck them over her bed.

Beth and her friend Anna were only two of many people who came to the conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and told their stories of alien abduction to scientists and psychologists.

But unlike so many others whose stories had emerged only under hypnosis, Beth was able to recall clearly the details of an abduction.

She had been holidaying in a remote cabin in Virginia. One evening, she saw a fog bank above her cabin and felt strangely alarmed.

Then the next thing she knew she was waking up, fully clothed, on her bed next morning. When she removed her jeans, she found she was wearing no underwear, which she had been wearing the previous

slope and three small, grey creatures had emerged from it. They had seemed oddly familiar. One of them told her telepathically: 'Come with us,' and she felt unable to resist. As she went, she said: 'I want to remember this one.'

She had been engulfed in blue light and taken on board a craft. There were more small, grey creatures there, with huge wrap-around eyes, and a taller creature she thought of as the 'doctor'. She was undressed and a needle was driven into her navel. As she cried out, she was told: 'There is no pain,' and the pain went away.

SHE ASKED why they were doing this and was told: 'It is part of the change.'

When the creatures dressed her, they forgot her underwear, and suddenly she woke up, lying on her bed — and realised that they had allowed her 'to remember this one'.

She realised something else: that all this had happened again and again, not only to her, but to the rest of her family.

Most of the women who had attended the conference and had experienced vanishing pregnancies

and then removing the foetuses when they were three months old.

Moreover, many scientists and psychologists in the audience agreed that the evidence pointed in that direction.

The conference at MIT was organised by John Mack, a Harvard professor of psychology.

I had known John since the Eighties. But when I happened to meet him in 1995, at an academic conference — on unexplained mysteries — in the small town of Marion, near Boston, I was unaware of his interest in alien abduction.

Later, in a shop near Boston airport, I came across a paperback called *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens* by John Mack, and bought it to read on the plane.

It was not a subject in which I had any deep interest. The first widely publicised report of UFOs had happened in June 1947, a few days before my 16th birthday.

A businessman named Kenneth Arnold had been flying his private plane near Mount Rainier in Washington State when a flash of light made him turn his head and he saw nine 'bright objects' flying at tremendous speed — he estimated 1,700 miles an hour.

They were bobbing up and down as

from all over the world and there was soon a widespread belief that they came from other planets, and that possibly they planned an invasion of Earth.

AT 16, I certainly didn't believe in a Martian invasion. These stories about flying saucers seemed a brainless fad that would soon be forgotten. Yet, contrary to my expectations, the stories not only persisted down the years, but steadily increased.

And in the mid-Nineties, I learned from John Mack's book that there had been a bizarre new development — alien abductions.

Mack tells how, in 1989, a psychiatrist friend had asked if he would like to meet Budd Hopkins, an artist who tried to help people who believed they had been taken on board spaceships. Mack said that he must be crazy and so must they. But when he finally agreed to meet Hopkins, he learned, to his amazement, that there were hundreds of thousands of people all over America who believe they have been taken from their beds by aliens, sometimes floated through

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