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A little green message from the star people

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IT IS TEMPTING to say that the *X-Files* have a lot to answer for. But really the *X-Files* were just tagging along in the wake of *ET* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. So it's Steven Spielberg's fault really. Americans keep on getting kidnapped by aliens, and being used to produce mixed species off-spring. Take Karin, for example, who believes that she may have had as many as 17 hybrid babies. ("Unbelievable! And I only know two of them," she says.)

Karin worked as a waitress in Boston. Karin's real name is Deborah. She changed it to Karin after her abduction experiences - never trust anyone who changes their name, let alone the species they are prepared to mate with. Like many people who have been abducted by aliens, Karin's life

was transformed afterwards - she is now an accomplished public speaker, addressing not only her customers in the restaurants where she works, but also audiences at meetings of the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER).

The man who founded PEER, John Mack, is a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. His first book, *Abduction* caused a sensation, not least amongst his academic colleagues at Harvard. Karin's experiences are included in his second book *Passport To The Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters*. On the cover, the author's name is given as Dr John E Mack. Never trust anyone who refers to themselves by their medical title; no, not even when booking a table for dinner.



Extra terrestrial: most of Dr John Mack's interviewees are average Americans who describe great sensations of energy when meeting the aliens

John Mack's efforts to maintain medical distance from the amazing stories that he has been told are sometimes amusing. Of the pregnancies that returned female abductees are said to experience (and many of them have had human babies and know the symptoms of terrestrial pregnancy) Dr Mack says that the foetuses seem to be lost. "But to my knowledge no gynaecologist

has been able or willing to verify that the product of conception may have been taken by alien beings or even ended mysteriously." No indeed.

However this is not to dismiss *Passport To The Cosmos*, a litany of apparitions, out of body experiences, and feelings of profound love and fear when the aliens are encountered. Most of the abductees are average Americans who describe

great sensations of energy when meeting the aliens. Many of the people Dr Mack spoke to have been seeing aliens since they were small children. As adults they return from their travels to find that they had been gone no more than a few hours in earth time - just like the characters of children's stories like *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe*. The overwhelming majority of them

returned to everyday life determined to work to preserve the world's ecology, having been told by the aliens that humans are destroying the earth. Carlos Diaz, a Mexican photographer says: "I learned if we can't take care of ourselves and our planet, how can we ever expect to join the galactic neighbourhood?"

John Mack did not, as far as I can tell, talk to Europeans. He did visit a Native American, an African medicine man and a native Brazilian, all of whom had been taken up in space ships. All three of these men were the children of native and settler parents, and were brought up between western and native cultures. Two had received Catholic upbringings. In all three of their native cultures there was a history of visits from what Native Americans call "star people". An American psychiatrist had rejected Sequoyah Trueblood's account of alien abduction as an hallucination; but Sequoyah Trueblood had had drug hallucinations before and knew this wasn't the same thing. Besides he had the cultural references to verify what he had seen and felt.

The most interesting account in the book comes from Vusumazulu Credo Mutwa, a South African. Credo (he was named by his Catholic father) felt terrified and sexually humiliated by his experience on-board the space ship. When he was visited by a single alien some time

afterwards, shortly after being beaten up by a mob in Soweto, he wasn't a bit pleased to see her. "The same little bloody bastard [still female] in the brown suit," as he put it. Credo's experience of alien abduction left him impotent and depressed. Far from wanting to address ecological conferences, he is angry that "these creatures want sick, impotent, debilitated, asthmatic, diabetic things like me to change the course of human history".

The theory that John Mack seems to lean towards is that the extra-terrestrial being is a new type of archetype. The accounts of their visits reproduced in this book are remarkably consistent (the descriptions of the hybrid babies are particularly vivid. One woman described a young male alien child who "looked like he was made of marble toast").

Many abductees feel terrible grief at being separated from both their hybrid children and the aliens. They want to go "home". For many of the abductees, their experiences have forever changed their lives for the better. In this way they are spiritual experiences which make people feel as if their lives have purpose.

Unless they are living in a South Africa which contains white racism and black corruption, as Credo Mutwa believes he does. As for prosperous Europe, the aliens do not seem to have our address.