



# Need to Know

with Coulthart and Zabel

1  
00:00:11,840 --> 00:00:15,920  
misery

2  
00:00:16,720 --> 00:00:24,320  
okay it's august 23rd it's 1974. it's a couple of\h  
weeks after nixon resigned uh john has just moved\h\h

3  
00:00:24,320 --> 00:00:30,240  
back to new york he's not living with uh yoko he's\h  
living with maypang who was his assistant that he\h\h

4  
00:00:30,240 --> 00:00:35,200  
had spent a little over a year in los angeles\h  
with they've got in a penthouse apartment on\h\h

5  
00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:42,480  
east 52nd street it's a hot night they uh turn off\h  
the ac and they throw the doors open and lennon\h\h

6  
00:00:42,480 --> 00:00:49,920  
is going over um you know the album cover artwork\h  
and he sees something outside and what he sees is\h\h

7  
00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:55,120  
something about the size of a learjet he says\h  
later that you could throw a brick and hit it\h\h

8  
00:00:56,080 --> 00:01:03,440  
over here up there i saw a ufo and it went down\h  
the river turned right at the united nations\h\h

9  
00:01:04,160 --> 00:01:08,960  
turned left and then down the river it wasn't a\h  
helicopter it wasn't a balloon and it was so near\h\h

10  
00:01:08,960 --> 00:01:15,120  
and you look what sort of uh round white just\h  
licensed and silent silent and it looked dark like\h\h

11

00:01:15,840 --> 00:01:21,040

black or gray in the middle and had white lights\h  
just looked like light bulbs you know just going\h\h

12

00:01:21,040 --> 00:01:25,840

off on off on off on blink blink blink blink\h  
around the bottom and on top was a red light

13

00:01:42,080 --> 00:01:48,560

how did that shape the rest of john lennon's\h  
uh career as a songwriter as a musician as a\h\h

14

00:01:48,560 --> 00:01:54,720

personality did that change him at all i think\h  
it did change him i certainly if you go by his\h\h

15

00:01:54,720 --> 00:02:00,720

public statements he almost was obsessed by it\h  
i mean immediately after this sighting which was\h\h

16

00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:06,800

in august of 1974 he told all his friends\h  
about it he called people about it he had\h\h

17

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:11,680

he got in touch with the police department\h  
and and with the journalistic sources\h\h

18

00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:17,840

and he wrote songs about it in fact his next album\h  
that came out after this 1974 sighting was an\h\h

19

00:02:17,840 --> 00:02:24,320

album called walls and bridges and he even wrote\h  
on the album cover about the and and drew in one\h\h

20

00:02:24,320 --> 00:02:30,800

of his little doodles about seeing the ufo and if\h  
you remember literally up until his death in 1980\h\h

21

00:02:30,800 --> 00:02:37,280

he was working on a song uh that in involved the\h  
lyric that said there's ufos over new york and i\h\h

22

00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:43,200

ain't too surprised so yeah i think it changed\h  
his life i i really do if you see a little note\h\h

23

00:02:43,200 --> 00:02:49,040

on walls and bridges it says i saw a ufo and i was\h  
just finished doing all the bridges i've mastered\h\h

24

00:02:49,040 --> 00:02:54,640

it or something last tape of it and i was really\h  
just relaxed and feeling good and it was summer\h\h

25

00:02:54,640 --> 00:02:59,760

in new york and i had the window open and lo\h  
and behold there was this thing just hovering\h\h

26

00:02:59,760 --> 00:03:05,200

sort of a hundred yards away but i saw it so\h  
close it wasn't in the sky or nothing you know\h\h

27

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:10,480

and it was like i could have hit it with a brick\h  
if i'd thrown a stone at it i couldn't see the\h\h

28

00:03:10,480 --> 00:03:15,760

colors because it was just it was a good clear\h  
summer night you know the sky was very clear\h\h

29

00:03:16,400 --> 00:03:21,360

and round the bottom of it we're just ordinary\h  
looking electric light bulbs blinking off and on\h\h

30

00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:26,560

alternatively like on a wheelbarrow or something\h  
and on the top of it was a red light and the\h\h

31

00:03:26,560 --> 00:03:30,720

thing i noticed was that there was no noise\h  
and i could hear that freeway down below\h\h

32

00:03:31,280 --> 00:03:35,920

all the cars going so i realized oh it's\h  
not a helicopter then it must be a balloon\h\h

33

00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:41,520

but it was so close to the rooftop that it\h  
couldn't be a balloon so all the rational things\h\h

34

00:03:41,520 --> 00:03:47,360

i went to not a helicopter balloon not a balloon\h  
it's too close to the roof and it's maneuvered\h\h

35

00:03:47,360 --> 00:03:52,480

too well to be a balloon so i just watched it\h  
and it was there for about five or ten minutes\h\h

36

00:03:52,480 --> 00:03:56,960

it went up down the east river and there\h  
it was and that's all i got to say about it\h\h

37

00:03:57,840 --> 00:04:04,400

he calls me paying out she sees it and uh they\h  
were astonished by it and according to both john\h\h

38

00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:10,720

and may they spent at least 10 minutes looking\h  
at it before it sort of silently floated down\h\h

39

00:04:10,720 --> 00:04:17,440

and up the uh the east river past the united\h  
nations uh building and finally disappeared wow\h\h

40

00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:24,320

i mean uh that is fascinating absolutely\h  
fascinating you know frank one of the things\h\h

41

00:04:24,320 --> 00:04:31,680

that fascinates me is that lenin uh did have he\h  
called uh his friend uh photographer bob gruen\h\h

42

00:04:31,680 --> 00:04:37,680

and and they uh had bob called the police uh\h  
uh department and they said oh about three\h\h

43

00:04:37,680 --> 00:04:42,080

people had called in they called daily news they\h  
said maybe five to seven people had called in\h\h

44

00:04:42,640 --> 00:04:48,160

and the thing is i've i guess those the the\h  
newspaper uh decided not to write about those\h\h

45

00:04:48,160 --> 00:04:53,280

people because i've never been able to track down\h  
any of those witnesses so i would simply say today\h\h

46

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:58,880

boy if there's anybody listening whose\h  
grandmother or grandfather saw that\h\h

47

00:04:58,880 --> 00:05:04,160

uh or they're still alive i'd like to talk to\h  
a witness who also saw what john lennon saw

48

00:05:07,760 --> 00:05:09,200

well everybody's

49

00:05:18,240 --> 00:05:23,840

and i ain't too surprised

50

00:05:31,840 --> 00:05:36,960

nobody told me that these days\h  
like this no one told me that