

Earth



# Aliens On Earth.com

Resources for those who are stranded here

Earth



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# Awakenings

By Oliver W. Sacks

Our Price: **\$14.00**

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464 Pages, Trade Paperback

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Added to Catalog: 8/11/98

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| Credibility | Research Value | Cultural Interest | Visual Information | Style    | Silliness | Wow Factor | Bargain  |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| <b>5</b>    | <b>4</b>       | <b>4</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>5</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| Very High   | High           | High              | None               | Stunning | Low       | Wow!       | High     |

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**Credibility = Very High:** In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

The true story of a group of patients suffering from a unique neurological disorder that made them seem dead to the world. They were catatonic, sitting for hours in the same position. As the result of an epidemic in the 1930s, some part of their brains had been damaged, and they lost the ability to initiate thoughts and actions. Thirty years later, these patients were "rediscovered" in a New York asylum. A new wonder drug, L-Dopa, was tried on them and they "awoke." It was as though they had emerged from a time machine: They arrived in the 1960s thinking it was still the 30s. Joy was mixed with grief as they learned of the years they had lost. Tragically, the effects of the drug eventually wore off, and the patients fell back into even darker oblivion. This story provides many fascinating insights into consciousness, free will and our perceptions of time. It was later adapted as a movie, which was well reviewed but that could not capture the subtleties of this fine book. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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