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Book Catalog

The Myth of Repressed Memory

By Elizabeth Loftus and Katherin Ketcham

Our Price: **\$13.95**

Our Item Code: **repressed**

Postage Code: **book1**

290 Pages, Cover Size: 6 x 9 inches

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Related listings: [Adult Survivors of Child Abuse: Self-Help Books](#)

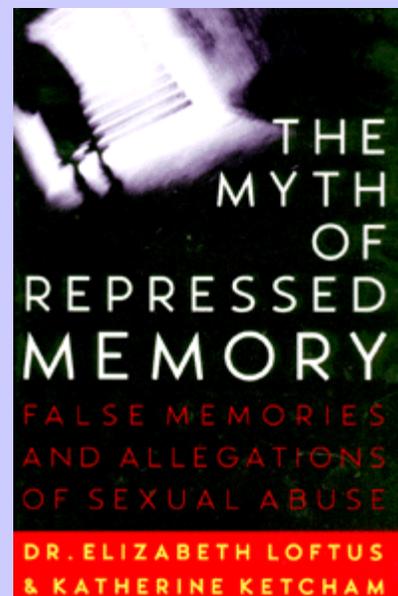
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Date: 1994 ISBN: 0-312-14123-8

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Our Review

Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

"False Memories and Allegations of Sexual Abuse." While not dealing specifically with UFO beliefs, this book can be taken as a skeptical work regarding alien abduction claims. It attacks the reliability of "reconstructed" memories, those that have supposedly been repressed by traumatic experiences and recovered years later during hypnosis or psychotherapy. The authors argue that what we regard as solid memories are in fact highly fluid, and traumatic memories can be as easily confabulated as recovered. The many case studies contained herein focus on false allegations of sexual abuse that have destroyed many families. False memories often serve a protective function, and if you believe that a memory can be repressed and later recovered, then you also have to accept that a memory can be unconsciously created or distorted to serve an emotional need. Was a person abducted by aliens as he now "remembers," or was the memory "created" by his emotional system to help him avoid a more painful reality. As longtime academic researchers into the function of memory, the authors are well-versed on its weaknesses, and argue eloquently that no "repressed memory" can be trusted in isolation. Includes index and references. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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"Astute, scientifically informed, and compassionate towards the movement's casualties."

-- The New York Review of Books

"The descriptions . . . of the 'therapeutic' practices by which memories are recovered are a frightening indictment of at least some members of the burgeoning therapy industry...."

-- The New York Times Book Review

"[A] thoughtful, scholarly book . . . concerned with exposing the damage caused by, and the falsity of, the practice of recovered-memory therapy."

-- The Washington Post Book World

"The best book I have found on these phenomena."

-- Boston Book Review

"Loftus's moving descriptions of families shattered by recovered memories make for gripping reading...."

-- Scientific American

"Loftus has been an inventive and prolific investigator of memory's foibles.... This book shows the false side of recovered memories, and their horrifying consequences.... "

-- The New England Journal of Medicine

"This eye-opening book makes a compelling argument for caution."

-- Publishers Weekly

"Loftus argues that an incest recovery culture . . . has induced thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of women to falsely accuse their parents.

-- Los Angeles Times Book Review

"A reasonable and restrained approach to a touchy subject."

-- Kirkus Reviews

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