

# Abduction

## The Starting Point

In the late evening of 19th September 1961, Betty and Barney Hill were returning from a holiday in Canada to their home in New Hampshire.

During the drive they noticed a bright light in the sky which over a period of time seemed to be pacing their car. At a later point in the drive, the object came much closer. Barney got out of the car and walked to within close proximity of it. He saw humanoid entities looking down at him through a row of windows, and became fearful that he was about to be captured. He returned to the car in some state of panic and, with his wife, they drove away. They arrived home apparently some two hours later than they should have done.

Two years later, after dreams and fears about that night and some tensions between the couple, they entered into a programme of regression hypnosis with Boston psychiatrist Dr Benjamin Simon. Under regression hypnosis the story came out that the couple had somehow driven to a lonely side road, been stopped by humanoids from a craft which was parked through trees just off the road, were removed from their car, taken aboard the craft and subjected to medical examination and communicated with the aliens before being released.

Whether the regression hypnosis was bringing out 'real' memories or fears and speculations translated into false memories has been the subject of debate since that time. The case was made highly public by journalist John G. Fuller in his book *The Interrupted Journey* which became the launch pad for the subject of abductions as a serious aspect of UFO research.

It was not even at the time the first case of abduction; that honour goes to Brazilian Antonio Villas Boas though his story was not released widely until after the Hill's account. Betty and Barney's story, however, was the first of a kind that continue in 'style' and to some extent detail to the present day.

## Missing Time

One of the commonest elements in abductions is the recognition of missing time. In June 1976 Hélène Giuliani was returning home late one night when her car cut out crossing the bridge at Romans, France. She saw a huge orange glow in the sky which then suddenly vanished; she drove on. When she arrived home she discovered that she had missed some considerable period of time and subsequent regression hypnosis revealed that she had been abducted by small figures, tied to a table and examined.

In August 1975, Alan Fallows was driving towards the village of Maseley in West Yorkshire when he was

shaped light. There was some evidence of paralysis and missing time and when he fully came to himself, he found he was clutching a screwdriver as if holding a weapon; he does not recall picking it up.

## Screen Memories

Several UFO researchers have speculated that abductees failed to recognise their experiences because they are protected by a screen memory or substitute image. Whitley Strieber in his book *Communion* refers to the memory of an owl which prevented his immediate recollection of his experience of 26th December 1985.

The reports of many abductees contain images that could be screen memories. Memories of cars, houses in fields, shops with 'strange shopkeepers' have all been interpreted by researchers as screen memories covering images of flying saucers.

Some researchers have hypothesised that the memory is imposed by the aliens as a way of preventing the witness remembering the experience; others have suggested it is a natural self-protection device created by the mind to protect itself from facing the horror of the reality. Certainly in other areas of trauma it has been shown that the mind is capable of this.





The now famous 'Strieber Alien'. However it is easily forgotten that prior to the catalyst of the abduction scenario in the late 1980's, the typical 'grey' did not reign supreme. Many other types of alien have been reported over the years which begs the question, are there too many aliens?

### Out of Body?

A radical view of abductions is suggested by the belief that the experience takes place not in the physical world but in 'the astral world'; and that the abductee is dealt with not in their physical body but their 'astral' body.

Rauni-Leena Luukanen-Kilde, a leading light in the medical field in her home country of Finland has experienced several paranormal experiences including Out-Of-Body visions during surgery but also revealed she recalled an abduction with typical facets such as medical examination. But she believes that her physical body remained in bed throughout the whole experience and that it was her astral body which was on the spacecraft. The marks she found on her legs could arguably be a stigmata arising from her passionate belief.

The abductions of Betty Andreasson Luca include several OOBIE abductions as reported in Raymond Fowler's examination of the case *The Watchers*; indeed an entire chapter is dedicated to this interface. In one of her recalls she states, 'And I am standing there and I am coming out of myself!

### Spiritual Dimension

Mrs Elsie Oakensen, from Northamptonshire in England, who was abducted in November 1978 underwent what appears to have been a 'scanning' during a period of vehicle

think that in that fifteen minutes there was some kind of examination and by that I don't mean necessarily a medical examination. It could have been a spiritual examination or something like that..." Of the purpose of the encounter she notes that she has become a healer and a dowser, and has developed several psychic abilities.

### The Genetic Study Theory

Researchers have been at pains to discover not just whether UFOs are extraterrestrial but, if so, what they are doing. The most commonly held theory, particularly of American researchers at the present time, is that they are engaged on a study programme of genetic examination and manipulation. Theories that have been presented suggest either that the human race is a biological experimental programme which the aliens are monitoring and updating or that they require something from humans which is absent in their own genetic make-up.

British abductee Maria Ward suffered a 'bedroom visitation' abduction following which she remembered being examined. John E. Mack, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, comments, "The purely physical or biological aspect of the abduction phenomenon seems to have to do with some sort of genetic or quasi-genetic engineering..."

### Artistic Effects

Peter Holding had UFO experiences as a young man and transformed from non-artistic gardening work to being an accomplished artist who sells pieces for up to thousands of pounds. Many of his photographs and

paintings take on religious themes which mirror the mood of his experiences. He connects these artistic feelings to his earlier experiences.

Bryan has had experiences from a young age, and pursues an accomplished artistic career. 'Mark James' had encounters that were frightening and disturbing to him; nonetheless he acknowledged they educated him and developed him by making him think into areas he might not have considered. He too expresses an artistic drive; through music.

Researcher and chairman of BUFORA, John Spencer, has made a special study of these effects and concludes there are a high number of such changes. It seems unlikely that whatever the meaning of abductions; and whether they arise because of alien intervention or something else, that their purpose is to produce artists, or ecologically aware individuals. It is more likely that this is a 'side-effect' of dealing with the experiences.

*BUFORA, through its Code of Practice, has a strict ban on the use of hypnotic regressive techniques. It has been shown that not only are subjects open to suggestion while in an hypnotic state, but the therapist can, by suggestion, 'implant' false memories without the subject's knowledge. Although hypnotic regression is widely used as a tool when researching the claims of abductees, it is felt by BUFORA that the process is too dangerous especially when the results maybe inconclusive.*