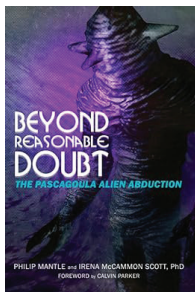


BOOK REVIEW

Beyond Reasonable Doubt: The Pascagoula Alien Abduction

Ron Westrum



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I believe that this book should be read by everyone with a genuine interest in UFOs (UAPs), even though it is long, even though it would benefit from further editing, and even though it is only about two abductions, not tens of thousands. It answers many questions.

The first question it answers is whether alien abductions are real, physical events. The answer is “yes.” The main focus of the book is two alien abductions that took place two hours apart. One of them, the Hickson-Parker case (1973), has always been in the top tier of abduction cases. This was a case where the honesty and testimony of the main witnesses, Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker, could hardly be doubted. These men told police and Air Force officials what they had experienced. This has been a rock-solid case for years.

The second abduction took place with Jerry and Maria Blair and was two hours later than the Hickson-Parker abduction. It happened upriver from the Calvin-Parker abduction and apparently with the same set of weird-looking aliens. This abduction did not emerge until 2019, an interesting observation in itself since the Hickson-Parker abduction that took place in 1973 was reported within the same 24 hours that it happened. In other words, it emerged 46 years later. One of the authors of this book, Irena Scott, arranged a hypnotic regression to capture the details of the abduction. The transcript of that regression of Maria Blair is included in the book.

In addition to these primary accounts of the abductions, a key feature of the book is the inclusion, with many photographs, of additional witnesses not to the abduction itself but to the craft that evidently featured in these abductions. In other words, whatever took place during the “abductions”, at least forty-something other people saw the craft involved. This is the answer to question #2, namely, if there was a craft involved, could other people see it? The answer is a resolute “yes.” So, this was something real and definitely physical. It can be compared to the O’Barski case, investigated by Budd Hopkins and Ted Bloecher (1976). This latter case involved a liquor dealer who happened to witness a “flying saucer” that disgorged little men onto a public park in New Jersey, across from Manhattan.

But a survey of the New Jersey neighborhood by Ted Bloecher showed that there had been other witnesses to the craft (although not the little men). The survey also revealed that there had been physical damage to the door of the nearby Stonehenge Apartments, a glass door that cracked when there was a light on the hill (presumably the UFO).

The O’Barski case was written up in the local New York publication, the *Village Voice*, and re-published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine. The letters responding to this article propelled Budd Hopkins to start an intensive investigation of abduction cases. These



cases were reported in several books, including *Missing Time* (1981). The underlying point here is that the first recourse of the abduction investigator may not be to the psychologist but to the neighborhood. If abductions are real, the craft may have been visible to others. One needs to search out those others.

The book also describes the Under-Surface Object (USO) discovered in the Pascagoula River, potentially related to the abductions.

I will not take the time here to sketch out what we know about other abductions. All this has been explored in many books on the subject. It includes the missing time, the life-long series of abductions that most experience, a gathering of sexual samples, the trauma, the regressive hypnoses, the implants, and similar subjects. For those interested in knowing more, I recommend the book by Steve Aspin, *Out of Time*, which is reviewed elsewhere in this journal (Aspin, 2023).

I will also not take the reader's time here to review the often very silly but almost always speculative hypotheses used to explain abductions by those who seem to lack the time to do serious research. These include various forms of sleep hypnosis, folklore, mass hysteria, etc. I believe that Susan Clancy's book *Abducted: How People Come to Believe They Were Kidnapped by Aliens* (2005) falls

into this category. Her treatment of the Allagash Abductions alone would suggest the gossamer quality of her explanations, as opposed to the disturbing reality carefully investigated by Raymond Fowler (1993).

This book is also evocative of the often oblique paths along which information about anomalous events travels. Things may be hidden for years but may come to light because of a similar report surfacing or an episode of a television program or an interview.

Finally, I want to commend the authors for their energies and diligence in bringing these events to light and thank the witnesses, including Calvin Parker and Maria Blair, for sharing these deeply disturbing experiences with us.

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