

Experiencer: Raised in Two Worlds

Book Review by Kathleen Marden

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I was recently in Ohio to present a lecture on alien abduction at Ohio MUFON's State Conference, when I was approached by William J. Konkolesky, the State Director of the Michigan chapter of MUFON. He presented me with a copy of his book ***Experiencer: Raised in Two Worlds***. I began reading it during my flight to Orlando and was reluctant to put it down when the plane touched down.

The investigation of alien abduction is difficult, especially in cases where physical evidence is absent. Most suspected abductees report awakening terrified with entities in their bedrooms or with unexplainable scratches that occurred during the night. Some are concerned about odd lumps beneath the skin on their arms or legs that can be palpitated. But verifiable evidence of an actual alien abduction is often elusive. In the absence of evidence, the majority of suspected abductees question the veracity of their own experiences. Was it real or was it a dream? Was my terror that came in the night the result of sleep paralysis? Or was it real? Am I a lucid dreamer or did I have an out of body experience? Bill is among them.

Experiencer is the first of three books that he has planned. In graphic detail and emotional intensity, he describes perplexing, mysterious, possibly ET related events that occurred during the first 19 years of his life. His first memory of a strange presence in his bedroom occurred at the tender age of 2. His parents had already turned in for the night, when he awoke to observe a skull face in the shadows that slowly approached his crib. Naturally, he screamed but was reassured by his mother, from her bedroom across the hall that everything was alright. For me, it was a witch creeping from the dark shadows...piercing screams and parents rushing to reassure me that it was only my imagination. I assume it was because I had been told the tale of "Hansel and Gretel" too early...before I knew the difference between fantasy and reality. But was his only the imaginings of a young, frightened toddler? Or was it his first conscious recollection of alien abduction?

He writes of waking up paralyzed at age 4 after his mother had put him in for an afternoon nap. "I felt a hand pulling me up as the tingling momentarily cranked up to a heavy vibration before it abruptly abated. Suddenly, I could see and move again. I was fascinated that the hand pulling me up was attached to a little man. He dropped me lightly on my feet and I noticed he wasn't alone. Two other little men who looked exactly like him stood behind him. They all had warmly hued, leathery gray skin and giant, gleaming back eyes that wrapped around their heads and somehow appeared to be smiling, despite the fact that their mouths were just small straight slits."

Hypnopompic hallucinations in concert with sleep paralysis? Lucid dreams? Or alien abduction? His story involves levitation and telepathic communication. He found himself back in his bed with a momentary paralysis that quickly subsided. His mother was still outside pulling weeds. How many among us has not dreamt of flying? But of tiny gray beings with giant eyes that can float into a room?

Bill explored this and other unusual experiences with the late Shirley Coyne, my predecessor as MUFON's Director of Field Investigator Training. No additional details emerged about his early childhood experiences. But he hypnotically retrieved memories of encounters with short and tall Greys that might have occurred later on in his childhood, and medical procedures that needed to be checked by the ETs in broad daylight, and left marks on his body.

With the passage of time the events in Bill's childhood home and that of his extended family became decidedly paranormal, with ghostlike appearances, sudden drops in room temperature, and vanishing intruders. There are also multiple witness UFO sightings.

He wrote of out of body experiences, seemingly in the company of a tall Grey that peppered his teenage years with incidents of unwanted OOBs and sleep paralysis. In one frightening incident, Bill was floated through a solid wall by short Greys under the supervision of a tall, "ominous" being. He writes, "I felt myself being dragged off the foot of my bed like a helpless animal being pulled from a trap...I spotted the silhouette of an additional entity out in the hallway...To my horror, I was being drawn toward him." The following month, he came face to face with a 7 foot tall, robed praying mantis type, and later relived under hypnosis, the vivid details of an alien abduction.

The experiences became more than he could bear, so he resorted to caffeine to remain awake during the dreaded night in an attempt to avoid the terror. That is...until his mother squelched his self medicating plan. He found that without the safety net of the "protected hours of the early day, the perplexing abductions resumed.

Throughout the book Bill remains introspective about the veridical reality of his experiences. He has studied the characteristics of OOB experiences and discusses the commonalities of the beings reported by suspected abductees.

On a related note to these comparisons Bill makes, an OOB author and experimenter recently presented to me the results of an experiment he had conducted with 20 volunteers. He had instructed them to perform a specific OOB procedure upon overnight and early-morning awakenings over a period of a few days. The net result was that more than half of the volunteers experienced at least one full or partial out-of-body experience. He said that seven of them made visual contact with UFOs or extraterrestrials and experienced sensations identical to those described by "alien abduction survivors." I was curious and wanted to learn more, so he sent me the email address of one of the experimental subjects, and I wrote an inquiry to him. But after his project was

vociferously attacked on a UFO blog, all communication ended. I was left only with the short statements written by a handful of experimental participants. All reported experiencing fear when they encountered extraterrestrials in their OOBEs, but the commonalities ended there. One participant wrote of materializing creatures that seemed more like they belonged in the movie “The Thing” than “tadpoles with eyes like Princess Jasmine”; whereas, another participant described two helmeted aliens accompanied by a silver 7 foot tall robot. Another observed a more typical looking extraterrestrial, except for the dark-green skin. It had a huge bulbous head, large eyes and a small body with thin arms. All but one were dissimilar to the experiences described by Bill and other suspected abductees.

To whatever degree Bill’s experiences are externally real or internally generated, his book is a fascinating read. He is intelligent and insightful and writes with the visual imagery of a bestselling author. If you’re interested in probing the thought processes of a suspected alien abductee, I highly recommend ***Experiencer: Raised in Two Worlds***.