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THE 'LINDA CORTILE' CASE

In a brief note on page 18 of FSR 37/3 I quoted a statement by Mr. Budd Hopkins about an extraordinary new abduction case in which, in November 1989, a large number of eyewitnesses had allegedly seen a woman being floated out through the closed window of a twelfth-floor apartment near the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City and taken up by aliens to a UFO hovering overhead.

Our colleague Mr. George Wingfield, in the course of several recent visits to the United States, has had opportunities for extensive discussions with both 'Linda Cortile', the lady in question, and the principal investigator Mr. Budd Hopkins, as well as with numerous other researchers and investigators from both sides of the extraordinarily heated debate that has inevitably developed over the authenticity of such an astonishing story.

George Wingfield's interim report, which we publish below, seems to me to present an excellent picture of how the debate stands at present.

In the MUFON UFO JOURNAL the whole affair was related at length by Budd Hopkins in issue No. 293 (September 1992), while issue No. 300 (April 1993) carried a *Rejoinder To Critique of Budd Hopkins* by MUFON Associate Editor Mr. Walt Andrus. Apart from these two important articles the quantity of peripheral material about the case is of course already enormous, but there would appear to be little point in inundating our pages with it and in any case we would not have the space for it.

My own personal guess would be that the event is entirely genuine. If so, the implications are vast. Over the past twenty years or so I have frequently discussed the question of whether or not there are alien beings that can pass a human through what we term "solid matter". It begins to look as though this is certainly true. But is it our *physical* body that is passed through doors and walls and glass windows, or is our "other body", postulated by many writers and investigators over the past two thousand years and known variously as the "*Augoeides*" or the "radiant body", or the "spiritual body", or the "astral body", or the "etheric body", or the "double"? (Both Hinduism and Buddhism have terms for it, in the Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Chinese languages. And I find at least seven terms in the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that seem to relate to the various different bodies of which we are said to consist.)

If, however, as is claimed, numerous people actually observed the body of "Linda Cortile" up there in the air, then surely it must have been her *physical* body, since the human "astral" or "spiritual" body is usually said to be only visible to clairvoyants?

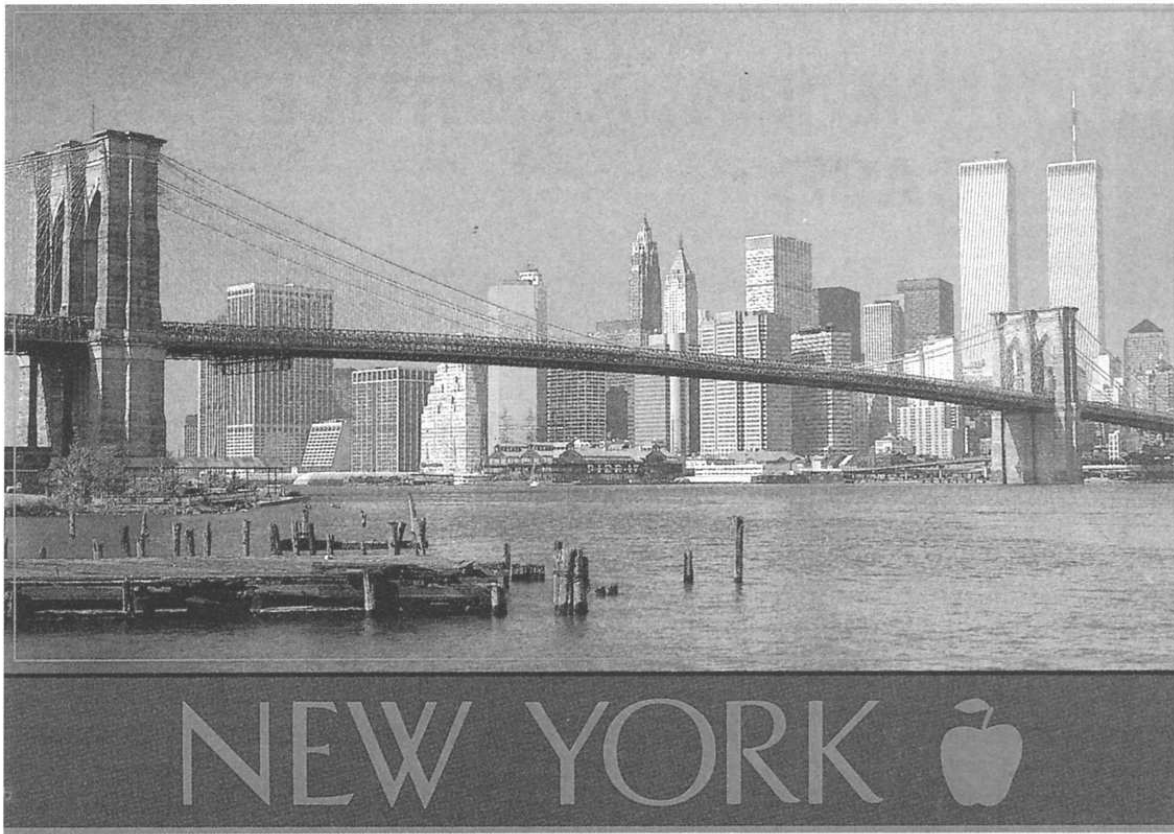
I understand that there is at least one other recent case where a human body was allegedly seen being taken through what we call a solid wall, and psychical researchers have long known of such cases. This is certainly a field of enquiry well worthy of attention. *For it looks as though we might be on the way to proving that a human being consists of more than one "body", just as the psychics and students of the Occult have always maintained.*

And that is also what all the Great Religions have always taught. If the present-day humans could begin to get some of these ideas into their thick skulls might it not bring about a change in the way in which we view our existence? And also perhaps an improvement in the way in which we treat each other, because it indicates a high probability that mankind does possess something that survives death. G.C. ■

LINDA'S UFO ABDUCTION: "THE CASE OF THE CENTURY"

© *By George Wingfield, FSR Director and Consultant.*

For those unfamiliar with the UFO abduction phenomenon in the U.S.A., first hand contact with victims of this widespread type of alien encounter comes as a shock. Frankly, one is asked to believe the unbelievable: if one does accept these abduction accounts as real, then one must also accept that humans are totally vulnerable to entities quite beyond our control. Many of us therefore prefer to think, more comfortably, that the reported abduction experience is something of a non-physical nature, perhaps akin to astral travel or near-death experience.



The Brooklyn Bridge:

Under the middle of the main span on the far side of the East River in Manhattan is Pier 17.

Linda's apartment building (also on far side) is just out of the photograph on the right.

Below:
"Linda Cortile"



Anxious to discuss this dilemma, I put the point to Budd Hopkins when both of us were attending a conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, in May 1991. "Surely", I asked Budd, "there is no positive corroboration by uninvolved witnesses of any abductee being taken into a UFO at the time of a supposed abduction?" "Not so", he declared, although he admitted that such reports were rare. Later that evening he outlined for me what has now become a *cause célèbre*—as regards UFO abductions: the Linda case, where several witnesses had apparently watched as a woman was taken out of a New York apartment building through a closed window and beamed up into a flying saucer, accompanied by three small grey aliens.

So engrossed was I by what I was told that we sat discussing this case in Budd's room late into the

night together with several ladies who had also been at the conference. Realising it was after 3a.m., I got up remarking facetiously that we should all get to bed "since those little grey critters are probably lined up on the hotel roof, and they won't get a chance to do what they have to do....". At this, one girl, who I instantly realised was an abductee herself, let out a dreadful wail and everyone turned on me, condemning my heartless insensitivity. To many Americans the UFO abduction experience is a terrifying and immediate reality.

The case described concerned "Linda Cortile", a married woman from New York who believed that, since childhood, she had undergone UFO abduction experiences which hypnotic regression sessions with Hopkins had apparently confirmed. During the early hours of 30th November 1989, Linda had experienced what she took to be such an abduction, and later that day she telephoned him to tell of the experience. She had retired to bed, after completing household chores, in a different room from her husband, at about 3 a.m. Almost immediately she felt a numbness creeping over her. She then spotted in a corner of the bedroom a grey humanoid creature, and in an attempt to resist, flung a pillow at it, knocking it over. Swift paralysis followed and her last thoughts were: "Now I've made them mad—they'll take my children".

Next conscious memory was of dropping back on to her bed from a short height. She tried to rouse her husband and her two boys who all appeared completely still and lifeless. Terrified she held a mirror to one boy's mouth and was reassured to see moisture from his breath on the glass. Gradu-

**"Linda
Cortile" with Budd
Hopkins**

at the MUFON
1992 Symposium in
Albuquerque (Photo
by Walter H.
Andrus, Jr., Interna-
tional Director of
MUFON)



ally the three who slept resumed a normal breathing pattern.

RECALL UNDER HYPNOSIS

Later under hypnosis Linda recalled how, wearing just a long white nightgown, she had been taken by three or four grey aliens out through a closed window twelve floors above the street and floated up along a beam of light into a large disc-shaped UFO hovering over the building. There had followed a typical abduction-type physical examination where tiny hands and instruments had probed her body. The story so far was a typical UFO abduction case. But a new spin was to come when Hopkins received a typewritten letter a few weeks before the Nebraska conference from two New York police officers who signed themselves "Dan" and "Richard". They claimed that while sitting in a parked car under the FDR Drive expressway in Manhattan at 3.15 a.m. on November 30th, 1989 they had witnessed a woman in a long white gown being floated in mid-air along a beam of bluish white light into some kind of hovering craft. She was accompanied by 3 small ugly humanoids. Next the craft shot off upwards and to the south, flying silently over the Brooklyn Bridge and then plunging into the murky depths of the East River somewhere off Pier 17. Location, time and date left no doubt whatever that what had been seen was Linda's UFO abduction.

Over the next two years Budd Hopkins received letters and tapes from these witnesses and others relating to Linda's abduction. The case grew and grew and some who were worried that this was

all an elaborate hoax were both puzzled and reassured at the ramifications which slowly developed. The so-called police officers were, it later became clear, part of a special unit chauffeuring a senior diplomatic figure to a heliport on the Lower East Side. He too had observed these events. This witness, the "third man", was rumoured to be no less a figure than Javier Perez de Cuellar, then Secretary General of the United Nations, something which Budd Hopkins will neither confirm or deny. Apparently other diplomatic cars had also suffered loss of power due to the presence of the UFO and had been stopped nearby.

A further person who claimed to have witnessed the abduction was "Janet Kimble" who wrote to Budd in November 1991. She had been driving towards Manhattan over the Brooklyn Bridge at 3.16 a.m. when her car too ground to a halt and the extraordinary scenario had presented itself just 500 yards away above Linda's apartment building. At first she thought the floating figures in the white beam of light were part of some night-time movie shoot. Perhaps *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*? Others in cars behind, so far untraced, had also been immobilised on the bridge and were yelling and screaming in horror and disbelief.

Budd interviewed Janet Kimble and talked to her by phone at length. He was completely satisfied that she was a reliable witness. He has never directly met Richard or Dan, but Linda has met them both on several occasions since. Once they forcibly persuaded her to get in their car in downtown Manhattan and another time one of them took Linda to a beach house. Over the months Dan's

mental state, resulting from the encounter experience, has deteriorated. Richard's attitude to Linda has been supportive, perhaps even emotionally involved, but both have at times accused her of being "part alien". Their letters indicated that both had plumbed the depths of fear and guilt after the event—guilt since they had been unable to rescue Linda or take any action. However the long delay before they went to see Linda (whose apartment they had readily identified), or contacted Hopkins, does seem to be a weakness of the story.

A TRAP FOR HOPKINS?

In any case the lives of each member of the cast in this half-hidden drama have all been deeply affected.

Even now more details gradually come to light. Each of the witnesses has supplied drawings of what they saw of the abduction. Letters sent to Budd Hopkins reveal different styles of writing, English, and page format that show beyond doubt that different people are involved here. If this were a hoax it is one that is incredibly elaborate. But if it were a hoax who would be behind it and what would be their motive? Possibly CSICOP, and possibly an attempt to discredit Hopkins and debunk once and for all the UFO abduction phenomenon.

Naturally I have suggested this to Budd, but he is adamant that the evidence which has accumulated over the past two years when taken as a whole rules out this possibility. There is apparently much more evidence in his possession which he has yet to reveal. He has corresponded with the third man, the important diplomatic figure. He has traced the license plates of vehicles involved in the case. He has established that an extremely important top level meeting at the U.N. immediately preceded this event. He says that the case is exceptional because of the third man's presence and that it appears the abduction was deliberately staged for that man's benefit. All of this will be presented in a book by Budd on the case, which is to be published in the near future.

What on earth are we to make of this bizarre story? Certainly it has its weaknesses, but also strong points which are difficult to dismiss lightly. First and foremost no one can believe Budd Hopkins has contrived all this and even his enemies concede that essentially he is an honest man. Some critics have therefore suggested that the story is an elaborate hoax which has been devised and directed by Linda herself and that Hopkins is the dupe. This scenario, put forward by George Hansen, Richard Butler and Joe Stefula, and circulated on computer bulletin boards, seems highly unlikely. Orchestration of such a hoax would necessarily involve several different people and would be unlikely to

remain a secret for long. Other critics, each with some preconceived view of the UFO abduction phenomenon, such as that abductees are pathological liars (Münchhausen's syndrome) or that their experiences result from deep-seated guilt over widespread use of abortion (which has gone on in the U.S. over the last 30 years – the unborn fetuses corresponding to small alien greys in the "abductee's" guilt-ridden subconscious), prepare to leap forward to demolish Hopkins' claims.

THE BATTLE BEGINS

As with the Gulf Breeze case, the believers and the sceptics have lined up to do battle. Dr. David Jacobs and Dr. John Mack have written articles supporting Budd Hopkins, and Walt Andrus, the International Director of MUFON, has taken a similar stance. Phil Klass, George Hansen and Willy Smith emphatically state that the whole case is a hoax. **It is a hoax becauseit has to be a hoax, so far as they are concerned.** The more cautious of us, like Jerome Clark, Editor of *International UFO Reporter*, have suspended judgement until Budd Hopkins has had a chance to present all of the facts. What matters are the facts of the case, and there is much that must still be explored.

With this in mind I went to see Linda when I was in New York recently. For hours we talked about the various aspects of this extraordinary affair and it was inconceivable that this delightful and extremely attractive lady – an aspect of the case which may have affected the perspective of some of those involved – could have contrived all this, à la Baron Münchhausen, as some will allege. We walked on Pier 17, and looked out at the wide and rainy East River where Dan and Richard had watched the UFO, with Linda aboard, plunge never to reappear. She had no recollection of this part of her abduction drama.

Linda told of seeing the small grey humanoid alien in her room and flinging a pillow at it. From the pier she pointed out the position of her apartment building and our view across the intervening water below the Brooklyn Bridge was much the same as Janet Kimble's had been. Only now there was no UFO, no great beam of light, no trio of aliens suspended in mid-air with Linda in her long white nightie.

WHAT IS REALITY?

In the cold light of day the story seemed utterly unbelievable, totally unreal, like something taken from the wilder shores of science fiction. Yet, standing with Linda and knowing Budd, and having heard much much more besides from scores of others who have undergone the UFO abduction experience, one is forced to re-examine the very concepts of reality which one has always taken for granted. G.W. June 1993. ■

BOOK REVIEW: SECRET LIFE

By Prier Wintle, Cape Town Correspondent of UFO AFRINEWS, (Editor Cynthia Hind). ©

SECRET LIFE: FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS OF UFO ABDUCTIONS, by Dr David M. Jacobs, Ph.D., Published 1992, U.S. Edition (hardback) by Simon & Schuster, New York, \$21.00, ISBN 0-671-74857-2. U.K. Edition (hardback), March 1992, published by Fourth Estate Ltd., 289 Westbourne Grove, London W11 2QA, £14.99. ISBN 1-85702-123-1.

[Note by Editor FSR. This excellent report on a very important new book first appeared in Cynthia Hind's UFO AFRINEWS No. 7 (January 1993) and is reprinted here with the express permission of Editor Hind and of Mr. Wintle, to both of whom we express our thanks.

The author, Dr. David M. Jacobs, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA, is a leading American academic authority on unidentified flying objects and abductions, and has already one other important book to his credit, *The UFO Controversy In America*. For some years past Dr. Jacobs has been the principal collaborator of Budd Hopkins in his intensive use of regressive hypnosis to help UFO victims.

This is not a speculative book about the possibilities of contact with alien beings! It is a book about contact that has already occurred, and the potential implications for mankind are utterly staggering. The Foreword is by no less a personage than Dr. John E. Mack, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and this fact will help to guarantee that the book will provoke widespread open and honest debate on this "subject of ours" which is now going to have to be taken seriously.

Finally, I think our readers will like to know that the address of UFO AFRINEWS is: c/o GEMINI, P.O. Box MP49, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.]

PRIER WINTLE'S REVIEW

"I think my overall feeling after reading this book was that with it Ufology has become a graduate discipline. An honours course professor could prescribe it as a text book and then issue a list of questions on it which students were to discuss critically. I propose to offer a few of these questions myself a little later in this review.

What makes it so valuable is the way it demonstrates that enough is now known about one aspect of the total UFO enigma, viz. the abduction

phenomenon, for researchers to be able to recognize that it follows a regular pattern, and to be able to categorize this.

Never, before this stage is reached in any discipline, does it become possible to formulate truly testable scientific hypotheses. Till then all is guesswork, intuition and hunches. We still have a myriad questions of course; in fact we are really only right at the beginning of the road. But now it is a road, and we may begin to ask questions which lead somewhere.

Following the lead originally devised by psychologist Leo Sprinkle and carried further by Budd Hopkins [as described in the latter author's two books, *Missing Time* (New York, Marek 1981) and *Intruders* (New York, Random House 1987)] David Jacobs decided to follow an essentially therapeutic approach while interviewing and studying abductees. Though not then qualified as a psychotherapist himself, (he is Associate Professor of History at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA) he related to his subjects as essentially normal individuals who were, however, suffering from a form of post-traumatic shock. As such they should be treated with consideration, i.e. with a caring approach. At the same time, scientific objectivity was never lost sight of. He therefore became a qualified hypnotist, in order to be able to assist abduction victims to recall and come to terms with what they had been through. At the same time, what each one said was carefully recorded and later compared with what others had recounted. Gradually the patterns emerged.

As he describes it, there are essentially five stages in the whole abduction process.

The first of these is, of course, the initial taking of the person or persons concerned. The helplessness of victims at this stage is chillingly portrayed. It can occur at any time of the day or night, whether the subject is alone or with others (usually only a few others), in any locality, and no matter what activity he or she is engaged in. They may be asleep in bed, but also just as possibly driving a car.

The subject himself or herself becomes paralyzed, while others who may be present whom the aliens do not want are 'switched off'. One member of a couple making love may be removed and then returned some hours later, whereupon they will resume apparently from where they left off, with no conscious memory of what has happened, *at that time*.