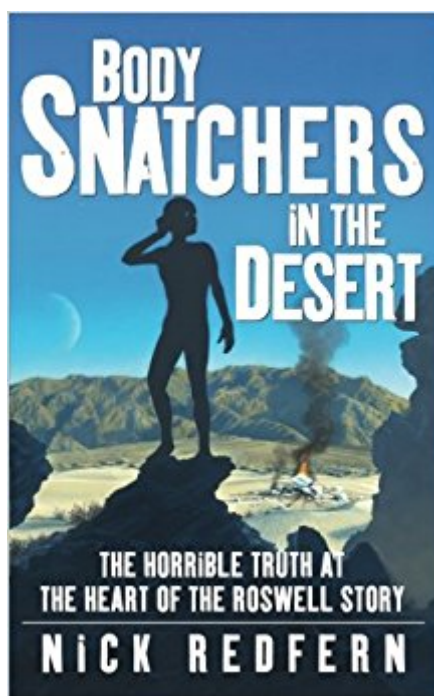


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Body Snatchers In The Desert: The Horrible Truth At The Heart Of The Roswell Story



Synopsis

IT WAS A CONSPIRACY TO HIDE A SECRET EXPERIMENT "RAAF captures flying saucer on ranch in Roswell region." Ever since this provocative headline appeared on July 8, 1947, conspiracy theorists have sincerely believed that the U.S. government has maintained an extensive operation of cover-up-and-denial regarding its knowledge of alien life. But there was, in fact, no UFO crash with dead alien bodies. What really happened on that fateful day is much more sinister. The persistent rumors surrounding the UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico, are part of a bigger conspiracy -- one orchestrated and fostered by the government itself as a smokescreen to bury a truth that is much darker, and disturbingly, far more believable. Now, through never-before-revealed testimony from military whistleblowers, eyewitness intelligence reports, and an astonishing body of corroborative evidence, Nick Redfern lays out a shockingly plausible new theory on the Roswell incident: that the crash-site discovery of prototype military aircraft would expose a damning secret -- a highly confidential, U.S. government-sanctioned program to conduct medical experiments on deformed, handicapped, disfigured, and diseased Japanese POWs, exploited as "expendable" victims by their captors. An important account that forces us to take a closer look at both the Roswell story and post-war American history, *BODY SNATCHERS IN THE DESERT* casts a startling, new light on a shocking conspiracy more than half a century in the making.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nick Redfern began his writing career in the 1980s on *Zero* -- a British-based magazine devoted to music, fashion, and the world of entertainment. He has written eight books, including *Body*

Snatchers in the Desert: The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story, and has contributed articles to numerous publications, including the London Daily Express, Eye Spy magazine, and Military Illustrated. He lives in Dallas, Texas.

This is a very interesting book, and provided some valuable information for me

My Husband read this book, he is usually not a reader, but couldn't put this book down. We visited Roswell three years ago my husband thought the book had some very good explanations of what DID happen at Roswell

I really struggled with this book. It was like listening to a symphony with one note playing over and over again. I appreciate the fact that I was getting a new look at the Roswell incident; however I just didn't need all the eternal proofs and I believe that Nick was trying too hard to convince himself, and this made for extremely boring reading. This would have played better as an article in a magazine, rather than being dragged out into a full length book. Oh well even the best writers have a right to have a bad book once in a while.

First of all, a disclaimer: I'm something of a fan of Mr. Redfern's work. I think he's fun to read, and he must be a brave man to go monster-hunting in creepy places all over the planet. Besides this book, I've read "Keep Out," "Three Men in Search of Monsters," "The NASA Conspiracies," and "Strange Secrets." I understand why the other reviewers criticized his use of unnamed sources: "the Colonel," and "the Black Widow." But from my experience as a newspaper reporter for a number of years, sometimes a promise of confidentiality is the only way to get a source to share information. And Mr. Redfern works hard to corroborate the secret sources. He has done a massive amount of research into the Roswell Incident, and although it's controversial, his theory about American use of human test subjects in nuclear research needs to be part of that extended conversation. I do wonder, however, how any policy-maker, civilian or military, could in the shadow of World War II and of Nazi atrocities, order human tests while the Nuremberg war-crime trials were filling the headlines. It seems like the risks would have far outweighed the benefits. One of my favorite chapters is Chapter 14, "The Crashed UFOs that Never Were." Mr. Redfern details a number of U.S. government operations to spread bogus UFO reports to confuse the Soviets, or to distract public attention from U.S. weapons research. This part of the book relies little on confidential sources and seems to be taken mostly from declassified public-domain materials. Please note. this is a serious book, unlike

some of Mr. Redfern's monster-hunting volumes, which contain a considerable amount of humor. So, in summary, I enjoyed "Body-snatchers" cover to cover. even though I'm not 100 percent convinced.

Redfern offers an alternative explanation as to what happened near Roswell, NM in 1947. Is he right? Hard to say. His story is pieced together from interviews from some anonymous sources that, while he did verify some of their facts, leave one wondering if he wasn't fed some of this information for other reasons. I don't believe in spoilers but the gist of the book is that it wasn't aliens that crashed in Roswell but a very human, albeit nefarious, military experiment. The years of resulting alien controversy is simply a cover-up to mask the atrocities conducted by the US government. Nick lays the story out in detail but, as always in a case like this, there's room for doubt. I like the book. I like the ideas presented and I love Redfern's style. I think too many years have passed for us to ever really know what happened in 1947 for sure; too many years of deception. Nick Redfern presents an interesting theory and will follow it up with a new book soon. We'll have to see what new evidence is presented then.

I gave this book two stars because no matter what the content of the arguments made within, it is well written. I've read many books on UFOs and conspiracies, and most of them are a chore to get through. Body Snatchers was a breeze. And now, the silliness. Two quick points before I talk spoilers. First, Redfern's attempts to appear like a fair and legitimate journalism suffer a little when he footnotes the dates of interviews with anonymous subjects. We can't check with them, so what's the point of telling us when he says he talked to them? Second, some of Redfern's informants, even named ones, seem to enjoy feeding him material from The X-Files. At one point an interviewee paraphrases Viktor Klemper's speech from the episode "Paperclip." I'm not sure if Redfern is unfamiliar with the series, or if he really thinks people talk like that. (Spoilers from here on out) The meat of the book is that the event UFOlogists call the Roswell crash was two separate events. The first was the crash of a balloon capsule being used to test the safety of a nuclear-powered bomber at the White Sands test range. The test subjects were Japanese people with extreme handicaps/deformities left over from the infamous WWII Japanese biological research facility known as Unit 731. (Again, you may notice that this is roughly the plot of The X-Files episodes "Nisei" and "731.") The second was the crash of an experimental balloon/glider bomber combination, piloted by Japanese test pilots. Is this scenario likely to be true? Let's look at some of the ramifications of these claims. Let's follow the path the 40 to 60 Japanese test subjects at White Sands were

supposed to have taken. The first problem is that Unit 731 has never been accused of doing human testing on Japanese people. The unit was based in China, and the victims were Chinese and POWs of other nationalities. Redfern claims that the test subjects were taken from Japanese asylums, but it's tough to imagine why they would go to that much trouble when they were not having trouble finding unwilling subjects in China. At the end of the war the officers and doctors of Unit 731 fled back to Japan, and I guess we're supposed to assume they brought the test subjects with them. Then the U.S. occupation forces in Japan supposedly found the test subjects, and for reasons difficult to imagine decided to ship them to America. According to Redfern, they were moved to Los Alamos (!) and Chicago (!!), before finally ending up at White Sands, where someone said, "Here's a bunch of Japanese people with extreme physical and mental deformities, who have been exposed to who knows what and dragged halfway around the planet. They'll make the perfect baseline for a test of how nuclear energy will affect pilots!" So yeah, this scenario makes perfect sense if you just ignore history, geography, politics, and science. The Roswell stuff isn't much better. The balloon/glider bomber combo doesn't sound like it would work well, and would be far inferior to existing airplane bombers. Any balloon big enough and tough enough to carry a useful payload and the glider to deliver it would probably have a larger radar profile than a conventional bomber of the same payload, with the added disadvantage of being unable to maneuver or navigate reliably. Even if the Army was working on such a glider bomber, why would they use Japanese test pilots? Operation Paperclip aside, I don't think Japanese pilots would have been terribly welcome at an U.S. Army facility. Redfern implies that they were needed because of their small size, just to add a little racism to the book. In short, Redfern's "revelations" are unbelievable, and his sources are sketchy. He also has a strange tendency to quote official documents as if they support his conclusions, when they in fact don't. This book may make interesting background for fiction, or a case study of how The X-Files has influenced the paranormal field. But if you're looking for the truth, it's not in here.

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