

# DR. KARY MULLIS

## AN INTERESTING ASIDE

By Bill Chalker

On a Friday night in April 1983, Dr. Kary Mullis, a biochemist, was driving up to his cabin in Mendocino County in northern California. During the drive to his Anderson Valley cabin Mullis conceived one of the great discoveries of modern chemistry -- the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), a surprisingly simple method for making unlimited copies of DNA, thereby revolutionizing biochemistry almost overnight. Kary Mullis described his discovery in *Scientific American* ("The Unusual Origin of the Polymerase Chain reaction," April 1990). He was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery.

On another Friday night, during the summer of 1985, Kary Mullis drove up to his cabin. Arriving around midnight after driving for about three hours, Mullis dumped groceries he bought on the way, switched on the lights (powered by solar batteries) and headed, with flashlight in hand, to the outside toilet located about 50 feet west of the cabin. He never got there that night. Quoting from his 1998 book *Dancing Naked in the Mine Field*, Mullis encountered something extraordinarily weird on the way. "... at the far end of the path, under a fir tree, there was something glowing. I pointed my flashlight at it anyhow. It only made it whiter where the beam landed. It seemed to be a raccoon. I wasn't frightened. Later, I wondered if it could have been a hologram, projected from God knows where."

"**The Raccoon spoke.** 'Good evening, doctor,' it said. I said something back, I don't remember what, probably, 'Hello.' The next thing I remember, it was early in the morning. I was walking along a road uphill from my house."

Mullis had no idea how he got there but he was not wet from the extensive early morning dew. His flashlight was missing. He was never able to find it. He had no signs of injury or bruising. The lights of the cabin were still on, along with the groceries on the floor. Some six hours had gone by unaccounted for. Later in the day he found that an area of his property -- "the most beautiful part of my woods" -- had inexplicably become a place of dread. A year or so later Mullis exorcised this fear John Wayne-style by shooting the wood up. While his attempt at psychotherapy proved successful it do not help him find out

what had happened that night in the summer of 1985. Mullis would become the only known Nobel prize laureate to claim an experience of what might be an alien abduction.

Kary Mullis describes himself as "a generalist with a chemical prejudice." Others have described him as "Hunter Thompson meets Stephen Hawking" or "the world's most eccentric and outspoken Nobel Prize-winning scientist." It is not easy to dispose of Mullis's experience as a drug or alcoholic hallucination. For one, he was not affected by either that midnight. Plus, he has not been the only one to have experienced strange events at the cabin.

His daughter, Louise, disappeared for about three hours after wandering down the same hill. She also reappeared on the same stretch of road. Her frantic fiance' was about to call the local sheriff. Mullis had told no one of his experience until his daughter called to tell him to buy Whitley Strieber's Communion. She was ringing to also tell her father about her strange experience. By coincidence when she rang, Mullis had already been drawn to the book and was up to the point where Strieber reports strange "owls" and little men entering his house.

In his own book Mullis concluded, "I wouldn't try to publish a scientific paper about these things, because I can't do any experiments. I can't make glowing raccoons appear. I can't buy them from a scientific supply house to study. I can't cause myself to be lost again for several hours. But I don't deny what happened. It's what science calls anecdotal, because it only happened in a way that you can't reproduce. But it happened."

Kary Mullis confirmed all this and more when I spoke with him recently. Another person encountered a "glowing raccoon" between the cabin and the toilet. This was a friend of Mullis who did not know of the "raccoon" story and was a first-time visitor, during a party at the cabin after the announcement of the Nobel Prize win in 1993. This man did not stick around and fled up the hill towards the house. On the way he encountered a small glowing man, which then suddenly enlarged into a full sized man who said something like, "I'll see you tomorrow." The man, who was not experiencing a drug or alcohol-induced hallucination left with a friend without informing anyone. They returned to their hotel at a nearby town. That night the man inexplicably found himself outside in the hotel car park troubled and terrified by the impression he had somehow

been back at the Mullis cabin. He and his friend returned the following night to the cabin. The celebratory party was carrying on from the previous night. As the man arrived he was shocked to see the "full-sized" man seen as an enlarging apparition the night before drive up in a car. This was too much for the first time visitor. He left in a panic, holding Mullis somehow responsible for the previous nights events. Sometime later in tears he revealed the full story to Mullis, who identified the man his friend he had seen as his elderly neighbor. Mullis checked with his neighbor and sure enough he had come to the party on the second night, arriving to be seen by the terrified visitor. However he was certain he was not there on the first night, not in person and not lurking as a glowing raccoon or a small glowing man that enlarged into a vision of himself. There is more but that can perhaps wait for another more detailed telling.

Given this sort of activity on his property it perhaps isn't surprising that Kary Mullis told me he thinks the nature of his experience is even stranger than abducting ETs. Instead he speculates about multidimensional physics (a la Michio Kaku's *Hyperspace*, 1994) at a macrocosmic level, "like anything can happen and the speed of light is not really the limit in terms of interactions with other cultures or whatever. This stuff about grabbing people or subjecting them to all kinds of experiments -- it's just anthropology at a level we don't understand quite yet." As for PCR testing of biological samples from abductee experiences he indicated, "You might imagine that I thought of that myself. As for instance in 'you can have some of mine, if I can have some of yours.'" He would like to look at this work, however he feels that the idea of an alien culture needing our DNA to survive is very unlikely and a program on the scale and nature of David Jacobs's *The Threat* improbable. Any culture that could conquer the barrier of space-time could have easily conquered the far simpler problems of complex biochemistry and would not need us in the manner described in the grey alien-human "hybrid" agenda theories.

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Editor's Note: This article is a supplement to Bill Chalker's "*Strange Evidence*" published in the spring 1999 international *UFO Reporter*, which recounts the details of an Australian abduction case that yielded a strand of apparent alien hair suitable for mitochondrial DNA analysis. The results were surprising, yeilding a DNA sequence that was human, though very rare. Here Bill Chalker describes the bizarre experiences of Kary Mullis, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his invention of a process that allows scientists to identify a fragment of DNA genetic code and then reproduce it in very large quantities. The DNA procedure described in the IUR article was made possible by Mullis's discovery.