

Speculative Realms

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010

The Insanity Defense and the Emma Woods Case: A Black Hole of Irrationality

Boy, when you criticize an icon of the paranormal community, the fangs came out, don't they? The dogs of war get let loose.

It is too bad those dogs weren't taken to the vet. The fangs are all rotted out.

So are the arguments of the defenders of UFO Abductionist David Jacobs (DODJ). I suspect some DODJ attack Emma because a staple of their belief system is being destroyed. They really could care less about Jacobs. They don't want to lose the alien-abduction canon. (Or, as anonymous, one of the greatest authors in human history (I mean, isn't the best stuff written by Anonymous?), points out in comments section, the DODJ don't want their prior positions subject to scrutiny.)

You can't lay blame for destruction of the alien-abduction canon at Emma's feet. David Jacobs destroyed the canon. His behavior in the Emma Woods episode was as virtuoso a performance of self-debunking as anyone will ever come across. I'm surprised Budd Hopkins hasn't accused him of working for the CIA.

Some of the so-called "balanced" observers maintain that the recordings Emma Woods made of her conversations with Jacobs were altered and content damning to Emma was edited out. I suspect they hope to find in the edited material evidence that exonerates Jacobs. I'll address that later in the post. The question here is whether *any material* could exonerate Jacobs.

There is nothing that can excuse David Jacobs's behavior. He could part the Red Sea and lead his people out of Egypt. His behavior is still abominable. There is no hope of resurrecting David Jacobs. His career as an "alien abduction researcher" is dead. It died of a self-inflicted mortal blow.

Jacobs himself confessed to the crime. He confessed on his website to diagnosing Emma with multiple personality disorder, an action that is dangerous even when undertaken by trained psychiatrists, for the purpose of using Emma's psyche as a human shield in his purported flight from capture by alien-human hybrids. Emma's recording of the hypnosis session wherein Jacobs commits this outrageous act is unadulterated corroboration of Jacobs's own confession.

I ask the DODJ: How many times does this have to be pointed out? You can talk to me all you want, until you are blue in the face, that the recordings were altered, but the fact is, DODJ, your man *CONFESSED*. What is more, Emma's recordings are hardly an abridged version of the episode. She has several hours of material archived. If the recordings suffer from anything, it isn't from brevity.

Additionally, Emma has also confessed. She edited out material that violated the confidentiality of third parties. She has always admitted that. She has gone to great lengths to protect people who do not afford her the same courtesy. She's proven herself ethically superior to the DODJ on those grounds alone.

It is plain that the DODJ don't understand confidentiality concerns. They bark that Emma should reveal her identity. Emma is a whistleblower. Any journalist worth her salt would afford her confidentiality protections. I understand podcasts and websites aren't necessarily beholden to journalistic ethics, but it is worth a try. What is more, she is probably covered under the HIPAA laws protecting patient information. She was referred to Jacobs by a mental health professional. We are not entitled to know her diagnoses. That area of inquiry will not result in resurrecting Jacobs. It will make his case worse.

Any attempt to use Emma's mental health history, in violation of confidentiality protections she is due, simply to justify belief in the existence of extraterrestrials would be a disgusting example of just how far gone certain paranormal authorities are.

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- [Anomalist](#)
- [Crankdotnet](#)
- [Emma Woods's Website](#)
- [Fact Check Dot Org](#)
- [False Memory Syndrome Foundation](#)
- [Federation of American Scientists](#)
- [FindArticles.com](#)
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Here's the other thing: Emma Woods is not crazy. She's got her doctor's assessment. But I don't need to see it. Her handling of the confidentiality concerns of third parties in her case is proof enough for me. The DODJ's handling of Emma's confidentiality concerns is a joke. They're so used to being accused of being nutcases they want the chance to sideline someone else with that moniker.

Look, you can take a personal dislike to anybody. Everyone these days is an armchair shrink. That is a subjective stance. You don't like somebody's face—fine. You don't have to look at it. Don't try to sell me that as objective evidence. It is a bit laughable to suggest that a "balanced" assessment of the Emma Woods case consists of the following:

*David Jacobs [against whom there is an **embarrassing** amount of objective evidence] may have done something wrong, but Emma Woods is a nutcase.*

Some contend that, well, it is all an even split. He's nuts. She's nuts.

No. It's not an even split. She is not nuts. He was insane.

Let's get something straight: hypnotizing someone and diagnosing them with multiple personality disorder for the purpose of evading capture by aliens was not just an act of a fruitcake. It was an *insane* act.

To accept the act as rational, you have to accept the existence of extraterrestrials. You have to accept the existence of a program of hybridization. You have to accept that certain alien hybrids are militantly trying to suppress what is commonly referred to in the "field" as "disclosure." You have to accept David Jacobs's status as the hybrids' primary target in tamping down disclosure. You have to accept the existence of hybrid mindreading technology and you have to accept that Hybrids were using that technology on Emma's brain to detect the whereabouts of David Jacobs. You have to accept that the health of Jacobs's hypnotic subjects are a *secondary concern* to Jacobs's successful exposure of the existence of extraterrestrial life and interference with life on Earth. You have to accept, in other words, that the Universe is all about David Jacobs.

I can't accept that. I can't imagine the actions of any fruitcake, and I include myself in that honored population, equating evenly with such devastatingly insane hubris. It is a black hole of irrationality.

The only defense David Jacobs has is the Insanity Defense.

Epilogue

Because of the breathtaking disgrace the Emma Woods Case has exposed, I can no longer accept any account of alien abduction as retrieved through hypnotic regression. Hypnosis is simply not a reliable means of investigation. The courts don't allow it. Memory experts dispute it. I can't accept even the data provided by professional hypnotherapists who are bound by codes of conduct. I'm never going to lend a serious ear to abduction investigators whose research is based on their practice of hypnosis. The technique is too problematic and the practitioners have proven too irresponsible and in many cases unlicensed and unbound by any code of conduct.

Investigating alien abduction at the very least should involve sleep studies, videotape evidence, bodily trace evidence, gynecological exams, x-rays, MRIs, Sinus CT scans, and extensive surveillance. That's all very expensive. To quote the Skeptics, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

Hypnotic regression is an extraordinary contrivance. It is extraordinarily cheap. It can be profitable: for the researcher. The UFO Researcher can make money selling books and lecturing at conferences about the fictions created, but the people who have allegedly been abducted usually wind up being secondary concerns.

If you want your experiences exploited, hypnotic regression is the place to start.

Posted by Gary Haden at 8:16 AM 

Labels: [David Jacobs](#), [Emma Woods](#), [ETH](#), [Hypnosis](#)

13 comments:

 **ChristChild said...**

Gary,

Of course, I find your latest blog BRILLIANT because I just happen to agree with every word! ;-)

Hypnosis is abused by unresponsible medical professionals, but the fictions

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hypnosis is adored by any mainstream medical professional, but the fringe element zanies use it anyway. I suppose I can understand this. After all, mainstream medical professionals probably see no value in basing personal life decisions on the direction a pendulum swings when suspended from an individual's arm (a popular New Age divination tool). Mainstream medical professionals probably see no value in channeling, crystal healing, or astrology. Yet many people make a living off such "sciences".

The Emma Woods case points out what we try to avoid every day (but which is evident in just a cursory glance at the daily news): people are not by nature empathetic. People just don't care! As humans, perhaps we know that the world is filled with such insanity and cruelty at our own hands that we shut down to mentally survive. Most of the debasement of Emma Woods seems to come from a mindset that has no empathy with her. She is the "other" - the freak, the outsider. There is also nothing that works as well as a scapegoat for bringing a tribe together. The wagons are drawn up in a circle in ufology against Emma.

I live in Arizona, which passed the most draconian anti-civil rights law in decades allowing police to stop anyone at any time to ask for papers proving that the person is a citizen. Without the papers, the person can be immediately arrested, detained and even deported. As Desmond Tutu said, this was the beginning step for apartheid in South Africa. Yet, 60% of Americans support the law. In my suburban community, about 20 people were interviewed. Every pretty white face applauded the law. Every face with even a tint of color was terrified of the police power and harassment potential. As Oingo Boingo (an 80's group) sang "Why Should I Care? Nothing Bad Ever Happens to ME!" Perhaps this is human nature.

Why do I seem to empathize with Emma? I do wonder. Perhaps as a gay man, I have felt the brutal force of unfair treatment by the majority and the lies about my very self-hood. Am I better than the majority that just does not care? Hell yes! I would rather care about someone else rather than scorn them. But I know that we each are guilty of such behavior at times.

May 13, 2010 9:22 AM

ChristChild said...

A message to Emma:

The only thing that really seems to rock ufology at its foundations from time to time is a book! Have you considered at some point telling your complete story to a publisher so this can be released in book form? Certainly there are publishers of fringe-topics. I realize you are going through a slow process of redress on this. But you always have a trump card up your sleeve. You can get this published and available to the larger world on amazon.com and other sites. That type of response on your part may be the only real super-weapon at your disposal to make ufology listen (at least for 5 seconds, which is about the typical attention span in that field).

This is a story that needs to be told, and NOT just in silly forums like the Paracast. You certainly have all the documentation and the mind to do it (with/without a professional writer to assist you).

May 13, 2010 9:31 AM



Atrueoriginal said...

This post has been removed by the author.

May 13, 2010 6:20 PM



Brownie said...

Gary wrote: "No. It's not an even split. She is not nuts. He was insane." - - -

That's it, in a very BIG nutshell (pun intended!). Jacobs should have been held to higher standard. I wonder what his joined-at-the-hip colleague Hopkins really thinks of him. And I wonder what Jacobs has on Hopkins that keeps him (Hopkins) from excising himself from Jacobs? Maybe it's as simple as their research methods are so similar (hypnosis) that all of Hopkins research would be called into question. And we pretty much know that Hopkins investigation that led to the book Witnessed, was a copy of the sci-fi book Nighteyes. Yet, people in abductionology kept on giving Hopkins (and Jacobs) accolades. And you'd think that The Threat would have been the big 'oops' for Jacobs.

As someone who may be....may be (not sure) an experiencer/abductee with some family members in my same situation, I cannot accept Jacobs/Hopkins methodology, their bad behavior and their character assassination of Emma (and of others who questioned them over the years).

May 13, 2010 10:19 PM

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Brownie, Hmm...you sound like a CIAoperative to me. ;-)

The bottomline (which has been stated countless times but here goes...) is that modern ufology is effectively just a religion, not a scientific area of investigation as it was in the early days with Hynek and Vallee. Instead, it is a mass of fringe-element belief systems woven together (like the Olympic Stadium in Beijing) that (even though at times contradictory) support each other. Inside that bird's nest of belief rest the believers. If ufology was a scientific investigation, any challenge like Emma's would be greeted with unbiased review. In a religion, such challenges are seen as attacks upon the one-true-faith. I am truly sorry that our society has evolved to a state where so many people (including me) feel quite alienated (no pun), but the answer is NOT to align yourself blindly with some idiotic dogma with iconic figures (who are aging very fast. Unless Jacobs and Hopkins are Methuselah, they will not be with us that much longer...).

There is no reformation (a religious term originally) possible at this point. How do you reform what is now a cult? The members do not scream "Infidel" but instead they scream "CIAoperative!" at anyone who tries to disturb their trance-like faith. The only rational answer is to leave, to allow yourself to be ex-communicated from the holy church of alien hybrids, and move on with your life. I understand there are still people who belong to the Flat Earth Society. As Art Linkletter said when I was a very little boy "People are funny". He was being very kind. Let's join hands with Emma and leave this toxic waste dump behind us.

May 14, 2010 8:57 AM



Atrueoriginall said...

I just took a long look at the David Jacobs website and read his rant. The funny, but very obvious thing is that - if someone is not guilty of something, they wouldn't go out of their way to post something so lengthy as he did.

Emma on the other hand did so simply because she's thorough and covering her bases.

From listening to Budd Hopkins on the radio, I think her thoroughness got to him (the numerous items she sent Budd) and that's too bad because I'm thorough too and also have boxes of my own experiences. I've just never shared them with anyone. Just the same, I have such too.

When a traumatic experience jumps into your life, it's (I think) common place to start writing everything down. Like a diary of sorts and then some. At the same time you're thinking, this is just too much and so much is happening so how am I going to remember it all. Consequently those pages get long and there's many of them. It doesn't take long.

May 14, 2010 12:09 PM

ChristChild said...

We live in an illiterate age. I am appalled at the number of people who have said that Emma is somehow not sane because she actually strings together sentences to create documentation of events. Is reading and writing a lost art for the "internet" generation?

For heaven's sake! I have a medical condition that has me worried. The symptoms vary (worsen and decrease) by day. It has given me a semblance of control over this by writing about it in a diary format. Call it therapy. Call it obsession. I call it MY way of handling a very challenging situation. Therefore, I understand very well Emma's compulsion to document her experiences. Her efforts speak (to anyone who actually writes anything more in depth than a short paragraph on the Paracast forum) to her pain and how she is coping with it. I am sure there are others in ufology that would prefer she cope via drugs or drink (thereby leaving poor little old David Jacobs alone).

May 14, 2010 1:04 PM

ChristChild said...

Gary, Thanks for your indulgence of my many comments here. Thanks also for your blog which cuts through all the idiocy. Nonetheless, I feel I must get away from ANYTHING regarding ufology, because it is nothing but a viper's nest (I used the nest analogy previously). Focusing on these people is like focusing on Scientology. Why bother? So with some regret I am removing my bookmark from your wonderful site and "moving on". God (whatever THAT is!) Bless you. Same goes for Emma, Brownie and others who see the truth of this con game known as ufology.

May 14, 2010 10:15 PM



Emma@ufoalienabductee.com said...

CC, Brownie and Atrueoriginall, thank you for your understanding comments

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and support. It is much appreciated.

CC, I do not have any plans to write a book myself at this time. However, perhaps in the future it would be something to think about. There certainly is enough material for it. I am quite weary from making the issue public though. Maybe someone else will write about it one day, and put it on the record that way.

CC, I hope that you find a happier area in your new interests. You really deserve it. I have enjoyed reading your posts, and I am glad that you were there at this time. You helped to make a difference.

May 15, 2010 2:43 AM

e Gary Haden said...

CC, I think your comments about the "Other" are right on target. We don't have a good track record with the Other in this country. Manifest destiny. Jim Crow. Eugenics. Separate but equal. On and on. I think the concept of the Other permeates discourse about "Aliens" and "alienation."

May 15, 2010 6:51 AM

paraschtick said...

Blimey. Thought people would like to know that the latest thread discussing Emma's case, the "Donna Bassett" thread on the paracast forums has been closed by Gene.

So much for free discussion on the paracast. Thats the second (or is it third) to be closed simply because Gene didn't want to play since it shows how hypocritical he is being.

Oh well so much for the gold standard, and the consistency of the ufo watch dog.

I thought the whole discussion was leaning more on the side of how Emma is completely dishonest and how she was trying to become some sort of celebrity, and I was going to keep pushing the point that actually no she wasn't ... and how the discussion really should be about how Dr Jacobs has gotten away with so much nonsense for so many years, possibly hurting vulnerable people into the bargain.

Of course, I can no longer push that point forward since the thread has been closed. However, the attacks on Emma may continue so I shall keep monitoring the forums. I feel they shouldn't get away with attacking someone who I believe has not done anything wrong, and letting the party at fault to get away with it.

We continue to live in strange times.

May 17, 2010 7:35 PM

Anonymous said...

I've never put much faith in anything the gruesome twosome of the abduction field have to say. It's obvious to me though... anyone who comes off like they KNOW whats up with the 'others' sends my bullshit detector into the red zone. In their defense, at least they've publicized the subject.

<http://www.tricksterbook.com/ArticlesOnline/LindaCortileCase.htm>

August 13, 2010 7:30 AM

Anonymous said...

Hehe just noticed you have the trickster book linked :)

August 13, 2010 7:31 AM

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