

A stranger from the future sat in my deck chair

A story by Pat Foster

How can this be: I am sat in my garden with a stranger from the future sat in my deck chair?

It happened last spring, while I had been outside giving my garden a tidy up after the long winter. It was a lovely April day and the air was fresh and new buds were appearing on the trees. The grass was dry now after a long cold and wet winter and ready for the first cut of the season. I had just brushed up the dead leaves strewn across the patio when I looked up.

There in the sky was a silver object, not a plane or a bird, not like anything I had seen in the sky before. It was oval like an egg shape on end and moved slowly across the sky. I followed it as it moved. I could not take my eyes off of it! Then in a split second it flipped over and I could see a bright orange ring with four black circles within the ring, and it was gone. Do I believe in UFO's? I think I have just seen one, so I do now!

In the summer when the air was balmy and warm, I saw the oval egg shape again, this time in the woods, where I think it had recently crash landed through the trees (but it had not smashed into the earth as it's trajectory had been slowed by broken branches). A putrid burning smell was coming from the craft and it appeared to be hovering, pulsating and making a low humming noise. I was not frightened, more curious to see it. It had a smooth surface and was the size of the fuselage of a small aircraft. I walked around it, climbing as I did so over broken branches. I could see no window or door on the pod. As I peered at the pod it seemed to know I was there and the colour changed so that the grey pod now glowed with an aluminous lilac sheen and the humming changed to a pattern of hummed notes. I suddenly felt that I should go, maybe it was dangerous or giving off harmful rays. I stumbled back around the pod and as I did, I saw a movement in the trees.

There in front of me was a man, not a man I had seen before. This man was dressed in a suit of luminous silver grey and lilac, matching the colour of the pod. I just knew they belonged together. This man had landed here in the silver pod and now he stood before me, looking dazed. I just had to help him, so that's how a stranger from the future came to be sitting in a deck chair in my garden.

Sat in the deckchair that first afternoon, when I looked at the tired man with closed eyes, I could see he had drifted into an uneasy sleep. I just sat and watched him, fascinated that he looked like a human man covered in a stretchy silver grey suit that covered his entire body (except his face). His face was luminous, ashen in colour and now his eyes were closed I noticed they were wide apart. He had no stubble on his

face, his skin was smooth and his nose was very small. Suddenly he became aware of me staring at him and his large grey eyes opened, his pale mouth broke into a smile and he suddenly had a beautiful lilac aura all around him. Now he was awake, he spoke and I understood this first word to be hello. His voice was deep and throaty.

Then as if trying to remember words he began to talk, to tell me that his name is 'Umbertravia' and he was interested to know what year it was. When I told him, he looked around, and told me he comes from Bristol, England. I was surprised, this strange man is from this world and has travelled through time from the year 2935. I was fascinated that he was a time traveller and not an alien. He smiled and told me that aliens had not arrived in the world yet, but they will soon in 2536. He then explained that the aliens came in peace and have helped to heal the world. He told me they are very, very small people with huge hearts and terrific minds and have bought such technology and learning to the world. When I asked why he had travelled back to 2021 he told me that this is a pivotal time in history, when the world is threatened by the pandemic.

What happened next was a whirlwind of activity that I knew would occur when the world realised that here was a man and a silver pod that can travel through time. There was so much government and media activity - and this has only just started to slow.

By the autumn Umbertravia had almost finished repairing his time travelling pod. The aliens had bought so much technology to the future world, this explained how this man and his silver pod were so interlinked. The fabric of his suit and the lining of the pod merged to make them one, capable of bridging any time zones, either back to see us or into the future. I knew it was time for him to leave so we had one last cool afternoon, with the leaves on the trees turning from gold to glowing red. Sitting together in the deck chairs in my garden for one last time.

And then he was gone.

Then one grey afternoon in winter as I walked near the woods, I looked up and saw a flash and caught a quick glimpse of a silver pod that flipped and left an orange glow as it disappeared on through time.

I now look more closely at the sky, wishing I could also travel through time.