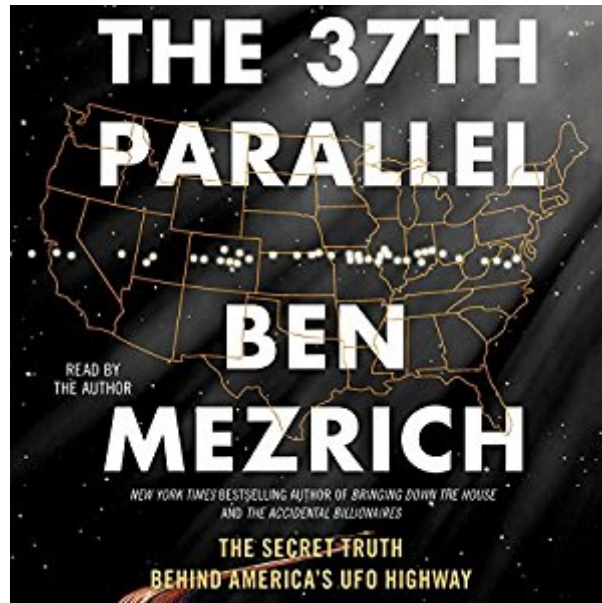


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# The 37th Parallel: The Secret Truth Behind America's UFO Highway



## Synopsis

This real-life *The X-Files* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* tells the true story of a computer programmer who tracks paranormal events along a 3,000-mile stretch through the heart of America and is drawn deeper and deeper into a vast conspiracy. Like Agent Mulder of *The X-Files*, computer programmer and sheriff's deputy Zukowski is obsessed with tracking down UFO reports in Colorado. He takes the family with him on weekend trips to look for evidence of aliens. But this innocent hobby takes on a sinister urgency when Zukowski learns of mutilated livestock and sees the bodies of dead horses and cattle - whose exsanguination is inexplicable by any known human or animal means. Along an expanse of land stretching across the southern borders of Utah, Colorado, and Kansas, Zukowski discovers multiple bizarre incidences of mutilations and suddenly realizes that they cluster around the 37th parallel, or "UFO Highway". So begins an extraordinary and fascinating journey from El Paso and Rush, Colorado, to a mysterious space studies company and MUFON; from Roswell and Area 51 to the Pentagon and beyond; to underground secret military caverns and Indian sacred sites; beneath strange, unexplained lights in the sky; and into corporations that obstruct and try to take over investigations. Inspiring and terrifying, this true story will keep you up at night, staring at the sky and wondering if we really are alone and what could happen next.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Please don't waste your time/money on this boring recital of paranoid Chuck's "adult" life. There is

no real "beef" here; just a lot of mysteries, most of which are confined to Chuck's brain. In my iPad version that last few pages in Chapter 30 (the last and arguably the most critical chapter) had multiple lines that were blacked out. I'm not sure if this was some sort of intentional stunt (to mimic a redacted government document) or a coding error. In either case, it ruined the finale. BUT, was a great relief to be done with this book.

Terrible book. I love Ben Mezrich- I have read all of his books, and he is a big Jungle guy, so I am a fan. He mailed this one in. The book just follows around one very weird guy who believes in UFOs. That's it. That's the book. Nothing new here, no new facts, nothing tied together. I knew I was in trouble when I read, in the space of one paragraph, that a guy flying at the controls of an airplane "grabbed the rudder" and that when his crew member told him there was something strange in the sky "to starboard," he "looked quickly to his left." The rudder is on the outside of the airplane: the tail, and you adjust it with pedals. Starboard is right. Weak effort, poor editing. Dialogue is atrocious: everyone speaks in long paragraphs with lots of adverbs....like they do when a junior high student writes a story. Terrible. Mezrich should be ashamed of himself. He owes me \$24.

The 37th Parallel: The Secret Truth Behind America's UFO Highway by Ben Mezrich is recommended for UFO believers and fans of The X-Files. Chuck Zukowski has been interested in UFOs for years and has investigated reports and areas of activity in his own time for years. Mezrich follows Zukowski's beginnings as an UFO hobbyist whose interest turns him into an investigator. He began with an abiding interest in UFOs. He had telescopes to scan the night skies and visited tourist spots like Area 51, Taos, N.M (the hum) and Roswell. Then he began to look into animal mutilations. He and his family moved from California to Colorado so Zukowski could be closer to where activities are being reported. While a sheriff's deputy in Colorado, he assembled a kit to assist in investigating any reported animal mutilations that defied normal explanations (predators, hunters). According to Zukowski there are 10,000 unexplained animal mutilations every year. The book looks into several of these cases that Zukowski personally investigated. Mezrich also covers Zukowski's investigations conducted with his sister, who is a member of MUFON. There is one incident that seems like a direct X-Files episode, with men in black and everything. Mezrich follows the evolution of Zukowski's interest in UFOs over the years to his realization that the thing that ties most cases together is that they have occurred in the 37th parallel. Mezrich presents Zukowski's search in a serious, factual manner and includes photographs, a bibliography and an index. The whole book leads up to the revelation about the 37th parallel and then... that's it, which is more than

a little disappointing considering it is in the title of the book. I'm not sure if Mezrich coverage of Zukowski's investigations turn up any definite answers, but this is a quick read and interesting enough to hold your attention. Disclosure: My advanced reading copy was courtesy of the publisher for review purposes.

I ordered this book after hearing the interview on BBC evening news America. I felt the book must be significant if the author was interviewed there. Mezrich said in the interview that he had started out to write a book about one man's obsession with UFOs but ended up writing about this new evidence (the UFO highway), that something is really out there. To me the book was completely unconvincing there. The story of Chuck Zukowski's obsession is mildly interesting, but the UFO stories and "evidence" are all anecdotal and no different than anything I have seen before, many of the stories I had read before. I finished the book doubt the "UFO Highway" exists - there are several other good explanations for the results Zukowski plotted on his map. I'd love to see a book like this with really rigorous analysis of all the data on cattle mutilations, UFO sightings, etc., but this isn't it.

Move along folks, nothing new here; nothing to see. If you are interested at all in the subject of UFO's, you will find this book to be nothing more than a very weak rehash of familiar themes: Roswell, animal mutilations (lots of animal mutilations), foo fighters, Dulce, black helicopters, conspiracies..... It follows one UFO enthusiast as he hauls his hapless family around in an RV investigating events that have been covered in-depth by countless other books. If there was one bit - even a small bit - of new information or original research in this book, I would have probably given it more than a one star rating. Even the heavily redacted final chapter is just another unimaginative version of a tired old ploy along the lines of, "I know the secret behind the UFO's. It's a XXXXX conspiracy. They want XXXXX and they are from XXXXX" I pre-ordered this book based on the title. I think I may have learned my lesson though. I should have waited until it was published and the reviews started coming in. Had I done that, the author would have sold one less copy.

Amazing book. Read it in a day. I've been interested in UFOs for 20 years and this book is one of the best I've read. It is always great when an outsider to the field can make things seem fresh and Mezrich has done that. I can't recommend this book enough.

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