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Just in Case: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the Y2K Crisis

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In his opening pages the author describes the different reactions of individuals

experiencing a profound, life-altering event. “Some have been traumatized while others have been inspired. There is deep confusion and enlightenment. There is anger, elation, serenity, puzzlement, and fear.” The event generating these diverse emotions is alien abduction.

In his previous book, The Contact Has Begun, Krapf discussed his own 1997 abduction and subsequent encounter with a benevolent alien species known as Verdants aboard the starship Goodwill. The first book was a “white paper” outlining the details involved in preparing the Earth for its acceptance into membership in the Intergalactic Federation of Sovereign Planets, an organization millions of years old consisting of some 27,000 different species. To ensure a smooth transition into this new realm of human reality, the Verdants have perfected a system to help make the transition as painless and comfortable as possible by recruiting hundreds of world leaders to act as ambassadors, along with many other everyday folks to handle the more mundane tasks.

Krapf is in this secondary group, chosen because his career as a newspaperman has given him the ability to succinctly convey the comprehensible, while providing adequate details. His latest book presents updates on the progress toward the moment of contact, sometime in the first decade of the twenty-first century, and he also recounts the problems he has faced as the result of his first book and his second visit to the Goodwill. As he expected, eyebrows were raised among his former colleagues, and he became prime fodder for amateur comedians. However, he was unprepared for the backstabbing, lies, and character assaults from within the UFO-alien abduction community. He wound up questioning his mission and his sanity. He found himself sustained by meeting others with similar stories.

Books on alien abduction range from pulpy entertainment to profoundly moving and hopeful visions of the future. Krapf’s matter-of-fact writing style and logical recounting of surprisingly plausible events place The Challenge of Contact firmly in the higher echelon of the latter category.

DAN BOGEY (January / February 2002)

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