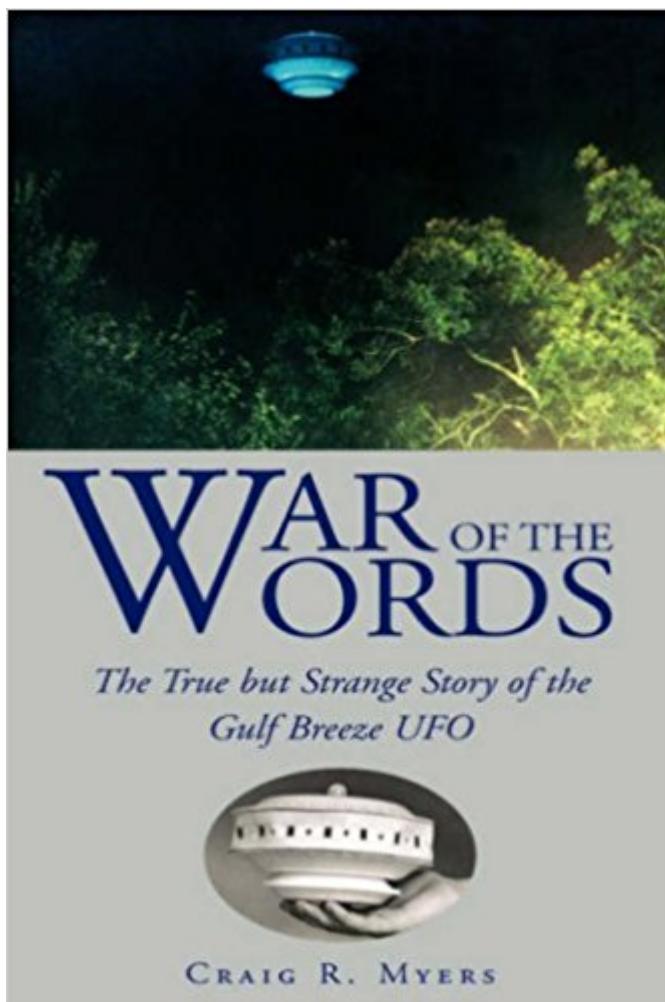


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War Of The Words: The True But Strange Story Of The Gulf Breeze UFO



Synopsis

Journalists should avoid cliches, but they are just too useful. "A picture is worth 1,000 words," and in the case of the 38 "Gulf Breeze UFO" photos shot by Ed Walters in 1987-1988, millions of them -- weird, angry, hilarious and profound words. Words by

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Customer Reviews

Craig Myers is an editor for the Mobile (Ala.) Register. A graduate of Troy University, his 20-year career in journalism has included working as a reporter for newspapers in Alabama and Florida.

The author does a pretty good job of showing the other side of this case. Two issues however: some of the smarmy commentary leaves the author looking vindictive about his subject. And the religious end of the book "Look to Jesus not UFO's" becomes a black mark against his objectivity.

Millions of Americans believe that we are regularly visited by beings from outside the Earth, and many are sure they have seen UFOs and even see them regularly. Craig R. Myers has not only seen one, but he has held it in his hand. This was in Florida, in the middle of the famous Gulf Breeze UFO mania of twenty years ago, and the UFO which he had himself captured was of distinctly terrestrial origin, but it had been made by the hoaxter who had sparked the Gulf Breeze sightings. There are plenty of books to tell you where UFOs come from, how we can invite more of them, and what to do when one captures you. War of the Words: The True but Strange Story of the Gulf Breeze UFO (Xlibris) probably won't match sales of many of those other books, but it is

shocking and revelatory in its own way. It is impossible to argue, of course, that since this episode was a hoax, all UFO sightings are hoaxes and those who sight them are being fooled, but Myers has given a story with a skeptical bent that indicates the most useful way to regard such "phenomena". It is a funny book; it even includes Dave Barry's amusing column about his own visit to Gulf Breeze and his investigation of the mania. It is, however, a serious report by a journalist who covered the story at the time; skeptics ought to enjoy it and True Believers ought to learn from it. Myers is grateful that he was around for what he calls "the most interesting, frightening and funny story of my at-that-time short career." Part of his enjoyment is that he was a reporter for the *Pensacola News Journal*, and it was the rival *The Gulf Breeze Sentinel* that printed the UFO stories and photos, which Myers got to expose. The area had already been favored for seeing lights in the sky when local contractor Ed Walters presented (at first anonymously) photos of UFOs buzzing the area. Walters had a history of scaring people with double-exposure "spook" photographs, but he also told a strange story of heroically battling the blue telepathic ray of the UFO. It wasn't long before MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, showed up, its members ready to continue its mission of confirming the existence of UFOs, and yes, Walter's sightings and story got their official confirmation. Myers got a scoop when he discovered in Walters's former home a paper and styrofoam-plate construction that matched Walters's photos nicely. Walters was called to the *Journal* newsroom and was furious to see the model, claiming that the *Journal* was involved in a conspiracy against him. The model had been planted, he insisted, and Myers had been tipped off to look for it. It should have been an open and shut case, but it will surprise no one that those who want to believe can still find reason to believe. MUFON even put Rex and Carol Salisberry on the case, the pair they had just months before declared their "Investigators of the Year". When the Salisberrys issued their report that the photos were fakes, MUFON booted them and replaced them with investigators that could give a report more to MUFON's liking. Myers is an amusing and clever writer, and it is obvious that he enjoyed this story of deception and gullibility hugely. It pains me to report that he cannot get the objective case right in dual objects of verbs and prepositions ("Rex said he fully expect MUFON to blackball he and Carol..."), but it is a pet peeve of mine, and darn it, Myers gets it wrong every time. But grammar is not the story here, of course, and Myers has provided a fascinating in-depth look at one particular UFO story, which can be studied for general principles. It isn't so much that a prankster made fools of Gulf Breeze, but that those who were eager to believe allowed, and still allow, themselves to be fooled, even when there was evidence to show their folly.

Just from reading what is available on line here in the take a look inside, gives me immediate pause. It reads like someone who is twisting and omitting the facts as they really were. If you read the Ed Walters Gulf Breeze books, the MUFON investigators force Ed to take pictures with double polaroids at the same time so they cannot be faked. Ed complied more than once and no fakery could be detected. Plus there were other photographs taken not only by Ed but by many other witnesses, also caught on film and camera. Ed explains in his book about the fake planted model and why it was put in his house to discredit him. Ed also explains, which makes more sense to me, why would he leave a obvious fake model lying around in an empty house in full view to be found? This book is all about debunking one of the most controversial UFO cases that has still not been satisfactorily debunked. Just because you write that something is not true doesn't make it so. And written very poorly with prejudice. He says that Ed refers to himself as a regular Joe Sixpack, Joe Lunchbucket or Joe Blow. Hmmm, I read the Ed Walters book and he never referred himself as a Joe Blow or Joe Sixpack or Lunchbucket. Ed referred to himself in his own book as a regular Joe. Chapter two of this book smacks of bias, immediately painting a picture of wide eyed but blind wanna be fooled fools. Really? Sounds like this writer took a big helping of Bully reporting and tipping the tables to call the residents of Gulf Breeze who were actually there a bunch of silly children. If you want to find an honest reporting of what actually happened, read the 2 paperbacks by Ed Walters. save your money too as this Philip Klass like diatribe will cost you over 20.00. I think facts speak for themselves, and not a young kid trying to make a name for himself by hooking on to and debunking one of the most mysterious UFO cases in our times. And the photo of the paper model on front? You can see with your own eyes the major differences obviously apparent in the actual photo above. Whether you believe in UFO's are visiting us or not, I think a book written with obvious prejudice is not a good start.

This is just crap. Sad disinformation missing lots of information . Don 't waste your money on this .

I wish every UFO hoax (or even potential hoax) had a book this good to go along with it. I found it thorough as well as entertaining.

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