

WHY HAVEN'T WE SEEN ALIENS?



**STEPHEN
RICKARD**



“The universe is full of magical things
patiently waiting for our wits to grow
sharper.”

Eden Phillpotts

Why Haven't We Seen Aliens?
by Stephen Rickard

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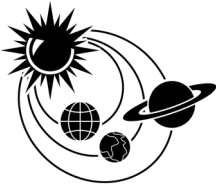
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**WHY
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**STEPHEN
RICKARD**

RAVEN





“The trouble with facts is that there are so many of them.”

Samuel McChord Crothers



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“ Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the sky so bright
Like a diamond in the night.”

Ann Taylor and Jane Taylor



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“The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.”

Neil deGrasse Tyson



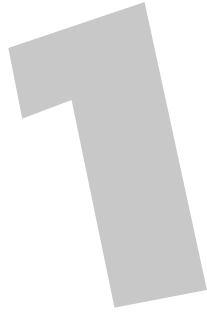
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“The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.”

Calvin and Hobbes





WHERE ARE THEY?

This book asks a simple question. 'Why haven't we seen aliens?'

In other words, if aliens exist, then surely they would have visited us by now. They would have come to our planet Earth. So by now we should have seen them, met them, greeted them ...

So why haven't we? Does it mean that aliens don't exist?

What are aliens?

What do we mean when we talk about 'aliens'?

If you've watched Star Wars, or E.T., or Star Trek ... or any one of hundreds of other science-fiction films or TV programmes, or if you've read any science-fiction stories, you'll have a pretty good idea of what aliens are supposed to look like. Usually they are



supposed to look a bit like us (sometimes a bit taller or a bit shorter) and sometimes they have funny things stuck on their heads, or they are odd colours, such as grey, or blue or green.



Your average, standard movie alien

Sometimes aliens are shown with five fingers – although sometimes they have four, or three. (The number of fingers they have might turn out to be very important, as we'll see later.) Sometimes we see them with tentacles instead of arms or legs.

It's strange, but aliens in movies began to look a lot more, well, *alien*, as movie make-up (and computer generated images, or **CGI**) got better. If you watch some old **science-fiction** movies from the 1950s (ask your parents or your grandparents!) you'll see that aliens in those days really just looked like actors in a rubber suit.



What we really mean when we talk about 'aliens' is creatures, or living things, that don't come from our own planet Earth. Actually that's pretty close to a **dictionary** definition: the Cambridge online dictionary says that alien means 'coming from a different country, race or group', or 'strange and not familiar' or 'relating to creatures from another planet'.

So, for our purposes, aliens are living creatures that have come here from another place in the **universe**.

Is that a good definition? Well, it's a start. Let's use it until it stops being useful for us.





“ It ain't what you don't know that counts,
it's what you know that ain't so. ”

Will Rogers

