



UFOs, JFK & Elvis: Conspiracies You Don't Have to Be Crazy to Believe

Richard Belzer

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Best known as Detective John Munch on the hit TV series *Homicide*, Richard Belzer is also an accomplished standup comedian with a knack for political commentary in the tradition of Mort Sahl and Dick Gregory. In *UFOs, JFK, and Elvis*, he applies his analytic powers to two of the most controversial topics of the late 20th century: the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and the alleged U.S. government cover-up of the existence of alien life. (The reference in the title is the book's only substantial Elvis sighting.) Belzer sensibly avoids pretending to have the answers, opting instead to focus on the questions themselves. Why does the Zapruder film fail to synchronize with other footage of the Kennedy shooting? What's the real background on Lee Harvey Oswald--and who really posed for that famous backyard photo? Did NASA regularly suppress UFO sightings by Apollo and Gemini astronauts? And how about that giant face on the surface of Mars? While Belzer's sarcastic, antiauthoritarian tone may not convince you that aliens walk among us, it's rather difficult by book's end to fully dismiss his belief that "history is just a collection of accepted lies" told to keep the masses in line. --Ron Hogan

UFOs, JFK & Elvis: Conspiracies You Don't Have to Be Crazy to Believe Details

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Barb says

"I'm not asking you to believe every conspiracy theory you'll find in this book. . . . I didn't write this book to give you all the answers. The Warren Commission did that, and the answers were all wrong. I wrote this book to inspire you to do what the powers that be wish you wouldn't: to question authority . . . and to keep an eye out for Elvis."

--RICHARD BELZER

In UFOs, JFK, and Elvis, the distinguished statesman of stand-up comedy tackles some of the biggest conspiracies and cover-ups this side of Roswell. Just what is it that they don't want you to know about the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Area 51, and what the American astronauts really found on the moon? The unexplained crash at Roswell and the mysterious "face" on Mars? The link between the Nazis and the U.S. space program? Evidence of extraterrestrial experimentation?

Finally, one lone "nut" exposes the conspiracy to keep conspiracies a dirty little secret, standing up to the shadowy forces that would have us believe that Oswald acted alone, those lights in the sky are weather balloons, and fluoridated water is good for you (yeah, right). "Some of the smartest people I know . . . find it easier--and certainly more comforting--to believe that America is the only country on earth with no conspiracies at all." Just remember: do not ask on whom The Belz has told--he's told on them.

A lot of info, some of which you are able to look up on the internet and verify, other info is up for your digression. What ever you believe, it is sick government that keeps secrets from the very people that put them in office. Don;t they owe us 'something'? 5 stars.

Susan says

The older I get, I walk further down the path of conspiracy nut. I don't mind! It's fun! And Richard Belzer is my kind of guy that I want to walk along the path with, chatting to about all sorts of things. I only knew him from his crime TV shows, but he's also a comedian. And also an author. And also a conspiracy theorist. Go figure.

Hey, so Belzer here thinks that that dude, what's-his-face, didn't kill JFK. No lone gunman theory for him. He posits all kinds of other theories and gives well-thought-out reasons for all of them and I tell you what, I'm a believer. (It doesn't take much, I'll be honest.)

Then we get to the last third of the book, which is all about UFOs and aliens, and that's a little more woo-woo and also a LOT more fun. Wheeeeeee! YOU GUYS. YOU HAVE TO READ THIS BOOK. Just do it. DOOO EEEEEET.

Trust me. Would I steer you wrong? Don't answer that.

Brian Murphy says

This is one of my favorite books. I really love conspiracy theories and this book makes for a really smooth

read. It gives you some additional info in the side bars which I also found great. Ex. Websites to see alien structures and background info about the JFK conspiracies. I would suggest this book to anyone that likes a good conspiracy theory and doesn't want to read a 1000 page book filled with 500 pages of additional info you'll never remember.

Brenda says

I don't know if I would believe everything I read in this book but I don't trust our government very much so I could see it as plausible. doesn't get four stars for a lack of Elvis

Robert says

I have to say that this is the real thing when it comes to books on conspiracy theories. And I have the evidence in my hot little hands. I checked this book out from our local public library. A regular bastion of information for the public. Well as I was reading I observed that two pages had been carefully removed, as in cut out, from this book. One page was missing in the area where Belzer was discussing the JFK assassination and the other was during the discussion of the Roswell incident. I believe this is blatant evidence that the library system was attempting to silence this information while making other portions of the book available. Now moving my paranoia to the side I will discuss the book and my general impression. This is a good one. I tend to love the conspiracy stuff and Belzer serves it up with a heaping portion of his odd humor. The portion on JFK did bring to light some new information to me, however the alien stuff I was already up to snuff on. See told you I love a good conspiracy. And U.F.O.'s and the government is a great one, with all kinds of different areas of exploration for the inquisitive to probe into. Enjoy this one for the humor and maybe check out the list of books at the very end. There are some good ones listed here. I rate this one at three and a half stars, or maybe that is three and 3/4, some kind of conspiracy here I just know it. Gotta go, some guys in black suits from the library just showed up at my door, they say it has to do with some books that I have recently checked out.

Erik Graff says

Having dropped off a knapsack worth of books at the local cafe, I righteously picked up this one, intrigued by its title. A comic take on conspiracy theories! Surely, some of my friends would find this amusing.

As it happens, the book is not very funny. Indeed, the fact that its author disbelieves the government both as regards the JFK assassination and as regards UFOs works against the possibility of humor. The jokes are strained, out of place in what is basically a serious effort.

The greatest virtue of Belzer's book is that it may lead some individuals, attracted by his reputation, to think about the duplicity and downright amorality of the government of the USA. It is unfortunate that he ties together the assassination cover-up, which is incontrovertable, with such an amorphous topic as UFOs. His treatment of the latter detracts from the focused gravity of the former. Two books would have been better than one in this case.

Kommy Yazdian says

I consider myself lucky to have lived long enough to have read this book this year.

Rebecca McNutt says

I can't say that I really believe the theories in this book, but Belzer's jokes and wit throughout the pages, coupled with the history and politics behind the cases, made this a very interesting one to read.

Scott says

Loaned by a friend, so I may have to reevaluate my friendship screening policy. hey, I'm up for a good conspiracy as much as the next guy and Belzer can be a funny sometimes, but this was brutal. no footnotes so this became a "according to sources" and "rumors are" book. and even then the same old rehashed, unproven, and outright falsehoods were used. a hardcover Weekly World news.

Rich Meyer says

Great primer for the conspiracy aficionado, centered on two of the more popular ones: the JFK assassination and UFOs. I've read the book a few times and just listened to the audiobook version (narrated by Richard Belzer himself) and it's a great overview for a subject that can be touchy in "polite" company. Belzer covers most of the high (well, more like low) points in the Kennedy Assassination rigmarole, and delves into flying saucers, the Moon landing hoax, the face on Mars and many other topics that a lot of people would rather you not think about.

Belzer manages to put enough humor into the book to keep it from being dusty and dull, but not too much to overpower the sensitive topics. Definitely recommended as a good stepping stone into the world of conspiracies, which is not nearly as banana-wacky today as it used to be. People are starting to believe. Mulder would be proud.

Matthew Hopewell says

Could have used more Elvis. Other than that it was a fun ride.

Jamii says

I love Richard Belzer as an actor so I was ecstatic to come across this book. I'm not one who puts much

thought into conspiracies, do I think the government lies or covers up things? Absolutely I just typically don't care enough to think about it in detail but this was a lovely book that went into great detail about several conspiracies and various possible scenarios and it did a fantastic job at outlining those details. Belzer is a funny man so I really enjoyed this book though there was only one brief mention of Elvis so I wish there was more of that in the book but alas it was a fun read.

M. Shannon says

The title of this book is a little misleading, Belzer makes no mention of Elvis. What he does do is a wonderful job of taking readers through all the various conspiracies surrounding the assassination of JFK and whether UFOs have made contact. As an added bonus I listened to the audio version where Belzer reads and even breaks out into song on occasion. An absolute must read/listen for anyone interested in the JFK assassination and/or UFOs.

Tammy says

While I think almost every conspiracy is totally nuts, I think Belzer has a great sense of humor and I enjoyed reading this book as just a look into that world.

Theresahpir says

As posted on my blog, Theresa's Haunted History of the Tri-State:

This book isn't a new release by far---it was published in 1999---and it feels like its been on my Amazon Wishlist for nearly as long. It wasn't really a top priority for me in a sea of so many other awesome paranormal and weird history books, but it was on Book Outlet during their mega Black Friday sale, so I added it to the cart.

It turned out to be a good purchase!

It was a good purchase for me, but I should preface this by saying that this book probably isn't for everyone. Belzer was (and is) first and foremost a comedian and an actor. Also, this book is now 17 years old. Therefore, there is some dry and corny humor thrown in, and much of it is seriously dated. There were a couple of times I had to stop and think, 'Oh yeah. Bill Clinton was in office, lol. I get it now'. But aside from that, it was a good read.

The majority of the book discusses the JFK assassination and in my opinion, is a great primer for those who aren't well versed on the subject. Information is largely presented in side bar, snippet-type formatting, so it makes for a really quick read great for the ADHD crowd among us. Nothing goes too deep into detail, but there's just enough to get a pretty clear picture of the theories and research up to the date of the book's publication. And then things get weird.

There's a transitional section of the book that is largely like an homage to Jim Marrs, who I guess was the inspiration and the resource for this book and Belzer's interest in conspiracy theories. From then, there are

some brief mentions of some other conspiracy theories, mostly dealing with UFO and space cover ups. It was interesting, but just a little...all over the map.

In summary, this book was good, but not great. It was a quick and interesting read for someone with an informal interest in conspiracy theory, especially the JFK assassination, but might be a little dated for today's younger reader.
