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“The mystery  
metal disappeared from his shirt  
pocket just as he was  
about to show it to the scientist.”

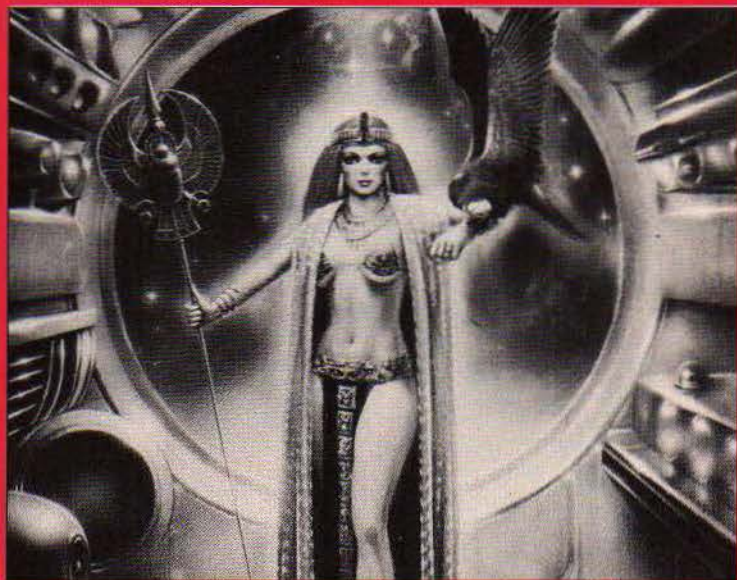
## ANTI MATTER

It was back in the Seventies when a one-armed Swiss farmer named Eduard “Billy” Meier declared he’d met extraterrestrials from the star system Pleiades. To prove his vivid claims, he produced strange “alien” instruments, along with photos of the Pleiadean starships and the E.T.’s, including the blond, voluptuous female leader Semjase. Although Semjase looked about twenty-five or thirty, she was actually three hundred years of age, Meier said. What’s more, she had taken him on flying-saucer rides and introduced him to Jesus Christ.

It’s no surprise that Meier’s claims were quickly debunked by a host of experts, who said the photos were put together with double exposures and models held by strings. The mystery instruments, they added, were made of cheap and decidedly earth-bound junk-shop alloys. The controversy, however, has refused to die. Its most recent incarnation is a book called *Light Years*, in which journalist Gary Kinder concludes that the Meier case should at least be left open.

Kinder bases his argument on an investigation led by retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Wendelle C. Stevens and private detectives Lee and Brit Elders. During the past ten years, Stevens and friends have conducted interviews with Meier and have produced dozens of witnesses who say that they have seen evidence of the Pleiadean spacecraft.

What really piqued Kinder’s interest, though, were reports by respectable scientists who had conducted laboratory analyses of Meier’s photos and mystery metals. Robert Post, head of the photography lab at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab-



## UFO UPDATE

oratory in Pasadena, California, for example, told Kinder that he “couldn’t see anything that was fake about the Meier photos. They looked legitimate.” The sentiment was echoed by Michael Malin, a professor of planetary sciences at Arizona State University, who said the photos “appear to represent a real phenomenon,” and by special-effects expert Wally Gentleman (2001), who found it incredible that a one-armed farmer with only a sixth-grade education could have had the money or the craftsmanship to contrive photos that, if

faked, were obviously faked by an expert. To Kinder, though, the real eye-opener was an analysis of Meier’s metals by IBM chemist Marcel Vogel. “I cannot explain the metal sample,” Vogel concluded. “With any technology that I know of, we could not achieve this on this planet.”

Even so, problems remain. The photographs were several generations removed from the originals, so that none of the experts could say anything really conclusive. Worse yet, the metal sample mysteriously disappeared from Vogel’s shirt pocket just as he was about to show it to another scientist. Kinder acknowledges the problems. The Meier case, he concludes, is “either a fascinating reality or a fascinating hoax.” Experienced UFOlogists remain convinced it’s the latter. “Skilled fakery,” says Jerry Clark, a director of the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois. Equally adamant is Walt Andrus, head of the international Mutual UFO network. In a letter to Kinder’s publisher, he called the ad for Kinder’s book “hyped-up, unadulterated hogwash.” —BILL LAWREN