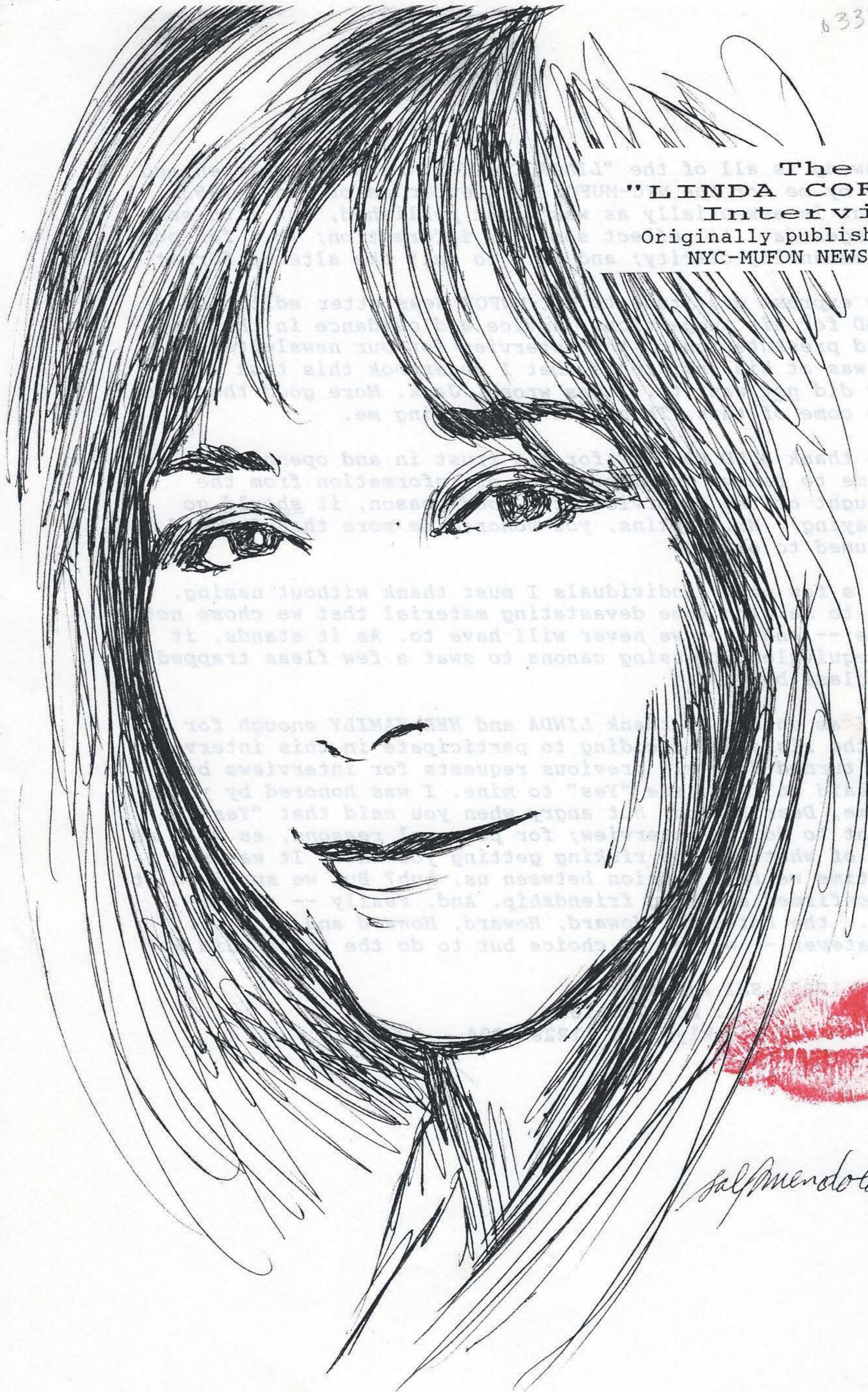


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The following is an interview with
"LINDA CORTILE"
Interview
Originally published in the
NYC-MUFON NEWSLETTER



Sal Mendola

The following is all of the "LINDA CORTILE" material written and published by me for the NYC-MUFON Newsletter as of June, 1993. The content is essentially as was first published, but with some minor changes (a.) to reflect some new information; (b.) for purposes of enhancing clarity; and (c.) to suit the altered format.

I wish to express gratitude to NYC-MUFON Newsletter editor JACK GREENFIELD for his suggestions, advice and guidance in the preparation and presentation of the interview for our newsletter. Also, it was at his insistence that I undertook this task that I so dearly did not want to. I was wrong, Jack. More good than bad will have come of this. Thank you for pushing me.

I want to thank BUDD HOPKINS for his trust in and openness to me. He asked me to remove only one piece of information from the first draught of the interview (for good reason, it should go without saying). Mr. Hopkins, you honored me more than I would have presumed to expect.

There are a few other individuals I must thank without naming. They came to me with some devastating material that we chose not to include -- and hope we never will have to. As it stands, it would be equivalent to using canons to swat a few fleas trapped inside a glass box.

Finally, I am unable to thank LINDA and HER FAMILY enough for weighing the risks and deciding to participate in this interview. Linda had turned down all previous requests for interviews but one; but said an immediate "Yes" to mine. I was honored by your trust in me, Dear Friend, but angry when you said that "Yes". I didn't want to do the interview; for personal reasons, as well as for fears of what we'd be risking getting you into. It was not the last time we felt tension between us, huh? But we survived it all and confirmed a strong friendship. And, really -- circumstances ... the Fates ... Howard, Howard, Howard and Fine ... who-or-whatever -- we had no choice but to do the thing, did we?

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Sal

"LINDA CORTILE"

In Her Own Words

An Interview By Sal Amendola

The whole world knows "Linda Cortile's" real name. And her address. And her phone number. And where her husband works. And what busses her children take to go to school. There is no "real" point in continuing to use the pseudonym that world-renowned artist and UFO abduction researcher Budd Hopkins created for her. But Linda would like to hold on to whatever privacy she has left, so we will not contribute to the further spreading of this knowledge. Ironically, her name, address, phone, and family are pretty much the only things about Ms. Cortile that the world around her knows with any kind of accuracy. Everything else is misinformation. Or disinformation. Half-truths. Straight-out lies. Most of it, a natural consequence of events that intrigue everybody so much that we yearn for information. But the events are so complex that whatever information does come out isn't much better than "bumper stickers" and "sound-bites". "*George Washington, Traitor.*" "*George Washington, Father of Our Country.*" Both statements, and countless others that could be made about Mr. Washington, are true. But they require clarification. Clarification takes time to prepare. Time to absorb. It takes commitment from everybody. Patience. Without these attributes, what do we end up with? "*He chopped down a cherry tree.*" "*He never told a lie.*" "*He threw a dollar across the Potomac.*" "*He had wooden teeth.*" "*He slept everywhere.*" Where's the information? The truth? The substance?

Some of the bad information about Ms. Cortile was spread innocently enough. Some of it through poor judgment. Some of it through unforgivably lazy, sloppy "journalism". There is also envy. Bias. Hubris. Outright maliciousness.

Do you get the feeling that I am biased in Ms. Cortile's favor? You're right. I don't know what happened to her. There are many things she couldn't tell me. Much that has occurred is still under investigation. Much of it she, herself, still doesn't know or

understand. But I now know more than the Debunker and his three (mis)informants combined. And I have come to know her. Her flaws. Her strengths. Like everybody, she has an abundance of both. On balance, she is as sane and honest as anybody. And this judgment comes not just from me, but from a number of professional men and women: *psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists*. The worse that was said of her? "She's no Bobby Fisher." -- i.e: like maybe 99% of us, she hasn't the mental acumen to initiate or nurture a hoax of any kind, much less one of this magnitude. Please take the time. Have the patience. Make the commitment. Read her interview. If you have questions, *ask them*. We'll answer what we can. If we can't, we'll say so, and try to tell you why. Just don't make assumptions. Now, on to our Interview.

"We've all had nosebleeds before. But never mass nose-
bleeds!"

PART I

UFO abduction researcher Budd Hopkins created the pseudonym "Linda Cortile". It stands for the woman who is arguably the most celebrated and vilified UFO abduction survivor on record. Ms. Cortile's story is unique primarily because of the number of witnesses and "hard" evidence, possessed by Hopkins, in support of the so-called "Linda Case". Herein will not be presented any of the hard evidence, nor will any of the witnesses be named. Those are for Hopkins and Cortile to reveal when necessary research is completed. What we offer is our interview with Linda. Part I is an overview of her life and the incidents that have made her and her story so celebrated. It is our hope that we will contribute toward countering the premature, incomplete and incoherent accounts passed off, from third-hand hearsay, by men of bad passions. Part II will focus on the aforementioned "men of bad pas-

BACKGROUND

Sal: Age?

Linda: Never ask a lady her age!

[Sal: A prominent debunker has described Linda as "...an attractive woman in her early thirties." At least this time he is half right.]

Sal: Heritage?

Linda: Italian-Swiss.

Sal: Religion?

Linda: Roman Catholic.

Sal: Born/raised?

Linda: New York City.

Sal: Education?

Linda: High school diploma.

Sal: Ideology?

Linda: Conservative Republican [The interviewer is a Liberal Democrat].

Sal: Occupation?

Linda: Wife (20 years), Mother (2 sons). Skills are secretarial.

Sal: Some people we know have said that you're an actress.

Linda: Not true.

Sal: Husband's background?

Linda: Same as mine, except he was born in Italy. He has a full time job and provides for all of us.

"I don't believe this phenomenon begins or ends with anyone. For all we know, it may have been going on from the beginning of time."

Sal: Frequency of UFO/related incidents?

Linda: I can only speak for myself. Once or twice a year.

Sal: Earliest known incident?

Linda: Between 6 and 8 years of age, while eating cookies in the bedroom of our apartment in the old neighborhood, a light over the rooftop across the way caught my eye. I thought, "Casper the Ghost". He was lit up in Christmas-colored lights of red and green. Now, some years later, under hypnosis by Budd Hopkins, and through adult eyes, I described a huge "toy" top surrounded in red and green lights. A UFO.

Sal: Latest known incident?

Linda: During last Memorial Day weekend. We had a house-guest so I was sleeping on the living room sofa-bed. I woke up choking. Something was running down my throat. I wanted to vomit. I got up and went to the kitchen, and saw my hands were covered with blood from a nosebleed. I put a paper towel under my nose and checked on my sons and their house-guest, and my husband. All had nosebleeds, too. We've all had nosebleeds before. But never mass nosebleeds! Yes, we believe it's UFO-related, but we're keeping the final determination open until we get more information.

Sal: Apparently, this phenomenon doesn't begin and end with you?

Linda: I don't believe this phenomenon begins or ends with anyone. For all we know, it may have been going on from the beginning of time. But yes, my parents were also survivors of similar or other strange phenomena, although they never knew what it was all about. They were never believers of the unnatural, but we had our home blessed by a priest on a regular basis. It didn't help.

Sal: How do you deal with this, as far as your sons are concerned?

Linda: I'm there for my children to talk about it if they want to, but I won't bring it up. I was always afraid that they were going to grow up weird because of it. So far, so good. They're really good kids, living their lives the way all kids do at their ages. Still, I can't help worrying about how all this "Linda Case" and their experiences are affecting them. Is it always on their minds? I don't see it. I don't bring it up and neither do they. They know I'm here for them, though.

Sal: What are your husband's reactions and has his family had any such history?

Linda: My husband's family doesn't know about this so-called "Linda Case", nor do I know if they've had a history with this phenomenon. I get along very well with my in-laws, and I want to make sure I keep it that way. My husband is very supportive of me. During our marriage, he experienced the same numbness I have.

He felt it twice and called out to me (without a response from me). And he has a scoop mark on his leg that looks like it really must've hurt when it happened. The best I can tell you about his attitude is, "No one is taking me! I work nights and I'm not home!" It bothers him to leave us alone, especially at night, but I believe he's in heavy denial about his own possible experiences.

Sal: How did you and your families relate to these occurrences? Did you look upon the occurrences as "Supernatural"? "Spiritual"? "Satanic?" -- Perhaps see these "entities" as "Guardian Angels"?

Linda: Originally, my family and I thought these experiences were "spiritual", or maybe, if there were such things, "ghosts". Otherwise, we didn't know what was going on, or what it could've been.

"IT WAS REAL AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT FACT."

Sal: Now you see them as "Extraterrestrial" or "Interdimensional"?

Linda: Definitely "Extraterrestrial". But "Interdimensional" keeps nagging at me.

Sal: Maybe both?

Linda: I don't know.

Sal: At what point did you come to think of the phenomenon as "Extraterrestrial"?

Linda: November 30, 1989, at about 3:15 A.M.

Sal: You've got it that pinpointed, huh?

Linda: That's when I first consciously remembered seeing them ["The Greys"], standing at the foot of my bed. It was a nightmare come true. IT WAS REAL AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT FACT.

Sal: I understand that's all you truly recall...?

Linda: That's right. Everything else I "know" came out of hypnosis sessions and witness accounts, etc.

Sal: You're not a self-proclaimed abductee...?

Linda: No, Sal. All I ever "self-proclaimed" was what you call "the symptoms". You know, the numbness, nosebleeds, etc. And what I saw and felt in my bedroom that November 30th. The rest comes from other people.

"Only Budd and I know just how many [witnesses]. And there are probably many, many more who are afraid to come forward ..."

Sal: So how did you meet Budd Hopkins?

Linda: I met Budd Hopkins in April or May of 1989, just a little before what you call the "major incident" of November 30th. But a year before, in 1988, I went shopping for Kitty Kelly's unauthorized biography of Frank Sinatra. I made a bee-line for that book, and then looked around for something else I might like. I saw Budd's book, INTRUDERS, and thought it'd make a nice quick mystery story to read. There was nothing UFO about the book. The cover showed a forest with lights. I thought, A car coming up to a house in the woods at night. The title "confirmed" to me that the book was a mystery. It took me a year to work up the courage to write to Budd, and tell him that some of the same things that happened to "Kathy Davis" in the book happened to me. Like the nose surgery I never had, but that a doctor, about a decade earlier, told me I must have had. Budd phoned me about three days after I mailed the letter.

Sal: I saw the X-ray of the object in your nose. Some have said that you (or the X-ray technician you "paid off") just placed a radio opaque "curlicue" object on the film, then exposed it to light [just like by placing a metal object on a sheet of photo-

graphic paper, projecting the shadow of the object on the paper, then developing the photo]. Or that something was pasted on your nose prior to the X-ray ...

Linda: That's not true.

Sal: I'm sure it's not. I don't believe an X-ray can be faked in the manner described. In fact, I don't believe any kind of successful fake photo can be made in the manner described. Also, the X-ray shows a detail that is truly compelling -- tantalizing, and couldn't have been produced simply by sticking something on your nose.

Sal: The thing is no longer in your nose?

Linda: Apparently not.

Sal: "How convenient."

Linda: I know. But the scar tissue and a bump are still in my nose.

Sal: And the doctor's evaluations?

Linda: He is still in practice, and I saved the bill from when he told me I'd had surgery, so I guess if it's necessary, we might be able to confirm ...

Sal: I know you're efficient, but do you save all your bills "forever"?

Linda: No. But something about [the doctor's insistence that I'd had nose surgery] really hit me. I didn't know why, but I felt a need to save that particular bill.

Sal: When did you first notice the bump in your nose?

Linda: During my first pregnancy.

Sal: How much a part overall did "hypnotic regression" play in retrieving memories and details?

Linda: A big part. I'd estimate about 85%.

Sal: Most of the rest was the witnesses, etc?

Linda: Exactly.

Sal: A lot of witnesses?

Linda: Only Budd and I know just how many. And there are probably many, many more who are afraid to come forward....

Sal: -- Or they don't know how or to whom to come forward with their information....?

Linda: Exactly.

Sal: -- Or, maybe, have been made to "forget" or something, or are otherwise fearful?

Linda: Maybe.

OVERVIEW

WITNESS-CORROBORATED INCIDENT

Sal: What exactly can you tell about the "celebrated incident"?

Linda: I was awake in bed, and began to feel a numbness creep up from my toes. I saw little figures standing at the foot of my bed. The fear was unbelievable. But I grabbed a big heavy pillow that I'd made and threw it at one of the figures. I then became afraid that I shouldn't have done that. Now they would be mad at me and take my family or me away or harm my children.

Sal: Then what?

Linda: Under hypnosis, I remembered ["standing"] outside my window, twelve stories up. Being embarrassed thinking my nightgown was going up over my head [Sal: eyewitness accounts later suggested to Hopkins that Linda was in a fetal position, and that her knees had come up against her face, not that her nightgown had floated over her head]. I remembered the fear that I would fall twelve stories, and about what was happening in general.

Sal: Who are "Richard" and "Dan"?

Linda: I can't tell you who they are.

Sal: "Can't" or "won't"?

Linda: Can't because I don't know, exactly. And won't because what I do know might put them and others in jeopardy if I told. Including maybe my family and me and maybe Budd's, too. Also, we want to respect their wishes for anonymity like I wish my wish for anonymity was respected. And violating that wish might also drive them and other witnesses further underground. [Sal: There are details about Dan's and Richard's parts in this episode that both Linda and Hopkins rightly feel would be too premature to discuss.]

Sal: So, what can you tell us? Are they police officers, or CIA agents, or secret service agents, or UN security, or KGB agents, or Men In Black, or ... what?

Linda: They told Budd at first that they were police officers just to protect their anonymity. I won't violate it, like other people jumped at the chance to violate mine. I know how it feels.

Sal: Can you tell us how they became involved in "The Case"?

Linda: Richard and Dan and someone we refer to as "The Third Man" just so happened to be there, driving nearby my building. It's as simple as that. [Sal: Hopkins has reason to feel that it's not "as simple as that".] Their car died for what at the time seemed no apparent reason. While waiting under the FDR Drive for their car to start up again or something, they had their sighting.

Sal: So they contacted Hopkins?

Linda: I was working at the time. Budd telephoned me at the office. Told me about a letter he received from two police officers named "Richard" and "Dan". In their letter, they stated that they'd had a UFO sighting fourteen months earlier.

"Among other details, they saw a woman floating out a window amidst little creatures and toward a hovering UFO!"

Sal: They waited fourteen months to come forward?

Linda: I waited over a year, myself.

Sal: I don't want to sound like the idiots who assume that an abused or raped woman is automatically lying because she didn't come forward immediately after the incident, but Linda -- a year and 2 months?

Linda: You yourself told me that you saw a really strange UFO in the early 'seventies. Tell me who did you tell? And when?

Sal: Well, yeah, but....

Linda: "But...?"

Sal: Back then, who could I tell? What could I tell? I felt stupid. I was just starting my career -- drawing comic books, yet. Who'd believe me?

Linda: Don't you think it'd be worse for these two men? If you think you'd be laughed at for being a comic book artist who says he saw a UFO, could you imagine their position as police officers (or whatever)? Guarding a very important dignitary who couldn't risk losing his respect in the eyes of the world? If you're a young man who couldn't do anything about a strange UFO flying over your neighborhood, what must they feel, being big, strong, street-wise, well-trained law enforcement officers? You say, Who could you tell? Who could they tell? Just because you now know of Budd Hopkins doesn't mean everybody does. Maybe it took time for them to find out about him. And to check him out and learn that he was trustworthy. And if you can understand the paralyzing shock and trauma of a rape victim, how is it so hard to understand the paralyzing shock and trauma of witnessing a UFO abduction? At least we know rape happens every day. Society doesn't even believe UFO's exist at all, much less UFO abductions.

"They felt like they were sitting ducks, unable to come to my rescue, or to protect the Third Man, or themselves!"

Sal: Okay, Linda. Okay. You're right. So back to Budd's phone call to you at the office ...

Linda: So Budd was very excited about the letter, but I couldn't make out what he was getting at until he told me that Richard and Dan had their sighting in the area of my residence. And that the similarities didn't end there. Among other details, they saw a woman floating out a window amidst little creatures and toward a hovering UFO!

Sal: You felt good, huh? Confirmation ...

Linda: Oh, no! Major denial set in. "No, not me! It could have been any one of hundreds of people! This was a cruel trick and it wasn't funny!" Words can't express the horror I felt that there could be independent witnesses to an alien abduction. To MY abduction!

Sal: Yeah. I guess it would be easier for you to take if it could be proved to you that you're crazy. We understand mental illness. You can be hospitalized -- treated for it. But this alleged incident and all it suggests goes way beyond anything that any science or government of human beings has ever openly dealt with.

Linda: But still worse, Budd proceeded to warn me that Richard and Dan might try to contact me next!

Sal: They did contact you in person, didn't they? How did they know where to find you? How did they behave? What are your feelings about them? You know what I mean ...?

Linda: At first they felt guilt for not making any attempt to help me during the incident ...

Sal: [Chuckling] Yeah. What could they do [to the UFO/occupants]? "Stop in the name of the law! Stop or I'll shoot! ..."?

Linda: Exactly.

Sal: -- " ... Fly down here, pull over and show us some ID!"?

Linda: Exactly. But this guilt plagued them for some time. They were also afraid for themselves. That they were seen by these creatures. They felt like they were sitting ducks, unable to come

to my rescue, or to protect the Third Man, or themselves! These guys couldn't handle it. They didn't know what to do. And finally, they couldn't seem to help themselves or each other throughout the months following the incident. They needed help. Answers. So they found Budd. And me. How did they find me? They were only about two blocks away. They had binoculars. They saw what window I came out of.

Sal: There are some hairy stories about some of your encounters with Richard and Dan. Can you tell about any of them?

Linda: Briefly. In April of '91, I was forced into their car and interrogated for about three hours. Almost all the questions revolved around the incident they saw in November of '89. Some of the questions related to me were personal, like, Who are you? Who do you work for? etc. They even proceeded to remove my shoes so they could examine my feet. We still don't know what that was all about. When I threatened to report them, they became angry and replied that the interrogation was legal, that the November, 1989, incident had to do with National Security. I don't know if they were right or wrong. At the time, I was so scared I would have believed anything they said.

Sal: There's a scarier story being circulated

Linda: In October of 1991, I was brought to what looked like a summer home on the seashore, by Dan. He had a nervous collapse. I'd never seen anything like it, and it scared the ever-living poop out of me. Dan dunked my head into the water two or three times. Yes, I was scared I was going to be drowned, but if that was what he wanted to do, he would have succeeded. [Sal: Again, there is more to this than can be told at this time. All that can be said is that Dan was not trying to drown Linda.] Richard arrived and intervened. He finally was able to come to terms for himself concerning the November, '89, incident. Richard, Budd and I became friends after that. And now we don't hear from either Richard or Dan anymore.

Sal: Linda, you know what I feel about the individuals, one in particular, who've been using the incidents like you just described as a means of discrediting you, Budd and "The Case", under the pretexts of concern for your safety, to rid ufology of incompetent, self-serving researchers and investigators, and to rid law enforcement of two "rogue cops"; but let's get real, your life was in danger. Whatever the reasons or excuses we can make on their behalf, Dan and Richard did hurt you.

Linda: No, Sal. No. In all of my dealings with Richard and Dan, I was never physically harmed at all, in spite of the stories being told. Honestly, Sal, unlike the three you just referred to, Richard and Dan are pro's. They knew what they were doing. If they wanted to hurt me, they could have and would have.

Sal: Has Hopkins seen or spoken with any of the three men [Richard, Dan, "The Third Man"] personally?

Linda: No. Just through letters and audio tapes.

Sal: Then you're the only one who's seen them in person?

Linda: No. There have been others. Family members and others who have seen them and witnessed my run-ins with Richard and Dan. But basically all of them [Richard, Dan and the witnesses to Linda's encounters with the two men] are really concerned about retaining anonymity. And for good reason. Look what happened to me ...

Sal: Yeah. I want to get into that. But first, who is "The Third Man"?

Linda: [If] I'm not going to tell you who Richard and Dan are, [do you think that] I'm going to tell you who the Third Man is?

Sal: I had to ask. Anyway, maybe you can say something. Like, is he a globally-known political leader?

Linda: No, I'm not going to say. Everybody thinks they know, anyway. Let 'em think what they want. I'm going to protect his privacy with everything I've got. He's a dear, sweet, gentle man and I'm not going to have any part in hurting him.

Sal: So you know him?

Linda: No. Not personally. And I'm not going to say any more.

Sal: Okay. Has he contacted either you or Hopkins?

Linda: Hopkins, by letter.

Sal: He signed the letter?

Linda: Not with his real name. But we have reason to believe he is who we think he is.

Sal: Can you say what that reason is?

Linda: No. I'm not going to violate any confidence.

Sal: No?

Linda: No.

END, PART I.

Part II

Linda answers questions about other witnesses, including the so-called "Woman On the Bridge", psychological evaluations performed on her by mental health professionals and other doctors, and the challenge to her, Hopkins and "The Linda Case" by three New Jersey carpetbaggers.

YET ANOTHER WITNESS

"Everything she said matched everything that Dan and Richard reported, and that came out under my hypnosis, but from a different angle ... the Brooklyn Bridge ..."

Part I offered a sketch of "Linda Cortile's" life, up to and including apparent UFO abduction incidents and their more terrestrial repercussions. In this, our second and final installment of our interview with Ms. Cortile, we explore more of the details that typify what UFO survivors must endure -- at the hands of their more malevolent fellow men and women -- as a result of innocent attempts to reconcile what appear to be unearthly trespass into their otherwise private lives.

Sal: Who is "The Woman on the Bridge"?

Linda: One of many people driving over the Brooklyn Bridge at the time of the November abduction.

Sal: How did she contact you or Budd?

Linda: She was troubled by what she saw. She didn't know what to think about it all. Then during about a year's time, she apparently saw a TV program about UFO's and learned of Budd and sent him a letter. Budd gets more letters than any one person can handle, even with help from one or two trusted friends and colleagues. So her letter went unanswered. She wrote again, then

Budd got to both letters. Everything she said matched everything that Dan and Richard reported, and that came out under my hypnosis, but from a different angle. From the Brooklyn Bridge, about four blocks from my apartment building.

Sal: Have you met her?

Linda: No. After my meetings and run-ins with Dan and Richard I'd had it with meeting with witnesses.

Sal: What's the evidence for the existence of the witnesses? How do we know that they are witnesses, and that they are who they say they are?

Linda: They check out. I have met all but two of the currently known and available witnesses. Budd has met many of them. They have been interviewed, they have given us drawings, tape recorded statements, letters ... and, even though the investigation and research is going forward, so far everything checks out.

Sal: Richard sent an audio tape to Budd. It's said that you had your husband make and send the tape as "Richard".

Linda: You know Steve. You heard him talk. Do you think he can fake a New York accent with an Italian accent as thick as Mama Amendola's [Sal: My mother has a "classic" Italian accent.] and as soft-spoken as you? No. He's not Richard.

LINDA'S PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

"One doctor said, 'Linda, you're as mentally sound as any healthy person I've seen'".

Sal: You've been checked out by a number of psychologists, psychiatrists and psychotherapists, right? How many?

Linda: I'd have to say several. Four or five. I've also sat in front of fifty doctors, answering their questions.

Sal: What were the results?

Linda: Normal. "Normal bright", actually. One doctor said, "Linda, you're as mentally sound as any healthy person I've seen".

CHALLENGES

to LINDA, HOPKINS,
and the ENTIRE
"LINDA CASE"

"I thought they were comical. But... they succeeded in
bringing two young women to tears."

Sal: Who is Richard Butler?

Linda: He's an abductee who used to attend Budd Hopkins' support-group meetings.

Sal: I understand he has some unusual theories?

Linda: Yeah? Like what?

Sal: I thought you could tell me?

Linda: No. What?

Sal: Well, like, he thinks only short people with American Indian, Irish or Celtic backgrounds are legitimate abductees...

Linda: Yeah?

Sal: ... and that no Jews are ever abducted.

Linda: Yeah?

Sal: I don't know. Except for the "short people" theory, which he told me, himself. And he did mention something about the

"Celtic/Irish" theory to me during a break at an NYC-MUFON conference. I can't say where I heard the "no Jewish abductees" thing, but, apparently, he's made all of this common knowledge.

Linda: Okay. [Linda chuckles.]

"This is a guy who told me that he could have one gov-
ernment agency protect me from other government agen-
cies. This is a guy who told me he could have a mili-
tary jet in the air with one phone call."

Sal: You said he "used to attend" Budd's support-group meetings.
No more?

Linda: Rich took it on himself to invite Joseph Stefula [At the
time, a local NJ-MUFON Director.] to support-group meetings, and
they proceeded to "interrogate" several of the group members. In-
cluding me. They came off so much like DRAGNET I thought they
were comical. But, I was later to learn that they succeeded in
bringing two young women to tears.

Sal: Really? They were that intense?

Linda: Exactly.

Sal: Yeah?

Linda: Especially Stefula. He's a bully. He's a big guy that can
really come off intimidating. You said the right word, "intense".
The two girls they brought to tears were in their early-twenties.
Bullies know how to go right for the weakest people. Like vulner-
able young girl abductees. And my nine-year-old son, Johnny. But
he miscalculated with me. And my Johnny.

Sal: Does it seem like they miss the point, "Support-group Meet-
ing"? "Support", not "challenge" or "interrogate"?

Linda: Yes. That's why when Budd learned of what they'd done,
Butler, and Stefula, this uninvited guest, were told that their
behavior was unacceptable and that they were no longer welcome in
Budd's home.

Sal: You think maybe that's why they've got a vendetta against
Budd? Using you and "The Case" to get back at him for embarrass-
ing --

Linda: Oh, I don't know.

Maybe.

No.

I was told by a local UFO researcher who's close friends with them that that's the way they operate. Real debunker-style.

Sal: But Budd's not a weak, vulnerable female abductee ...

Linda: That's right.

Sal: I heard Butler, Stefula and someone named "Hansen" really kept Budd sweating at what you call the "Showdown Meeting" of October 3, 1992.

Linda: [Bursts out laughing.]

Sal: No?

Linda: At one point, Stefula went out to check on his parked car, and promised to return. He left red-faced and never came back. Butler promised that as far as he and Stefula were concerned they're now out of "The Linda Case" until Budd officially presents his completed investigations.

Sal: Before we go on, let's explain this thing you call the "Showdown Meeting". Budd calls it "The Linda Meeting", I call it "The Inquisition". Sometimes, we refer to it as "The October Meeting".

Linda: Butler and Stefula were going all over telling everybody that I'm a hoaxer. They were telling everybody that they had proof. So a decision was made to offer them the opportunity to make their case before a panel of people on both sides of "The Case", and independent people in ufology, and a couple of other observers, at a gathering that took place on Saturday, October 3, 1992. It lasted something like six hours. The fact that you call it "Inquisition" makes it sound like I was on trial, or that I was being tortured. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was Stefula and Butler who were on the hot seat, because they had to present their case. After all, they said they had proof.

"Maybe they chose me because they think I'm the vulnerable one. But they were wrong again."

Sal: What about George Hansen?
Linda: What about him?

Sal: Well, who is he?
Linda: I don't know. A parapsychologist, I think. Personally? I think he's an alien.

Sal: But how did he get involved in "the Case"?
Linda: He was just there. At the October 3rd meeting. He came with Rich and Joe. And I think two or three other guys I don't know.

Sal: I know ... all uninvited to what was supposed to be a small, closed meeting. [Sal: One of the meeting's observers has recently assured me that no one was in attendance without permission. Others continue to insist that there were a couple of "gate crashers".] But Hansen seems so obsessed with you. With "The Case". He writes long, convoluted ... "dissertations" ... on you. Sends them out to everybody he can -- in ufology, to all the newspapers and magazines, national and international, even government agencies. And he practically begs everybody to make copies and send them out to even more people.

Linda: Yeah. He's a good writer. And I'd like to ask him what computer he uses to print up those articles. I think I'd like to get one just like it for young Steve [Linda's older son].

Sal: I have a respected friend who thinks his arguments are very reasoned and logical.

Linda: He's real good at putting a slant on the information he gets. But he's basing so much on outdated information that just don't mean anything anymore. What we thought was true two or three years ago, we eventually learn, after investigation, isn't.

What seemed to have one meaning before, means something completely different now.

Sal: Like that Dan and Richard are police officers?

Linda: Exactly. At first they told Budd they were police officers. They wanted to protect their true identities and positions. Now everybody says they're security agents. Even that's not quite right. Let people think what they want. But let me ask you a question: Why would anyone want to mislead the public?

Sal: You're saying that Hansen, Stefula, Butler and the debunkers are deliberately fostering misinformation?

Linda: No. I'm saying that Walt Andrus, Jerry Clark, Dave Jacobs and John Mack have been kept up on most of the real details of "The Case" as we've been learning them. And if they tell everybody that's against "The Case" that they're working on incomplete or mistaken information, and that they should wait for the investigation to be completed, then why are they continuing to work based on information that's wrong to start with?

Sal: You know that this kind of reasoning doesn't cut with Hansen, Stefula and Butler. You read Hansen's 25-page opus on you. Apparently, Clark, Jacobs, Andrus, MUFON, CUFOS, and everybody who will not toady up to, or disagrees with Hansen, Stefula and Butler are all part of a UFO-elitist cover-up. He misrepresented something written by Jerome Clark to suggest that Clark was having second thoughts and had begun sheepishly to see the error of his ways ... and that Hansen would magnanimously accept the return of the Prodigal Jerry within the fold of the Already Enlightened when the chastened Mr. Clark would complete his conversion. I understand Clark's position has been, consistently and from the start, that of a Skeptic in the most honorable sense: *Neither endorse nor dismiss any account without sufficient information -- and don't presume to prematurely step on a fellow researcher's efforts.*

But one does have to wonder what their stake in this is. Why they are so determined to "trash" "The Linda Case". Why they have

decided that you're the most dangerous ...

Linda: Maybe they've chosen me because they think I'm the vulnerable one. But they were wrong again. 'Cause I'm not afraid of them -- or any other debunker, for that matter.

Sal: But you know what Rich told me? He says that it's necessary to go after you in order to show that there are still some honest, hard-working, competent ufologists who will research and investigate and work hard as effective members of a disciplined team.

Linda: Sounds good to me. [Linda bursts out laughing.]

Sal: It seems, however, that their efforts had been paying off. The perception is that, because of their crusade, negative articles have come out on you all over the place. Discounting the outright debunker publications, have any of them gotten in touch with you or Hopkins for your views, clarification or response?

Linda: No.

Sal: None?

Linda: Well, how many have there been? [America's] *UFO Magazine* said they called Budd but didn't get through to him so they went on with their stories. Did any other worthwhile publication attack "The Case"?

Sal: You know, now that you ask, I don't think there were all that many negative articles.

Linda: *FATE Magazine* was positive ...

Sal: Except for America's *UFO Magazine*, which I'd always thought of as a "class act", I think that pretty much only the debunker publications "dumped" on you, Budd and "The Case".

" ... there's nothing to tell. [The Secret Service] dropped the matter and I think they think Hansen's a crank."

Sal: Hansen, Butler and Stefula claim that you got the "Linda Case" scenario almost whole from a novel called NIGHTEYES.
Linda: Maybe somebody did, but it wasn't me. I never even heard of the book before they mentioned it.

Sal: As I said, Hansen sent copies of his writings on you to government agencies. The Secret Service did go to your apartment, and did "summon" you for an interview, right?

Linda: That's right. But there's nothing to tell. They've dropped the matter and I think they think Hansen's a crank.

Sal: What do you think about the fact that the trio went straight to Phil Klass with their ...

Linda: Oh! He's so cute, don't you think? I'd just love to pinch his cheeks!

Sal: ... Who? Klass?

Linda: Yes! He calls me "Queen Bee of Abductees"! Isn't that sweet?

Sal: Uh-huh -- I mean, no, seriously. What do you think about them going to Klass?

Linda: You're judged by the company you keep. Lie down with dogs, wake up with fleas.

"I never made one penny from any of this. The only profit I made ... is in friendships."

Sal: Let's get back to Richard and Dan. There's an aspect I want to reinforce, because it is the rationale being used by these individuals for "outing" you. Dan and Richard made you feel threatened?

Linda: Yes, at first. But no more.

Sal: Why didn't you report them to the authorities?

Linda: And make myself look ridiculous?

Sal: But you were endangered ... or seemed to be, at least in the beginning.

Linda: Yes, but who would I report it to? The police? What would I tell them? That two detectives (or security agents, or whatever) were making me feel threatened? They'd ask me why [they were threatening to me]. [And I'd tell them] "Because I may have been abducted by ET's and they witnessed it"? What do you think [the Authorities] would say? And what if Richard and Dan were government agents? What kind of response would I get then? And what if they did take me seriously, and believed that I was kidnaped by creatures from a UFO? Because if the legends are true about what elements within governments are capable of doing to keep people quiet -- well, I wouldn't want to go head-to-head with any government agency. [Sal: See the article, "Rejoinder to Critique of Budd Hopkins", by Walter Andrus, in the April, 1993, Issue # 300, *MUFON Journal*, Page 8, for a very lucid explanation of Linda's position.]

Sal: So what did you do?

Linda: That local UFO researcher I mentioned before ...? He advised me to talk to a "Joseph Stefula", who was an MP [Military Police]. Stefula, Butler and I had a private meeting where I showed them, in confidence, a letter from Dan because they said they needed it so that they could work up a profile on his type of personality, so as to be able to advise me on safety tips.

Sal: Instead, they had that letter published and took it upon themselves to reveal your real name?

Linda: Yes.

"She's Jewish ... they told her that she had to be lying about being an abductee because the aliens ... don't want Jewish genes!"

Sal: But why would you talk to them in the first place if you knew they came down hard on your two friends at Budd's place?

Linda: But I didn't know at the time. And you know what? -- It was Stefula himself who eventually proceeded to tell me that Budd threw him out, and why. And I said, Oh! Is that why [one of the girls] was crying that night? I didn't find out about the other girl, who is now one of my three best friends, until still later. She's Jewish, and that's why they made her cry. Because they told her that she had to be lying about being an abductee because the aliens wouldn't want her because they don't want Jewish genes!

Sal: Gee! One that even Roger Corman missed! "Anti-Semites From Outer Space!"

Linda: Also, I was surprised to learn that "Joseph STEFULA" was that "Joe" from the support-group.

Sal: Then you never authorized them to become more involved?

Linda: Of course not.

Sal: But they openly spoke about you and "The Case" to your building security staff, at your husband's place of business ... to who knows what neighbors, etc? Sought information and access through, at very least, obfuscation, implying, for example, that they were newspaper reporters ...?

Linda: Yes.

Sal: You know, Rich told me that it wasn't they who revealed your real name. That he, too, thinks it was reprehensible to have done so, even though he believes you're the perpetrator of a major hoax. That they never turned your name or "the Dan letter" over to debunker publications or any other publication, or the electronic bulletin boards or to anybody outside their "Team", for publication or otherwise.

Linda: Okay. [Linda laughs.]

Sal: I asked him who did. He told me that the person was appropriately chastised and it would not be appropriate to reveal his

name. "Two wrongs don't make a right", he said. I had to give him that one. But he would tell me in exchange for the name of the witness on the Brooklyn Bridge.

Linda: You didn't tell, right?

Sal: Of course not.

" ... you know -- it's the human beings [who are causing all this grief -- not the aliens]."

Sal: Rich told me that you wanted to turn the case over to them because Budd was incompetent. That you begged them many times not to tell Budd you were going past him. In fact, he told me that he thought that Budd was incompetent and that you needed the efficient Southern New Jersey team behind you.

Linda: [Linda chuckles]. Oh, Sal! No one could ever replace Budd, especially not them, and they know it. At the October 3rd meeting, Rich complimented Budd. Told everybody how much respect he has for him. But what I told you was exactly the way it happened. All they have is ego. No ears. They don't listen to people. They just swagger. This is a guy [Butler] who told me that he could have one government agency protect me from other government agencies. This is a guy who told me he could have a military jet in the air with one phone call. You remember that word you used ...?

[Sal: "Hubris".] Is this the kind of guy I'd want to replace Budd?

Sal: They say fame as well as fortune is your motive.

Linda: Who wants to be famous as a UFO abduction nut? And in all the years, I never made one penny from any of this. The only profit I made out of all this is in friendships, from Budd's group and from NYC-MUFON meetings and conferences.

Sal: Well, Hansen, Butler and Stefula are now selling copies of their tirades on you.

Sal: Still, you went up and gave a talk at the Albuquerque MUFON Symposium, took questions from an audience of hundreds of people, and allowed your picture to be taken and published. Some would say that you're now "fair game".

Linda: Yeah? First of all, I went to Albuquerque to observe a UFO conference. Not to be a speaker. I went under a pseudonym. When they gave me my name tag with my real name on it, I proceeded to black it out, which you can easily see on those photographs you mentioned. I was swept to the podium when it was learned that I was there. I didn't ask to go before the public. The cameras automatically started flashing when it was revealed who I was, before I was even asked to get up and speak. Only Walt Andrus [MUFON's International Director] asked my permission to photograph me. Anyway, so what! How would you like it if you were swept up in a spur-of-the-moment situation and everybody started violating your wish for privacy? Even then, how dare anybody use that as an excuse to reveal my name, address, husband's place of work, etc?

"I feel like I'm being stalked."

Sal: Your life has really changed since picking up INTRUDERS, huh?

Linda: No. Life started to change after November 30, 1989. That's when I had to eventually give up my job, and I pretty much became a shut-in. I lost a lot of friends. All I had for a time was you, another male friend and one really terrific girl friend. Before that I was feeling really alone. Thanks to you and the young woman friend, I'm now starting to get out more again and making more new friends.

Sal: Budd's support group was no help?

Linda: Oh, yes, but I used to maybe go for coffee after the meetings, then go right home and stare at my wall unit all night. Think paranoid thoughts [like], Is this all a hoax? Am I crazy? Who's doing this to me? Is Budd going to be hurt by all this? Are

my friends in danger? Is my phone bugged? I started to let my duties slide. I started to lose the will to do things that used to give me pleasure, like baking, and crocheting, etc. But this one girl from the group would always talk to me on the phone, and she'd get me to go out. Then she gave me your number. Phil [Phil Lord, NYC-MUFON's Director] called me. You introduced me to Jack [Jack Greenfield, NYC-MUFON's Treasurer-newsletter editor]. I'd go to the meetings. Conferences. The ball started to roll again.

**"I'm going to keep on living life the best I can"
When I die, it's going to be with a clear conscience."**

Sal: Still, it's never been all that rosy since, has it?
Linda: No. And you know, Sal -- it's the human beings [who are causing all this grief]. I Lost a lot of weight ...

Sal: I understand you were never exactly Haystacks Calhoun before, either.

Linda: I was a perfect size 9. Then I went down to 2. Less than a 2, now. And they don't make dresses that small. My husband also lost a lot of weight. -- And now I'm getting strange, anonymous phone calls and mail. Strange requests, like to pose in a nightgown so that somebody can make a sculpting of me in my nightgown. I got photos in the mail of what looks like me taken without my knowledge. These came with a tape [audio] of weird music and a strange [montage] of sounds, noises and screams, with the lyrics pasted up on a piece of paper, and so forth.

Sal: It looks like all kinds of wacko's have begun hounding you since your privacy was destroyed.

Linda: Well, yes. I feel like I'm being stalked.

Sal: You know, one gets the feeling that the aliens-or-whatever aren't as bad as our fellow humans. The aliens take you, do whatever it is they do to you, and put you back. They try to make you

forget the hurt and terror they put you through. Just like "our" scientists when they take creatures from the wild and do whatever it is they do to them. But our fellow humans, who know what pains our bodies and minds feel, are the real slime, because they seem to not care what hurts they put you through. For money, for glory, because they, themselves, are in some sort of personal emotional pain and don't know how to cope other than by lashing out against others -- whatever reasons But some of them seem to hurt their fellow humans just for the sheer "enjoyment" of it. Real sick-o's.

Linda: That's right. "I'm going to keep on living life the best I can. God sees everything. What goes around comes around. When I die, it's going to be with a clear conscience."

Sal: What are you going to do, now, Linda?

Linda: I'm going to keep on living life the best I can. God sees everything. What goes around comes around. When I die, it's going to be with a clear conscience.

Afterword

INTERNAL OBLIQUE

by Sal Amendola

To fully understand my position on "Linda Cortile", her "Case", Budd Hopkins, and Linda's few but very vociferous vilifiers, you have to know that "The Lone Ranger", "Mighty Mouse" and "Superman" were my great childhood heroes. I grew up taking to heart -- seriously, naïvely, ingenuously to heart -- every ideal and quality for which each of the aforementioned characters stood. So affected was I by their archetype mortal values that to this day I believe that Law and Order should have been fought for in the Early West; that when there is a Wrong to Right, some Mighty Mouse should join the fight; that Truth and Justice should be the American Way.

Since then, many individuals, real and imagined, have been added to my list of heroes. Each, to me, is a symbol of fair play; reason; responsibility; productivity ... and all inside of otherwise flawed, human packages.

I once went to Budd Hopkins' Support-group meetings content to listen to the proceedings; neither believing nor disbelieving anything that was said.

Until now, I unconditionally but quietly believed the "Close Encounter" tales of only two individuals: "Peter R.", because his is the oldest continuing friendship in my life. We were and are colleagues as art students, artists, teachers and now, irony of ironies, UFO researchers. I believe "Anna E." because I don't want to believe that she could ever lie to me.

I now believe a third individual: "Linda C.", because some six of the most unprincipled, craven, mendacious, anti-intellectual / pseudo-intellectual, dogmatic, overbearing, aggressive and pom-

pous blowhards of our time have, in essence, "gang-raped" this petite, ingenuous woman. She further touches me by her feistiness in the face of such pernicious assaults. Clearly battered and bloodied, she is, however, definitely unbowed.

Hardly objective reasons for taking up sides. Hardly scientific reasons. Hardly reasoned reasons. But, while none can be called "scientific", I do have "good, objective" reasons for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Linda.

The basis for the attacks on the so-called "Linda Case" is that it is a continuing hoax perpetrated entirely by Linda Cortile for fun, fame and fortune.

But how does she accomplish this? Well, "*She's a trained actress*". But she was never an actress, and even Tracey Ullman would find it impossible to portray the parts of all the men, women and children involved in this "plot". Well, "*She hired all the men and women involved in the deception*". But where did she get all the money needed to pay all those people? Well, "*She didn't need all that much money. She only needed herself, her husband and her children*". But her husband works a full-time job -- sometimes overtime -- and her children are bright, but 17 and 10, respectively. Hardly persons seasoned in the art of the "sting". And what about the dozen-or-so other witnesses? Even Stella Adler would have found it daunting to have trained so many disparate, amateur individuals in the subtle nuances of this production. And we're back to the question of financing. Well, "*She's getting her funding from the people who hired her to perpetrate this hoax*". But we thought she was the root source of the hoax. Well, no, "*She's an innocent dupe being used to bring down Ufology. And the 'establishment' ufologists don't care that Richard and Dan are crazed covert agents bent on harming Linda*". But we thought "Richard" and "Dan" don't exist. Well, "*They don't, she only based them on characters in some novel*". But how can fictional characters be a danger to Linda? And could they possibly have been more dangerous to her than have been the individu-

als who have revealed her existence to a world of frothing dys-
functionals? ...

And now we are told that Linda is very "friendly", "charming" ...
and has "winning ways". Well, *LET'S GET OUT THERE AND BURN THE
DAMNED WITCH BITCH!!*

There is no evidence whatsoever that Linda is a hoaxer. On the
contrary, there is much evidence to prove that she is not. The
information with which these individuals had been laboring were
sketchy, outdated, and third-hand. Now they have no information.
Yet they persist.

At what level of integrity does one have to arrive before one re-
alizes that there has existed no basis whatsoever to justify re-
vealing the identity, address and unlisted phone number of a per-
son who claims only to want an explanation for disturbingly bi-
zarre events in her life? What level of scientific or journalis-
tic imperative has been served by having exposed one harmless
woman to a world of loonies, crackpots and sick-o's.

The fifth and sixth amendments to the Constitution of the United
States of America and God's ninth Commandment should be our
standards.

A few individuals have seen beyond what I have written or said on
the matter of "The Linda Case" and asked me, "Well, what do you
think? Is 'The Case' bogus?" Still, it would seem that I have
lost my researcher / investigator / scientist / journalist facade
of "objectivity". Well, appearances notwithstanding, I haven't.
All I know is that one lone woman has been singled out for attack
by a pack of ... well, at this point, let me be a bit more cir-
cumspect. So, what I think of Linda or her "Case" -- or of Hop-
kins, or of whether or not it's a plot by who-or-whatever -- fac-
tors that would have been normal, proper, instinctive considera-
tions for me -- have now been supplanted by my sense of outrage
over yet greater crimes -- sins -- hypocrisies -- injustices

Regardless ... all that should be required of any of us is the decency to wait until Hopkins and Cortile have presented their case and all the evidence that they feel is prudent to release. If at that time I find objections, I might choose to bring them to Linda and to Budd. If their responses prove lacking (to me), it would still not be my place or duty to set about some crusade to discredit them. If there prove to be revealing flaws in "the Case", it will crumble down around them without any help from me.

But, hey! Guess what!? Linda would still be my friend! We already have heavy duty "irreconcilable differences", starting with political ideologies that are poles apart, to certain matters concerning "The Case", and certain matters in between. If our friendship can survive those, we can survive almost anything. And we'll do it together.