



## The Flying Saucers Are Real

Donald E. Keyhoe (1897-1988)

Read by:	Roger Melin	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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*The Flying Saucers Are Real* by Donald Keyhoe was a breakthrough bestseller that was the first serious attempt to investigate encounters between the human race and “unidentified flying objects”, commonly called “flying saucers”. The book is relatively short, but pulls together evidence gathered from newspapers, magazines, personal interviews, and Air Force records. The central contention is that the Air Force had been actively investigating encounters and maintaining a policy of secrecy until 1949, when a policy of gradual and cautious public disclosure was adopted. He further argued that the earth had been visited by extraterrestrials for two hundred years and that the explosion of the atomic bomb had prompted a sharp increase in visits. He speculated that the Air Force may have even attained and deployed some aspect of alien technology.

Keyhoe, who also wrote mysteries and spy novels, wrote the book in dramatic narrative style reminiscent of 1940’s film noir and 1950’s television dramas. The book was published in 1950. The paperback edition by Fawcett sold for \$.25 and was a huge hit, selling over 500,000 copies.

**Donald Edward Keyhoe** (June 20, 1897 – November 29, 1988) was an American writer who achieved recognition for his work as a leading UFO researcher. Born in Iowa, he attended the Naval Academy and was commissioned as a Marine Lieutenant. Trained as an aviator, he was injured in a crash in 1922 and developed his writing skills during his convalescence. He left the Marines in 1923 and managed promotional tours by aviation pioneers, most notably that of Charles Lindbergh in 1927, which led to his first book, *Flying With Lindbergh*. The success of that book led to a career as a freelance writer, during which he published many stories and articles on aviation topics in leading publications. When reports of flying saucers began appearing, the editor of *True*, a popular men’s magazine, commissioned him to investigate contradictory information coming from the Air Force. Keyhoe was initially skeptical, but became convinced the sightings were indeed of extraterrestrial visitors, based on the evidence of flight light technology far surpassing anything then possible, and on the peculiar reaction he consistently received from his contacts at the Pentagon. His resulting article in *True* in January, 1950 caused a sensation and led to the book released later that year. Keyhoe wrote additional books on UFOs and cofounded the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and edited its newsletter, the *UFO Investigator*.