



## The Fact behind the Fiction – Book 1

*The 'Adventures of Eric and Ursula' are a series of fiction books but it is important to me to try and build as much fact as possible into the stories. Here is an A to Z of the fact behind the fiction for Book 1 – An Extra-Ordinary Beginning.*

### Aircraft

- Aurora – a secret hypersonic speed spy plane owned by the US military. There is no concrete proof of its existence.  
Read <http://www.fighter-planes.com/info/aurora.htm>  
Watch <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgCXupNrwHM>
- Black Hawk – is a helicopter favoured by the US military.  
Read <http://www.army.mil/factfiles/equipment/aircraft/blackhawk.html>
- Boeing 247D – originally built in 1933, it was one of the first transport aircraft.  
Read <http://www.boeing.com/boeing/history/boeing/m247.page>
- N262 Frégate – a small passenger plane built between 1960 and 1976 in France  
Read <http://www.airliners.net/aircraft-data/stats.main?id=12>
- P80 Shooting Star – was a fighter plane so fast that at the time it was built it was called the 'Shooting Star'. It was developed during World War II but was not used in battle until the war in Korea.  
Read <http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/100years/stories/p80.html>  
Watch [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08J2IIzC\\_xc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08J2IIzC_xc)
- Raptor Jets – a fifth generation military fighter jet.  
Read and watch <http://www.lockheedmartin.co.uk/us/products/f22.html>

### Aldous Huxley's Brave New World

- A novel written in 1932 which is set far in the future when everyone is supposedly happy.  
Read <http://www.huxley.net/>

### Astronomical Clock

- A clock in Prague's old town that dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.  
Read <http://www.pragueexperience.com/places.asp?PlaceID=596>

### Cellar Door

- Is the 'most beautiful' combination of words according to the English teacher in the 2001 film Donnie Darko. She is probably referring to J.R.R. Tolkien in 'The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays,' when he writes, "Most English-speaking people...will admit that cellar door is 'beautiful', especially if dissociated from its sense (and from its spelling). More beautiful than, say, sky, and far more beautiful than beautiful."



#### CERN

- CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear research based in Switzerland and France  
*Read* <http://home.web.cern.ch/>

#### Champex

- A small village in the alps in Switzerland.  
*Read* <http://home.web.cern.ch/>

#### Dubai Creek Marina

- A harbour and golf course in Dubai.  
*Read* <http://www.dubaigolf.com/dubai-creek-golf-yacht-club/the-dubai-pre-owned-boat-show-2012/dubai-creek-marina.aspx>

#### ESOC

- The European Space Operations Centre was opened in 1967 in Darmstadt, Germany. It plans missions, operates satellites and makes sure space mission objectives are met.  
*Read* [http://www.esa.int/About\\_Us/ESOC/ESOC\\_overview](http://www.esa.int/About_Us/ESOC/ESOC_overview)

#### ESP

- Extra-sensory perception is experiencing or knowing what is happening by using your mind. Whether this is possible is up to you.  
*Read* <http://science.howstuffworks.com/science-vs-myth/extrasensory-perceptions/esp4.htm>  
*Watch* <http://vimeo.com/66334047>

#### ESTRACK

- The European Space Agency tracking station network links with satellites and craft orbiting the earth using a network of global ground stations.  
*Read* [http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Operations/Estrack\\_tracking\\_stations](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Operations/Estrack_tracking_stations)

#### European Space Station

- There is not a European Space Station. There is the International Space Station which, as its name suggests extends further than Europe.  
*Read* [http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Human\\_Spaceflight/International\\_Space\\_Station](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Human_Spaceflight/International_Space_Station)  
*Watch (or type Chris Hadfield into youtube)* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8TssbmY-GM>



#### Foo Fighters

- This is another name given to disc type crafts, or UFOs, sighted by pilots during World War II. It is believed that nations tried to build their own Foo Fighters around the time of World War II. This appears to be fact but the experiments do not appear to have been successful. Whether pilots really saw Foo Fighters is for you to decide.  
*Read* <http://www.germanufochatter.com/German-Foo-Fighters/>  
*Read* <http://www.project1947.com/articles/arwwr.htm>  
*Watch* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51KowKjKEw>

#### Galileo Satellite Positioning System

- Is Europe's own global navigation system. It is similar to GPS.  
*Read and watch* [http://www.esa.int/Our\\_Activities/Navigation/The\\_future\\_-\\_Galileo/What\\_is\\_Galileo](http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Navigation/The_future_-_Galileo/What_is_Galileo)

#### Global Warming

- Is the belief that the world is warming up and going through a period of climate change.  
*Read* [http://news.nationalgeographic.co.uk/news/2004/12/1206\\_041206\\_global\\_warming.htm](http://news.nationalgeographic.co.uk/news/2004/12/1206_041206_global_warming.htm)  
!

#### Gröbe Villa, Havlickovy Sady and Vineyard

- The Meyer Villa is based on Gröbe Villa. It can be found in Prague in a park called Havlickovy Sady which also has a vineyard. The villa was built at the end of the 1800s and is in a neo-renaissance style. I can see it from my window.  
*Read* <http://www.greatvillas.org/villas/czech-republic/the-villa-of-moritz-grobe>

#### Hangar 84

- This is the place where the alien bodies and alien craft were supposed to have been placed after the crash in 1947.  
*Read* <http://www.hyper.net/ufo/roswell.html>

#### Highest IQs

- In my opinion, IQ tests are just a way of measuring how well you can do in IQ tests. Whether they assess how intelligent someone is another question entirely. However, an IQ test is a good indicator of intelligence and the highest recorded IQ was reportedly Terrance Tao whose IQ is 230.  
*Read* <http://www.sciencedump.com/content/10-people-highest-iq-world-infographic>  
If you wish to take your own IQ test click below.  
*Read* <http://www.iqtest.com/>



#### John Glenn

- The oldest person to have journeyed into space  
*Read* <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/glenn-j.html>

#### Kino Alfa

- A closed down cinema in Prague.  
*Read (in Czech)* [http://www.filmovy-plakat.cz/index.php?menuid=8215&templ=template\\_articles.inc](http://www.filmovy-plakat.cz/index.php?menuid=8215&templ=template_articles.inc)

#### Laser

- Lasers are used in many ways from inside CD players to cutting metal.  
*Read and watch* <http://www.howstuffworks.com/laser.htm>

#### Les Banlieues

- Les Banlieues is French and it means the suburbs of a big city but has also been used to mean 'troubled area'. The reason that Ursula lives in these areas is probably due to a film I watched back in 1995 called La Haine which is set in Les Banlieues.  
*Watch* La Haine trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk77VrkxL88>

#### Les Exclus

- It is difficult to give a definitive translation but les exclus are people with no income who are marginalised from society. Once again La Haine had a big influence on me when including this. See the trailer above.

#### Liquid Vortex Propulsion

- This is hard to explain but it is a system of propulsion using air that is sucked into a vortex, is charged by electrons and is then pushed out again. I don't really understand it myself.  
See <http://evg-ars.narod.ru/shauberg1.htm>

#### Memory Foam

- The red 'bed' in the pod was based on memory foam. A material that can shape-shift.  
*Read* <http://esciencenews.com/articles/2009/09/24/smart.memory.foam.made.smarter>

#### Mount Vesuvius

- A volcano in Italy which destroyed Pompeii and last erupted in 1944  
*Read* <http://geology.com/volcanoes/vesuvius/>  
*Watch (1944 Eruption)* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bsmv6PyKs0>

#### Mulatto

- A person of mixed parents, normally used when one parent is black and the other is white



#### Náměstí Míru (Peace Square)

- An area in Prague dominated by a large church.

*Read* <http://www.myczechrepublic.com/prague/namesti-miru-square.html>

#### National Police Institute at Clermont Ferrand

- This is a police college in France.

*Read* <https://www.cepol.europa.eu/index.php?id=france>

#### Operation Paperclip

- During, and after, World War II the US military and intelligence agencies took German scientists out of Germany to America. This was codenamed Operation Paperclip. Most of the 500 scientists worked on missiles and their work resulted in the creation of NASA.

*Read* <http://www.operationpaperclip.info/>

*Watch* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bh37r3alzzs>

#### OSS

- The Office of Strategic Services was a US intelligence agency which later became the CIA. Officially it existed during World War II from 1942 to 1945.

*Read* <http://www.ossociety.org/>

#### Palais Omnisports Arena

- A large indoor stadium and concert arena. It is also known as Bercy.

*Read* <http://www.parisdigest.com/sports/palaisomnisports.htm>

#### Pod

- In Book 1 Professor Schwarzkopf disagrees with Jean Kurtz who believes the metal craft is just a machine. He doubts this and therefore implies that the craft is organic. Mixing human cells and man-made organic polymers is already possible.

*Read* <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2195586/Half-man-half-machine-Scientists-engineer-cyborg-tissue--uses-living-human-cells-organic-polymers.html>

#### Pompeii

- A Roman city that was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD.

*Read* [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/pompeii\\_portents\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/pompeii_portents_01.shtml)

*Watch* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWLsmc8ZGzg>

#### Rats

- Rats are often used as lab animals for scientific experiments.

*Read* <http://discovermagazine.com/2006/dec/20-things-rats#.Ulz6W9Knp9U>



#### Roswell Army Airfield 509<sup>th</sup> Division

- This US base is famous for a reported incident with a UFO back in 1947. There are accounts that support this and a number that do not. What is certain is that it made Roswell famous.  
*Read* <http://www.roswellfiles.com/story.htm>
- The description of the town is not particularly accurate but the UFO museum does exist and used to be a cinema.  
*Read* <http://www.roswellufomuseum.com/museum.html>

#### Self and Heinz Kohut/Hazel Siromani

- Self is a psychological theory made by Heinz Kohut in 1971.  
*Read* <http://www.selfpsychologypsychoanalysis.org/self.shtml>
- 'My understanding of what self is? Self is a process of uncovering, discovering and rediscovering different layers to reach the core of your very being,' Hazel Siromani  
*Read* [http://www.selfpsychology.com/whatis/visitors\\_impressionistic.htm](http://www.selfpsychology.com/whatis/visitors_impressionistic.htm)

#### Skiving

- An English word for when students don't go to school but choose to spend the day doing other things, also known as 'bunking'.

#### Sfantu Gheorghe

- A town of approximately 70,000 people in Transylvania, Romania. It has a mix of both Hungarian and Romanian speakers.  
*Read* <http://www.saintgeorgeinfo.ro/>

#### Street Surveillance Cameras

- There are many cameras in big cities that monitor your every move. According to the Daily Telegraph there is 1 camera for every 11 people in the UK. This means that there are estimated to be 6 to 7 million cameras in the UK. There are less cameras in France.  
*Read* <http://www.france24.com/en/20120117-debate-swirls-around-paris-new-high-surveillance-system-cameras-cctv-police>  
*Read* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/10172298/One-surveillance-camera-for-every-11-people-in-Britain-says-CCTV-survey.html>

#### Tim Berner-Lee

- Widely regarded as the creator of the internet when he worked at CERN.  
*Read* [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/berners\\_lee\\_tim.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/berners_lee_tim.shtml)

#### Trees

- Neapolitan Maple Tree – grows in Italy around Naples.
- Cork Oak Trees – grows in Italy around Naples.



#### Tyn Church

- A church that dominates Old Town Square in Prague.  
*Read* <http://www.pragueexperience.com/places.asp?PlaceID=595>

#### Victor Schaubерger

- Was an Austrian polymath who developed theories/inventions based on what he observed in nature, this included building flying saucers. He lived from 1885 to 1958.  
*Read* (For more information on Schaubерger) <http://www.schauberger.co.uk/home.html>  
*Read* (For more information on his inventions) <http://jnaudin.free.fr/html/vtxtech.htm>

#### Vis

- A beautiful island off the coast of Croatia and formerly a military naval base.  
*Read* <http://www.visinfo.org/>

#### Wencelas Square/Vaclavska Náměstí

- One of the two main squares in the centre of Prague  
*Read* <http://www.pragueexperience.com/places.asp?PlaceID=605>

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