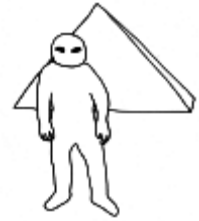


The Hunt for Bigfoot

A Novel
by Lisa A. Shiel



Suggested Author Interview Questions

Q. What sparked your interest in the paranormal?

A. When I was fourteen, I saw an orange cigar-shaped UFO. Since then, I've seen other strange things and my interest in the paranormal has grown.

Q. Why did you choose to deal with these topics in fiction rather than nonfiction?

A. Fiction allows me to explain my theories through storytelling rather than a recitation of facts, which makes the subject more accessible. For thousands of years, people have used allegory as a means of conveying facts and information.

Q. Is there one piece of evidence that unequivocally proves the existence of Bigfoot?

A. Footprints have provided the most conclusive evidence of the creature's existence. In my book, the heroine discovers footprints in the woods which display dermal ridges and other characteristics that prove their veracity – and prove that they come from an unknown creature.

Q. In your book, you call evolution an “unproven theory.” Why?

A. The evidence for evolution is like a jigsaw puzzle with three-fourths of the pieces missing. Anthropologists fill in the missing pieces in such a way as to ensure the picture turns out how they want.

Q. Does that mean you are a creationist?

A. No. Creationists believe a single supreme deity created humans from nothing. I see our origins as far more complex – but no less mysterious.

Q. What gave you the idea to connect Bigfoot and UFOs?

A. Witnesses have reported seeing Bigfoot appear from or disappear into strange lights. Others have seen UFOs in the same area where a Bigfoot was seen earlier the same day.

Q. In the book, how do you deal with the issue of human evolution?

A. In the first chapter, the heroine discovers a 100-million-year-old human footprint fossilized in stone. This discovery proves to her that humans could not have evolved from the ancient humanlike apes. This discovery leads her to wonder who did evolve from those ancient species, and where humans came from.

Q. How would you describe alternative history?

A. It's the history you won't read about in textbooks. It attempts to solve all the mysteries of our past, rather than sweeping anomalous evidence under the rug.

Q. Most cryptozoologists describe Bigfoot as a large, bipedal ape incapable of culture or forethought. Do you agree?

A. No, and in my book I also deal with this issue. Evidence from sightings points to their intelligence. In the book, my heroine discovers the creatures possess far greater intelligence than anyone has credited them with, a realization that has astounding implications.

Q. How would you respond to people who insist that both Bigfoot and UFO sightings are just examples of mass hallucination or hoaxes?

A. I'd say they're insulting thousands – perhaps millions – of people who have seen UFOs and Bigfoot. They also ignore the supporting evidence: footprints, hair, and feces from Bigfoot; radar trackings of UFOs; witnesses who have passed lie detector tests; and strange objects removed from the bodies of UFO abductees.

Q. Can you provide some examples of well-documented sightings, the ones you believe provide the most compelling evidence for the existence of Bigfoot?

A. The most famous sighting occurred in Bluff Creek, California in 1967. Most people have seen the film footage Roger Patterson took that day, when he and Bob Gimlin saw a female Bigfoot walk past them. Experts in anatomy have determined the creature could not be a man in a fur suit, due to the proportions of the limbs and shoulders. The creature also left footprints.

Q. Can you tell us what's in store for future titles in the Human Origins Series?

A. *Lord of the Dead*, the sequel to *The Hunt for Bigfoot*, deals with the mysterious, ancient race that protects the Bigfoot creatures. We learn who these people are, where they came from, and why they try to control our society. *Ancient Ones*, the third book in the series, will delve into the mystery of another, more alien race who have been manipulating our history. While *Ancient Ones* features new characters, the original characters do make an important appearance – and in the fourth book they'll be back at the forefront. I intend to continue exploring the issue of human origins for quite some time.