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# Encyclopedia Of Urban Legends



## Synopsis

The definitive word on the subject from the dean of urban legend studies. We all know those stories that are too bizarre to be true—roasted babies, vanishing hitchhikers, scuba divers in trees—but have you heard about the ice man or the bullet baby? This comprehensive and compellingly readable reference work will answer all your urban legend questions, offering alphabetical entries on every aspect of the subject, including descriptions of hundreds of individual legends and their variations, legend themes, and scholarly approaches to the genre. Other entries discuss the relationship of urban legends to literature, film, comic books, music, and many other areas of popular culture. A Booklist Editors' Choice 2001 Reference Book. "Unlike most encyclopedias, this one may be read cover to cover." Choice "Compiled by the foremost authority on this form of contemporary folklore....Superb." Library Journal 60 black and white illustrations

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 10 Up-A definitive and entertaining look at widely recognized tales told primarily in the U.S. In his preface and introduction, Brunvand explains the topic's provenance from a scholarly perspective, making this an ideal resource for a creative school report. Readers will learn about the "The Hook," "The Baby-sitter and the Man Upstairs," and other modern urban legends that they may have missed hearing or reading on the Internet ("The Madalyn Murray O'Hair Petition"). The entries are mostly arranged alphabetically by title; some are found under their subject or geographical

location of origin. Many have useful cross-references. In a few paragraphs, each story is related and placed in proper historical context. The author recognizes the role of such legends in popular culture and how they change over time and telling. Articles on broad themes (e.g., "Military Legends," "Animals in Urban Legends") are featured throughout. Occasional black-and-white cartoon drawings illustrate the book. A fascinating and trustworthy purchase. Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Did you hear that Indiana University's library in Bloomington is sinking? This story which regularly evokes needless concern among university alumni is only one of thousands of urban legends that circulate in popular culture and especially on the Internet. Compiled by the foremost authority on this form of contemporary folklore, this unique encyclopedia includes hundreds of such stories from published sources and oral tradition. Brunvand claims that only urban legends told in the United States are "covered comprehensively," but he does include four European versions in their original language. Each entry contains source citations (excluding popular and undocumented sources), but the selected bibliography covers a range of both scholarly and popular works. Alphabetically arranged, the entries cover individual legends ("Hairy-Armed Hitchhiker," "Procter and Gamble Trademark," etc.) and legend themes (babies, technical incompetence, etc.). Unfortunately, an inadequate index detracts from an otherwise superb reference work. Delightful for browsing by general readers, this work is also a fine source for folklore students and researchers.

Recommended for academic and larger public libraries Donald Altschiller, Boston Univ. Libs. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is a creative and informative take on creatures of myth and lore. I love the anatomical illustrations mixed with a dash of history and mythology. As an artist, it has helped me figure out what proportions and the like would be for fantastical creatures in a way that is easily relatable and usable from knowledge of human and animal anatomy.

Came all scratched and bent. Was hoping to add it to my collection but that's not happening.

This is the book that has all the urban legends ever heard of. Really good reference and this seller was super quick .

This book is filled with a lot of wonderful U.L. I have always been a big fan.

I found this full (literally A-Z) of great story, synopsis and cross reference points. After I purchased a friend told me that they used this as a course book for one of her classes, I can see why. If your looking for in depth folklore you get that, you also get awesome Ref. material.so next time you hear of a friend of a friend missing a kidney, going thru gang initiation or going to that haunted house thats 12 stories tall please hand them this book..

This is an authoritative reference, but it's a highly readable one. I appreciate the author's rigorous research into the truth or falsity of each legend.

Urban Legends is great!

When I'm buying a gift, I wait and see what they really want and get it for them. this was on her list and I love buying something I know they really want.

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