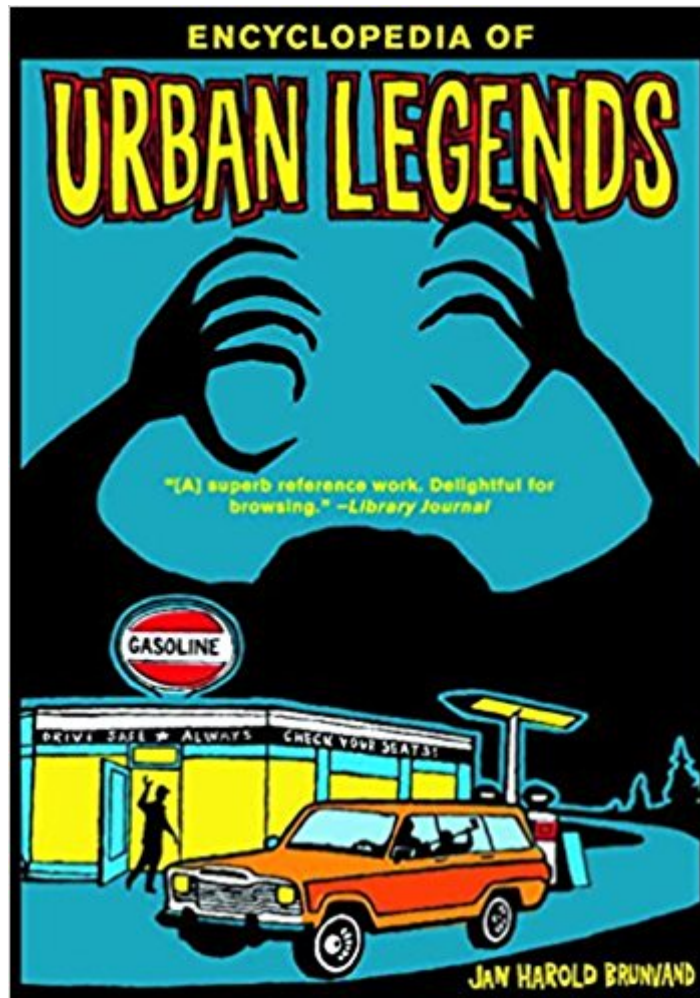


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Encyclopedia Of Urban Legends



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

Paperback: 560 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; Reprint edition (November 17, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0393323587

ISBN-13: 978-0393323580

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars—See all reviews—(22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #300,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Urban Legends #129 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Literature #150 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Mythology & Folklore

Customer Reviews

If you're interested in urban legends from a folklore standpoint, a research standpoint, or just a fan then you will appreciate this book. It is the most complete reference I have seen. Details of stories, their comparison with other stories, common stories from other parts of the world, and clear explanations. Brunvand has a knack for making it all understandable and avoids being dry and lecturing. For the stories themselves you would want to see his many other collections; for research and reference you can not do without this book.

I've always been an Urban Legends fan, and throughout the years I've read quite a few books on them; this is one of the better ones. This book contains at least 400 Urban Legends, and the book is pretty thick at over 500 pages. Usually in these books we just get the basic rundown of the stories, but here we get an author who clearly knows what he's talking about, and we get quite a bit of information on folklore in general. People who are looking for a great reference on the subject will definitely want to pick this up. It would've been nice if some of the stories were a bit longer however (most stories run about a paragraph to a page), and the book can get a little teachy at times. Some sections of the book can get a bit slow, and a lot of readers will probably skip over parts to get to the stories. Overall though; it's terrific! Keep in mind that some of the stories (though untrue) are disturbing, and some do have a fair share of sexual content. Just a heads up if you're buying for a gift, or don't know anything about Urban Legends in general. Worth a buy for those looking for a good book on the subject.

I decided to pick up this book because I have always had a mild interest in urban legends. This book is well organized from A-Z. It contains several hundred urban legends within the pages. I was quite surprised about how several different urban legends blend together. The author dictates when the legend started and where it began. If you have any interest in urban legends then I would recommend this book. I was surprised at how many urban legends are documented and told.

I use this book when I want to teach students about folklore as they all know one urban legend or another. Good examples from the book plus Brunvand's expertise on folklore make for a clear explanation and vivid examples of this medium.

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.

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.

This book is what its title implies, "Encyclopedia of Urban Legends." There is an attempt to alphabetize the legends by title, however there is no good way to alphabetize them or any order to

read them in. so I suggest after a few random reads to just start front to back. Each entry is sort of annotated and referenced. Many times the annotation helps yet occasionally it just distracts and would have been better off to just tell the story and move on. Some of the entries have handwritten graphics. In the back there is an index that tries to organize the stories. Do not forget to look for your personal favorite from childhood. I do find myself repeating some of the legends to others. You can get some of the weirdest looks.

This is the ultimate book on Urban Legends and Jan Harold Brunvand is a mastermind on Urban Legends, I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in folklore and Mythology. Awesome Book !!!

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