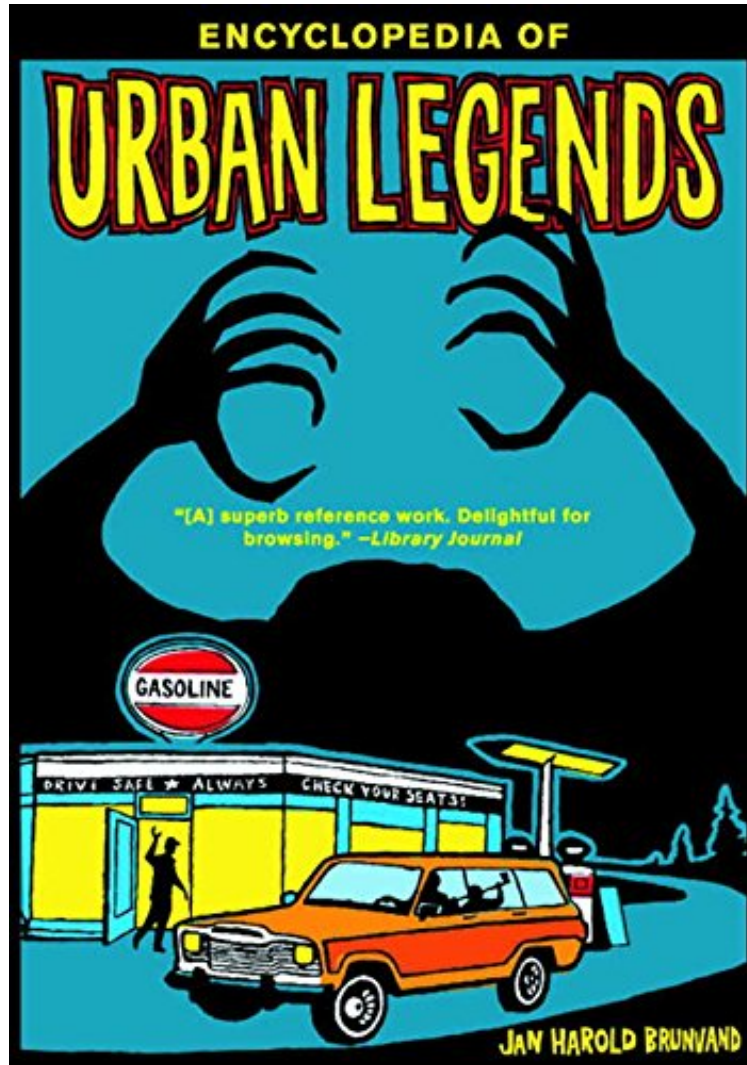


## Encyclopedia of Urban Legends

Jan Harold Brunvand

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#74595 in Books Jan Harold Brunvand 2002-11-17 2002-11-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x 1.30 x 7.00l, 2.52 #File Name: 0393323587560 pagesEncyclopedia of urban legends | File size: 53.Mb

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helpful. Perfect for any urban legend fan  
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This book is filled with a lot of wonderful U.L. I have always been a big fan.

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

From School Library Journal  
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  
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From Library Journal  
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.  
From Booklist  
Although other titles on urban legends are entertaining, the approach here is also scholarly and reflects the author's academic background. He defines urban legends as "all those bizarre, whimsical, 99 percent apocryphal, yet believable stories" of modern oral tradition. Among the nearly 500 entries are specific legends ("The Blind Date," "The Poison Dress," "Snakes in Playland"), along with common legend topics, categories, and themes (Fast food, Celebrities, Jumping to conclusions). Other entries deal with terms and concepts related to the study of urban legends (Motif, Ostension). Coverage focuses on the U.S. but also extends to Canada, England, and other English-speaking countries and to countries, such as Romania, in which published urban-legend collections are available. Most entries end with references to books and journals, and many include see also references. At the end of the volume is a selected bibliography including collections of American folklore and legends. Legends are entered under their conventional names, but few readers will be familiar with the conventions, and there are many variations. See references point from alternate to standard titles (Mall slashers SEE "The Slasher under the Car"). The index also helps in locating appropriate entry headings (contact lenses SEE "The Unlucky Contact Lenses," "The Welded Contacts"). However, there is no index entry for tickets to send the reader to "Take My Tickets, Please." More detailed keyword indexing would improve access. Libraries will find that this volume fills a gap between traditional folklore and stories of popular culture. It should be popular at the junior-high-school level and up. Schools will want to be aware that there are a few sex stories. RBBC  
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