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The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends And Some Old Favorites



Synopsis

"A uniquely entertaining book: edifying scholarship, diverting social history." •Elaine Kendall, Los Angeles Times "[The book] captures the spirit of convivial storytelling and even encourages the activity. . . . Many readers . . . will be gratified to know that Brunvand intends to continue this series of relaxed, unofficial excursions into popular legends. Admirers of curiosa and the psychology of crowds cannot afford to miss them." •Kirkus Reviews

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Customer Reviews

Brunvand's previous collections of urban legends (slightly fantastic stories that circulate in contemporary society), *The Vanishing Hitchhiker* and *The Choking Doberman*, have been extremely popular. This collection complements the earlier books and in fact contains, in part, new versions of stories presented in them. These stories, which are often accepted as true, reflect the concerns of modern life. Brunvand demonstrates their broad dissemination in both oral communication and popular culture. Most academic folklorists will not be satisfied with the lack of analysis here, but they, like other readers, will be highly entertained. David S. Azzolina, Univ. of Pennsylvania Libs., Philadelphia

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Captures the spirit of convivial storytelling and even encourages the activity. . . . Many readers . . . will be gratified to know that Brunvand intends to continue this series of relaxed, unofficial excursions into popular legends. Admirers of curiosa and the psychology of crowds cannot afford to

miss them. It is the charm of Mr. Brunvand's scholarship and presentation that he delivers the sad news of falsehood of these stories without being professorially reproachful toward those who have relayed him. Together, these new wives' tales merge as an American picaresque, a compilation of myths that keep the telephone wires humming and cocktail parties doubly fueled.

If you're interested in a good compilation of the texts of various urban legends, I'd highly recommend this book. Brunvand includes some of the ULs published in his earlier writing, but he adds a numerous new legends in this volume. The focus is largely on presenting a lot of stories, but there is enough background information to spark the readers' curiosity. His bibliography, foot-notes, and other publications can provide more information on the stories for readers who want more analysis. All-in-all, this book is a good introduction to the subject of urban legends, and he presents the stories very well. One of the more interesting elements of this book is that Brunvand finds the kernel of truth in some of the stories. He also shows how some can be debunked. Brunvand does miss the boat on a couple of the legends by claiming that they're not true, when they actually can be verified. A good example of this oversight is his attempt to debunk stories about big catfish. They really can grow to over 100 pounds in the USA, and some Asian varieties can exceed 600 pounds.

satisfied. my family , very recommend . Thin and sharp. Well excellence. Great product. very fast, receive it next day,

Who knew that the sheer number of urban legends could spawn yet another book? Brunvand is the legend specialist and his research is excellent as he relates the legends and then reveals their origins. It is amazing to read his books and realize how many people actually swear these stories are completely true and happened to a friend of a friend's hairdresser. This outing revisits some old favorites and also brings to light a few new ones. It is a fitting addition to the Brunvand collection (which are some of the best gift books to give and receive).

This is another fine example of logic and reason applied to the popular "friend of a friend" stories of our time. Brunvand puts a great deal of effort into finding variations of urban legends spread out across the United States and the world, reaching back many years to a usually unfindable source. If you believe in critical thinking, then this is a good book for you.

Brunvand has made himself a cult figure with his attacks on urban legends. Unfortunately, he has spawned a cult of know-it-alls who see the debunking of urban legends as the only end of folklore studies. Brunvand misses the point: people often do not believe urban legends anyways, but enjoy the clever twists of fiction. Debunking is not enough to appreciate the tales he relates.

I wouldn't give it an award or anything, but it wasn't all that bad

I wouldn't give this book to a dying rodent. It sucked my butt. My girlfriend gave it to me and I threw it back at her. It sucked

This book was okay but I'd recommend reading one of Jan's (Mr. Urban Legend) other books instead of this one....lame urban legends in my opinion.

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