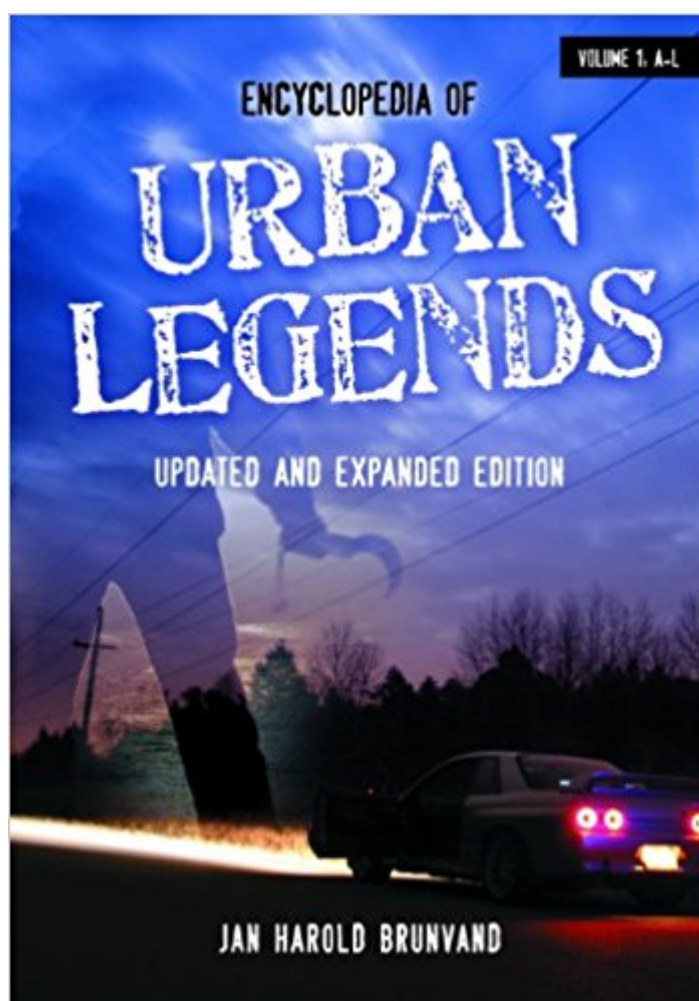


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Encyclopedia Of Urban Legends, Updated And Expanded Edition (2 Volume Set)



Synopsis

This revised edition of the original reference standard for urban legends provides an updated anthology of common myths and stories, and presents expanded coverage of international legends and tales shared and popularized online. • Approximately 300 individual entries for specific urban legends • An introduction provides a brief history of urban legend research • A selected bibliography and reference citations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Updated from the 2001 edition, the two-volume Encyclopedia of Urban Legends provides a concise overview of specific tales (and their variations), legend themes, legends by specific region, and an overview of urban-legend research. Each entry includes additional references for those wishing to do further study, something that is especially helpful for the more academic entries, such as "Literature and Urban Legends." Updates from the 2001 edition include additional entries on Hurricane Katrina, 9/11, and a section titled "Urban Legends in the Media, 2004-2011," which provides references to how the term urban legend has been used (and misused) in newspapers and magazines in the past decade. Prolific author Brunvand is still actively collecting these entries, and he provides his contact information to anyone who wishes to add to the list. The cross-referencing in the work is excellent. Not entirely sure of a legend's official name? A "Type Index of Urban Legends" at the end of the work categorizes the legends by common themes, such as "Legends About

Automobiles, "The Dead Pet Replaced," and "Trademarks and Logos, Etc., and more. What makes the encyclopedia stand out from the popular website Snopes.com (which provides a useful, free online catalog of urban legends) are the sections geared toward students—entries on Analysis and interpretation, Freudian approach, and Historical approach as well as entries about urban legends in other countries, such as Mexico, Russia, and Ireland. A selected bibliography at the end of the work provides additional resources for readers wishing to further their research (in addition to the source references at the end of most entries). One wish for future editions would be a reorganization of the entries. Instead of entries being entirely alphabetical, it would make sense to have separate sections for the specific legends, urban-legend research, and legends in other countries, as this might make the work easier for students to navigate. As it is, this is an excellent beginning resource for students interested in the subject. --Julie Elliott

"As well as an interesting examination of the folkloric origins of urban legends, their sources, permutations, and distribution, this encyclopedia is also tremendous fun to browse. Fans of urban legends will enjoy reading up on the classic stories as well as gaining some insight into legends from other countries and cultures. . . . This volume would be a good addition for humanities collections, but also a good individual purchase for personal use." - Reference Reviews

"This highly readable resource by Brunvand features variations from across the world on common themes such as animal infestations, crimes, academic legends, and celebrity rumors. . . . This will be a useful volume for public and school libraries and undergraduate academic collections. Summing up: recommended." - Choice

"This outstanding reference title represents Brunvand's professional commitment to the preservation and study of urban legends. . . . This comprehensive resource, which contains urban legends found in the United States, as well as numerous foreign ones, should be in the reference collection of all libraries." - ARBA

"The first edition of The Encyclopedia of Urban Legends was a good general resource for legend study, and the revised one is even better. The number and extent of the emendations certainly merits the new edition." - Journal of Folklore Research

"This book is more than just a collection of urban legends—it also includes important folkloric concepts and topics. . . . Accessible enough for the casual reader yet scholarly enough for academic researchers, The Encyclopedia of Urban Legends is an invaluable and fascinating book that merits a place on the shelf of any skeptic and student of folklore." - Skeptical Inquirer

"Brunvand's work, which is considered a standard on the topic, is recommended for public, school, and academic libraries, especially those lacking the earlier edition." - Library Journal

"The

cross-referencing in the work is excellent. . . . This is an excellent beginning resource for students interested in the subject." - Booklist

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