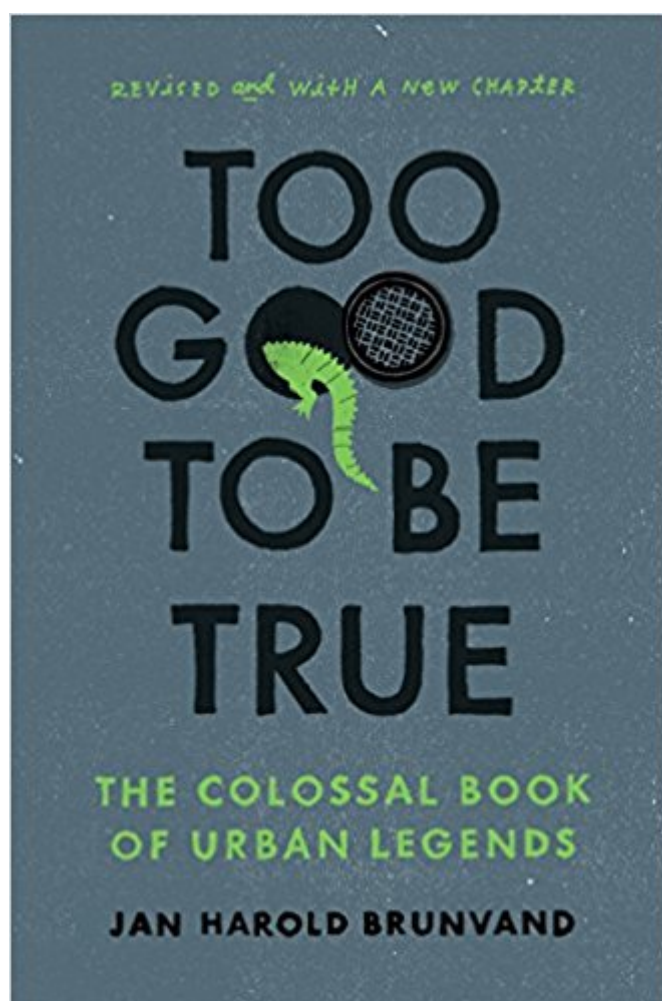


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Too Good To Be True: The Colossal Book Of Urban Legends (Revised And With A New Chapter)



Synopsis

The colossal classic becomes even more colossal with a full new chapter of recent urban legends. Alligators in the sewers? A pet in the microwave? No, it didn't really happen to your friend's sister's neighbor: it's an urban legend. And no matter how savvy you think you are, you are sure to find at least one story you always believed to be true in this colossal collection. Professor Jan Harold Brunvand is the leading authority on urban legends, and *Too Good to Be True*—now updated and expanded—is his most complete anthology. Whether you want to become an expert debunker or just have plenty of laughs, this book will surprise and entertain you. 74 illustrations

Book Information

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Entertainment > Humor > Urban Legends #1111 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology

Customer Reviews

If you enjoy these too-good-to-be-true tales, Brunvand's new book will give you hours of pleasure. • - Chicago Tribune
Resonant stories that express our hidden anxieties [and] make us laugh. • - San Francisco Chronicle
Urban legends persist, argues Brunvand, because people can't resist a good story. Read this book and you'll agree. • - Playboy

Jan Harold Brunvand lives in Salt Lake City, where he is professor emeritus at the University of Utah. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*; *The Choking Doberman*; *The Baby Train*; *Too Good to Be True*; and *Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid*.

Fun book full of UM's that I've heard over the years and some new ones.

Mr. Brunvand's book is a delight to read simply as a collection of Urban Legends - the stories play on our love of fun, irony, mischief, coincidence or even morbid twists of fate. But anyone could compile a bunch of urban legends. The real meat of the book is in Mr. Brunvand's analysis of each legend, or group of legends. It is pretty amazing to see him trace the origins of each legend and pick apart the contents. Several of the legends actually have their root in real events, but most are pure fancy. Why do I give it only a four star rating? I save the fifth for truly outstanding books. This one is fun, but not a must-read.

Format of the book: The author divides the book into chapters based on the theme of the legends. Each chapter has many legends (from his "files"), interspersed with his analysis. In his analysis, he may talk about the feasibility of a legend, the origin, other occurrences of the same or similar legends in history, or sociological aspects of the legend.

"Parental advisory": A few of the legends have some somewhat twisted sexual content.

So bottom line: Fun book - it will keep you entertained and give you the upper hand next time someone tries to tell you one of these legends.

For those who don't know, Jan Harold Brunvand has a column out in Salt Lake City, but has acquired a following all across the country, or rather the world. He is the leading scholar on the subject of urban legends, those sometimes funny and often terrifying stories you first heard on the playground or by the watercooler, which are always supposed to be true but can't be proved because they happened to a friend of a friend of a friend . . . This book, the "Colossal Book of Urban Legends" is really an updated combination of most of Brunvand's previous books, such as "The Vanishing Hitchhiker", "The Choking Doberman" and "The Baby Train". In other words, if you are going to buy this book, I doubt think you'll want to buy all the previous ones, though there might be a few stories in those not included here.

I heard all the stories growing up. Most of them anyway. Some of them I even believe until I read this book. It is amazing how vulnerable we can be to urban legends. Just because she said that he said. Kind of like all the arguments and debates about vitamins whether they don't or do work. I recall the whole eggs debate, butter And a host of other savory items that were supposed to be really super bad for you... But I guess it was just a country crock.

Â| No pun intended

I took a folklore class about two years ago and we were required to get this book. It has such interesting stories, some of which give you chills, while others make you laugh or lift a brow. It served me well in my class, and while most people want to get rid of their college text books, I had

to keep this one!

Too Good to be True explains the backgrounds to the stories we've all heard. I find it particularly useful for replying to Urban Legends that I get in my email. :-)

The downside is, knowing the facts behind the stories takes away the delicious thrill of fear that you get hearing and re-telling the stories.

This book would make excellent summertime reading. Certainly the author's dedication to dispelling urban myths is laudable. What caught my attention was the repeated instances of the media parroting these legends in popular print and TV. To my mind this shows the real bias in the news industry-not a left-of-center political bias, but a strong tendency to substitute "human interest" and entertainment for research and critical reporting. What I was surprised to find was the lack of analysis explaining why certain myths keep returning and why the public insists on believing them. Sure, there are capsule summaries after each story, but these mainly consist of "see my book xxxx for the story behind this myth". I could be a cynic and say this is a blatant attempt to sell more books; however I think it is the annoying (to me anyway) practice of authors using themselves as sources. If I have to see "book xxx" to find out about a legend, why should read this book in the first place?

Really good read. Came in handy the day I got called to jury duty.

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