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

*Jan Harold Brunvand*

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**Jan Harold Brunvand : The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good stories -- some in the way of truthBy grasshopper4If 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. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great!By Greensatisfied. my family , very recommend . Thin and sharp. Well excellence. Great product. very fast, receive it next day,3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Who Knew?By GypsychickWho 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 zand 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).

"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

From Library JournalBrunvand'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., PhiladelphiaCopyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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.About the AuthorJan 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*.