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Vanishing Hitchhiker The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and Their Meanings Encyclopedia of Urban Legends Forgotten Tales of South Carolina IS IT A GHOST OR SWAMP LIGHTS ? Lore of the Ghost The Big Book of Illinois Ghost Stories The Evidence for Phantom Hitch Hikers Famous Ghost Stories Journal of the Folklore Institute Journal of the Folklore Institute Too Good to Be True: The Colossal Book of Urban Legends Monsters European Folklore The Gothic Tradition in Supernatural How We Believe The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites North Carolina Folklore Storytelling Professionally The Bloomsbury Companion to New Religious Movements Alabama Curiosities Storytelling in Contemporary Societies North Carolina Folklore Journal The Art of the Possible Mexican Folk Narrative from the Los Angeles Area Urban Legends The Ghosts of Chicago The Automobile in American History and Culture The Choking Doberman: And Other Urban Legends Dracula: The Legend Lives Storytelling Curses! Broiled Again! Adventures in Paranormal Investigation America's Nightmare Monsters The Ghosts of Blue Bell Hill & other Road Ghosts Cincinnati Haunted Handbook Halloween A Scary Film Guide Trucker Ghost Stories The Phantom Hitchhiker Encyclopedia of Urban Legends, 2nd Edition [2 volumes]

Storytelling Professionally Jun 09 2021 Offers practical advice on preparing to perform, marketing, public relations, organizing one's time, getting bookings, and preventing and solving common problems

The Phantom Hitchhiker Sep 19 2019 Haunted houses, screaming skulls, phantom ships and demon dogs ... all here to enjoy!

How We Believe Sep 12 2021 A new edition covering the latest scientific research on how the brain makes us believers or skeptics Recent polls report that 96 percent of Americans believe in God, and 73 percent believe that angels regularly visit Earth. Why is this? Why, despite the rise of science, technology, and secular education, are people turning to religion in greater numbers than ever before? Why do people believe in God at all? These provocative questions lie at the heart of *How We Believe*, an illuminating study of God, faith, and religion. Bestselling author Michael Shermer offers fresh and often startling insights into age-old questions, including how and why humans put their faith in a higher power, even in the face of scientific skepticism. Shermer has updated the book to explore the latest research and theories of psychiatrists, neuroscientists, epidemiologists, and philosophers, as well as the role of faith in our increasingly diverse modern world. Whether believers or nonbelievers, we are all driven by the need to understand the universe and our place in it. *How We Believe* is a brilliant scientific tour of this ancient and mysterious desire.

Lore of the Ghost Jul 22 2022 Lore of the Ghost is an original and thought-provoking exploration of the numerous categories of ghosts and hauntings throughout the world. It discusses the possible motives for each type of haunting? from phantom white ladies and spectral black dogs to haunted highways and ghostly vehicles—what they represent, why they occur, and their possible functions.

Journal of the Folklore Institute Feb 17 2022

Storytelling in Contemporary Societies Mar 06 2021

The Gothic Tradition in Supernatural Oct 13 2021 The CW's long-running series *Supernatural* follows the adventures of brothers Sam and Dean Winchester as they pursue the "family business" of hunting supernatural beings. Blending monster-of-the-week storylines with the unfolding saga of the brothers' often troubled relationship, the show represents Gothic concerns of anxiety, the monstrous, family trauma and, of course, the supernatural. The lines between human and monster, good and evil, are blurred and individual identities and motivations resist easy categorization. This collection of new essays examines how the series both incorporates and complicates Gothic elements related to traditional tropes, storytelling, women and gender issues and monstrosity.

America's Nightmare Monsters Feb 23 2020 MEET SOME OF AMERICA'S SCARIEST REAL-LIFE MONSTERS ...* El Chupacabras* The Jersey Devil* Mothman* dragons* Lizardman* living dinosaurs* giant snakes* werewolves* vanishing hitchhikers* Men In Black... AND MANY MORE

The Evidence for Phantom Hitch Hikers May 20 2022 All over the world motorists report giving lifts to hitch-hikers who then vanish, ghostlike, en route. Phantom Hitch-Hikers, as these insubstantial passengers are called, have become classified as an urban legend and related to historical tales of supernatural travelling companions. But is there more to such stories than picturesque folklore? Are there genuine paranormal experiences behind the reports? This book addresses itself seriously to such questions and examines the available evidence for these encounters critically and objectively. In so doing, it dispels several misconceptions about the phenomenon and presents new evidence to suggest that in some cases real experiences are being reported. Aspects covered include: The Phantom Hitch-Hiker as folklore The Hitch-Hiker as prophet Literary precedents - the Demon Lover The role of the press The sexual element The historical background Evaluating the evidence

The Ghosts of Chicago Oct 01 2020 From Resurrection Mary and Al Capone to the funeral train of Abraham Lincoln, the spine-tingling sights and sounds of Chicago's yesteryear are still with us-- and so are its ghosts. Selzer pieces together the truth behind Chicago's ghosts, and brings to light dozens of never-before-told firsthand accounts. Take a historical tour of the famous and not-so-famous haunts around town. Sometimes the real story is far different from the urban legend ... and most of the time it's even gorier ...

The Choking Doberman: And Other Urban Legends Jul 30 2020 "A wonderfully entertaining book of American folklore and humor."—Elaine Kendall, Los Angeles Times Book Review Professor Jan Harold Brunvand expands his examination of the phenomenon of urban legends, those improbable, believable stories that always happen to a "friend of a friend."

The Bloomsbury Companion to New Religious Movements May 08 2021 The Bloomsbury Companion to New Religious Movements covers key themes such as charismatic leadership, conversion and brainwashing, prophecy and millennialism, violence and suicide, gender and sexuality, legal issues, and the portrayal of New Religious Movements by the media and anti-cult organisations. Several categories of new religions receive special attention, including African new religions, Japanese new religions, Mormons, and UFO religions. This guide to New Religious Movements and their critical study brings together 29 world-class international scholars, and serves as a resource to students and researchers. The volume highlights the current state of academic study in the field, and explores areas in which future research might develop. Clearly and accessibly organised to help users quickly locate key information and analysis, the book includes an A to Z of key terms, extensive guides to further resources, a comprehensive bibliography, and a timeline of major developments in the field such as the emergence of new groups, publications, legal decisions, and historical events.

Mexican Folk Narrative from the Los Angeles Area Dec 03 2020 Urban Los Angeles is the setting in which Elaine Miller has collected her narratives from Mexican-Americans. The Mexican folk tradition, varied and richly expressive of the inner life not only of a people but also of the individual as each lives it and personalizes it, is abundantly present in the United States. Since it is in the urban centers that most Mexican-Americans have lived, this collection represents an important contribution to the study of that tradition and to the study of the changes urban life effects on traditional folklore. The collection includes sixty-two legendary narratives and twenty traditional tales. The legendary narratives deal with the virgins and saints as well as with such familiar characters as the vanishing hitchhiker, the headless horseman, and the llorona. Familiar characters appear in the traditional tales—Juan del Oso, Blancaflor, Pedro de Ordimalas, and others. Elaine Miller concludes that the traditional tales are dying out in the city because tale telling itself is not suited to the fast pace of modern urban life, and the situations and characters in the tales are not perceived by the people to be meaningfully related to the everyday challenges and concerns of that life. The legendary tales survive longer in an urban setting because, although containing fantastic elements, they are related to the beliefs and hopes of the narrator—even in the city one may be led to buried treasure on some dark night by a mysterious woman. The penchant of the informants for the fantastic in many of their tales often reflects their hopes and fears, such as their dreams of suddenly acquiring wealth or their fears of being haunted by the dead. Miller closely observes the teller's relation to the stories—to the duendes, the ánimas, Death, God, the devil—and she notes the tension on the part of the informant in his relation to their religion. The material is documented according to several standard tale and motif indices and is placed within the context of the larger body of Hispanic folk tradition by the citation of parallel versions throughout the Hispanic world. The tales, transcribed from taped interviews, are presented in colloquial Spanish accompanied by summaries in English.

Adventures in Paranormal Investigation Mar 26 2020 Paranormal investigator Joe Nickell is equally at home when recreating the mysterious Nasca lines at a remote site in Kentucky as he is in his research lab at the office of the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. He has traveled the world, seeking to understand its strange mysteries. Nickell does not engage in hype or sensationalism, yet he avoids the instinctive dismissiveness of many skeptics. Instead, he scientifically investigates the claims he encounters with the intention of finding the truth. Guided by the notion that the extent of the evidence must be commensurate with the extent of the claim, and by the principle of Occam's Razor -- that the simplest tenable explanation is most likely correct -- Nickell has spent his career uncovering the truth behind seemingly inexplicable phenomena. In *Adventures in Paranormal Investigation*, Nickell presents the case files of his examinations of claims ranging from alien abductions to zoological enigmas. He investigates snake charmers, alien autopsies, crystal skulls, a Russian girl with X-ray eyes, Jack the Ripper, and a haunted gas chamber at Dachau, among many others. He even reveals how intuition has changed his life, causing him to meet the daughter he never knew he had. Nickell brings his trademark skepticism to each investigation, carefully observing each claim and using scientific methods honed over many years to discover the real stories behind these fascinating tales.

The Ghosts of Blue Bell Hill & other Road Ghosts Jan 24 2020 A case-centred study of Phantom Hitch-Hikers & Phantom Jaywalkers in Folklore and Fact. Tales of Phantom Hitch-Hikers are found the world over. But is there anything more to them than the staple of contemporary folklore they appear to be? Cases like Blue Bell Hill

suggest there is. Here, and in numerous other modern cases, witnesses report vivid and terrifying encounters with solid-looking figures that step into the paths of their vehicles. These events show an affinity with the legendary Phantom Hitch-Hiker, suggesting that far from being mere vestiges of a superstitious folk tradition, they may reflect a genuine but complex phenomenon that continues to manifest in modern times and settings, and challenges our very notions of reality. This book traces Blue Bell Hill's ghost from its roots in folklore to compelling fact, with nearly 50 witness accounts attesting to it as an important modern example of haunting on record, and arguably the foremost case of its kind in the world today.

Journal of the Folklore Institute Mar 18 2022

European Folklore Nov 14 2021

The Big Book of Illinois Ghost Stories Jun 21 2022 Hauntings lurk and spirits linger in the Prairie State Reader, beware! Turn these pages and enter the world of the paranormal, where ghosts and ghouls alike creep just out of sight. Author Troy Taylor shines a light in the dark corners of Illinois and scares those spirits out of hiding in this thrilling collection. From a gallows tree in Greene County where an apparition can still be seen hanging, to the lingering spirits of warring mobsters at the site of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, these stories of strange occurrences will keep you glued to the edge of your seat. Around the campfire or tucked away on a dark and stormy night, this big book of ghost stories is a hauntingly good read.

Halloween A Scary Film Guide Nov 21 2019 A look at the films and TV shows that pertain to the festive holiday of Halloween and including all the activities at this scary time. Carving jack-o-lanterns, apple bobbing, playing pranks, telling scary stories and watching horror movies.

Vanishing Hitchhiker Dec 27 2022 The groundbreaking book that launched America's urban legend obsession! Folklore scholar Jan Harold Brunvand assembles the best-known urban legends—including "The Hook," "The Spider in the Hairdo," and "The Baby-Sitter and the Man Upstairs"—and provides an enlightening and entertaining analysis of their variants and evolution. The *Vanishing Hitchhiker* was Professor Brunvand's first popular book on urban legends, and it remains a classic. The culmination of twenty years of collection and research, this book is a must-have for urban legend lovers.

Curses! Broiled Again! Apr 26 2020 From the master folklorist and sly wit, Jan Brunvand, comes a collection of all-new urban legends. Did your cousin's wife's dentist's daughter go to the tanning parlor once too often and had her insides cooked? Has your husband's brother's nephew teacher try to make a dead rabbit look alive? If so, you've heard—or you yourself may have told—two of the seventy-plus legends in this collection. Urban legends are "those bizarre but believable stories about batter-fried rats, spiders in hairdos, Cabbage Patch dolls that get funerals, and the like that pass by word of mouth as being the gospel truth." But of course, though often told as having happened to a FOAF (friend of a friend), they aren't true. Included in this collection are legends about sex, horror, cars, business, and academia. Among them are "The Bible Student's Exam," "The Pregnant Shoplifter," "The Ice Cream Cone Caper," "Don't Mess with Texas," and "Mrs. Fields' Cookie Recipe."

The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and Their Meanings Nov 26 2022 The book that launched America's urban legend obsession! The *Vanishing Hitchhiker* was Professor Brunvand's first popular book on urban legends, and it remains a classic. The culmination of twenty years of collection and research, this book is a must-have for urban legend lovers.

Encyclopedia of Urban Legends, 2nd Edition [2 volumes] Aug 19 2019 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

Storytelling May 28 2020 Storytelling is an ancient practice known in all civilizations throughout history. Characters, tales, techniques, oral traditions, motifs, and tale types transcend individual cultures - elements and names change, but the stories are remarkably similar with each rendition, highlighting the values and concerns of the host culture. Examining the stories and the oral traditions associated with different cultures offers a unique view of practices and traditions. "Storytelling: An Encyclopedia of Mythology and Folklore" brings past and present cultures of the world to life through their stories, oral traditions, and performance styles. It combines folklore and mythology, traditional arts, history, literature, and festivals to present an overview of world cultures through their liveliest and most fascinating mode of expression. This appealing resource includes specific storytelling techniques as well as retellings of stories from various cultures and traditions.

North Carolina Folklore Journal Feb 05 2021

The Mexican Pet: More "New" Urban Legends and Some Old Favorites Aug 11 2021 "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

The Automobile in American History and Culture Aug 31 2020 Presents a collection of bibliographic essays that describe the history, culture, and impact of the automobile and automobile industry in the United States.

North Carolina Folklore Jul 10 2021

Dracula: The Legend Lives Jun 28 2020 Nestled deep in the woods along a wooded path is an abandoned century old crypt that two girls will stumble upon, and curiosity gets the best of them, but they will never live to tell about it. It all started when these two friends Alicia and Mary Beth accepted a dare to see if the legend of Drac Von Stoller the prince of darkness was fiction or fantasy. The two girls thought it was a joke and laughed all the way out the door off to what they thought was a waste of time to a night of terror. There was one stipulation about the dare and if they didn't abide by it they would be humiliated at school the next day. The stipulation was that they had to go at sundown and take nothing with them but themselves and a flashlight. Just to make sure the two girls arrived at their destination at sundown the other girls that made the dare drove them to their destination and spent the night in the car to await their arrival with the news of their findings. Alicia and Mary Beth peered out their passenger windows in the back seat of the car and the fear of the unknown was starting to set in as sun was dropping rapidly off in the distance but they made a dare and they were not about to back out now and be they laughing stock of their classmates the next morning. The car arrived at the right moment as darkness filled the sky. Alicia and Mary Beth looked at each other with fear in their eyes but suppressed their fear and turned to the other girls in the front seat of the car and gave their best performance of courage and grabbed their flashlights and said lets go check out this fictitious legend and put it to rest once and for all and have the last laugh. One of the girls in the car yelled out as Alicia and Mary Beth headed off into the woods, "You just might want to take a cross and a stake with you in case you see a vampire?" the girls in the car laughed hysterically as Alicia and Mary Beth entered the woods with the unknown just moments away. As Alicia and Mary Beth got deeper into the woods the wind was picking up and thunder could be heard off in the distance. These two girls were on a mission and just kept pressing forward and hurried in hopes this would all be over soon and they could get back home and never come back to these woods again whether or not it was all made up. As the two girls were walking along Alicia tripped over a rock and fell down in front of a crypt that was surrounded by thick brush. Mary Beth shined her flashlight on the crypt and said "Look! Alicia what is a crypt doing out here in the middle of nowhere?" "I don't know? Why don't we go back and get the girls and investigate a little further," but before Alicia could get off the ground a tall dark figure emerged from the crypt and was standing in front of her and said "Are you looking for me?"

Forgotten Tales of South Carolina Sep 24 2022 From the desk of Sherman Carmichael comes a collection of about a hundred quirky and unpublished tales from the Palmetto State. Tales include everything from folk tales, urban legends, monsters, mermaids, ghost sightings, mysterious lights, UFO sightings, dinosaurs, and haunted locations.

Encyclopedia of Urban Legends Oct 25 2022 Presents descriptions of hundreds of urban legends and their variations, themes, and scholarly approaches to the genre, including such tales as disappearing hitchhikers and hypodermic needles left in the coin slots of pay telephones.

Famous Ghost Stories Apr 19 2022 Presents a history and critique of a selection of the famous ghost stories from different countries, organized by such common themes as spectral armies, phantom women in white, haunted houses, screaming skulls, crisis apparitions, and ghostly lights.

Cincinnati Haunted Handbook Dec 23 2019 Haunted Cincinnati Handbook is the first book in the new Haunted Handbook line within the popular Americas Haunted Road Trip series. The Haunted Handbooks are city-specific travel guides to nearly one hundred places within a major city. Each of th...

Alabama Curiosities Apr 07 2021 Discover Alabama's curious underside with this oddly entertaining little guide! Travelers with a taste for the bizarre, tacky, and hilarious can visit the Coon Dog Cemetery, learn about the cattle-mutilation mystery, view the world's largest boll weevil, and sip Kudzu Tea. Only a true Southerner could capture the essence of these and other authentic Alabama phenomena, and Andy Duncan does his home state proud.

IS IT A GHOST OR SWAMP LIGHTS ? Aug 23 2022 The subject of an afterlife and ghosts has a universal appeal that transcends time and culture. This book sheds light on the topic, while simultaneously offering some practical advice for living in this world with its limited number of hours we have left. The author's journey through his own personal experiences will help others who are also seeking to understand the supernatural. It is hoped that it may be helpful to those who believe they see or hear something beyond our physical reality. In addition - perhaps more importantly - there is no better way than reading about someone else's experience to gain perspective from another angle. If you are experiencing paranormal activity in your life, please know that it is not always due to evil spirits or malicious intent. Some things simply cannot be explained by science alone.

Monsters Dec 15 2021 "The author discusses monsters from the perspective of traditional magical lore, describing the characteristics of vampires, ghosts, werewolves, fairy creatures, mermaids, dragons, spirits, angels, and demons, and examining evidence of their existence."--BWI.

Too Good to Be True: The Colossal Book of Urban Legends Jan 16 2022 "If you enjoy these too-good-to-be-true tales, Brunvand's new book will give you hours of pleasure."—Chicago Tribune A fabulously entertaining book from the ultimate authority on those almost believable tales that always happen to a "friend of a friend."

Alligators in the sewers? A pet in the microwave? A tragic misunderstanding of the function of cruise control? 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 in this collection of over 200 tales at least one story you would have sworn was true. Jan Harold Brunvand has been collecting and studying this modern folklore for over twenty years. In *Too Good to Be True* he captures the best stories in their best retellings, along with their latest variations and examples of how the stories have changed as they move from person to person and place to place. To help you find your favorite, Brunvand has arranged the tales thematically. "Bringing Up Baby" is full of episodes of child-rearing gone wrong, including the grisly tale of the drugged out baby-sitter who mistakes the kid for a turkey. "Funny Business" showcases stories of infamous lapses in customer service, such as the story of the shockingly expensive chocolate chip cookie recipe. And "The Criminal Mind" features both brilliant --if they were real --scams, as well as the purported antics of the less mentally gifted. Whether you want to become an expert debunker or just have plenty of laughs, this book will surprise and entertain you. Illustrated throughout. "Informative and entertaining.... Brunvand has collected more than 200 of the most-repeated and best-known examples of modern folk-myth."—Tampa Tribune "[N]ot only an entertaining anthology, but an excellent introduction to the study of folklore itself."—Publishers Weekly "A fun read... . All the classics are here from the killer upstairs to the Kentucky Fried Rat."—New City "Resonant stories that express our hidden anxieties ... make us laugh, [or] arouse our fascinated horror."—San Francisco Chronicle Book Review "Informative and entertaining... . Brunvand has collected more than 200 of the most-repeated and best-known examples of modern folk-myth."—Tampa Tribune "[N]ot only an entertaining anthology, but an excellent introduction to the study of folklore itself."—Publishers Weekly

Trucker Ghost Stories Oct 21 2019 In a uniquely entertaining book by a rising star, here are uncanny true tales of haunted highways, weird encounters, and legends of the road. It may have happened to you; it's happened to almost everyone who's ever driven down a highway at night, or in the fog, or snow. Something suddenly appears: a flash of movement, a shadow...what was it? It could be, as the true stories in this book attest, a ghost. These are true stories from the highways and byways of America. These firsthand accounts are as varied as the storytellers themselves—some are detailed and filled with the terror and suspense that made people feel they had to share what happened to them with others; others are brief and straightforward retellings of truly chilling events. Here is a chupacabra attack on the desert highway between L.A. and Las Vegas; ghost trains and soldiers; UFOs; the prom girl ghost of Alabama; a demon in Texas, and other accounts of the creepy, scary things that truckers and other drivers and passengers told to editor Annie Wilder. With so many different stories, *Trucker Ghost Stories* moves beyond the usual haunted house to offer stories to entice any ghost story reader...and anyone who's ever wondered.... At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The Art of the Possible Jan 04 2021 To situate ourselves in 'a matter-flow' means, first of all, to make our perspectives flexible and constantly make them new. In addition, the discovery of 'a matter-flow' forces us to see the pre-epistemological state of being, and it enables us to love all the living things in the real world. We experimented with such concepts as intuition, force, ch'i, the line of flight, wu-wei, and body. The art of the possible in 'a matter-flow' will have to continue.

Urban Legends Nov 02 2020 To many, Urban Legends are nothing more than harmless tales told round a camp fire, in a dormitory or round a table in a pub with the express aim of provoking a frisson of fear in the listener through the use of some horrific shock element in a familiar location and to an unlucky protagonist who is known to a friend of a friend of a friend. But is there something working at a deeper level? We have all heard stories of the Deep Fried Rat, the Ghostly Hitchhiker, the Hook Handed Killer or the Poodle in the Microwave but should we take them at face value or greet them with scorn and derision? Did the events in these tales ever really happen or are they the product of over active imaginations fearful of the outside world? In this book Nick Harding sets out to describe a host of Urban Legends suggesting that we should not dismiss them purely as nonsense nor accept them as gospel truth but by striving to understand their underlying meanings we begin to see their true worth as folklore for the modern world. To understand folklore and therefore the realm of the Urban Legend is to understand the psyche of a nation. By understanding Urban Legends we can gain an insight into our own fears and those of our fellow human beings.

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