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The Baby Train: And Other Lusty Urban Legends



Synopsis

America's foremost folk-detective is back on the case, sniffing out those zany but dubious stories that "really happened" to a friend of your sister's boyfriend's accountant. In "The Baby Train", Jan Harold Brunvand tracks the most fabulous tales making today's dinner party circuit, showing why those stories that sound too good to be true probably are too good to be true. Revealed here are the mysteries behind some of the goriest ("Accidental Cannibal", "The Body in the Bed"), funniest ("The Failed Suicide", "The Hairdresser's Error"), bawdiest, ("The Shocking Videotape", "Superhero Hijinx"), most pyrotechnic ("The Exploding Bra") urban legends yet.

Book Information

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Folklore

Customer Reviews

Jan Harold Brunvand wrote this book as the fifth installment in his urban legend series that begins with The Vanishing Hitchhiker. It tells us a little bit about the common forms of these stories and the mental processes that shape them. Then it does its primary job of telling interesting, mostly untrue stories that happened to "a friend of a friend."The book's title story is about an unusually high birth rate in a small western town. It was supposedly caused by a train which regularly blew its whistle going through the town each morning at 4 AM, waking many of the residents. Since it was too early to get up and too late to go back to sleep... the town had a higher than usual birth rate. In some versions of the story, the railroad changes the train schedule to ease the population explosion. In others, some families are immune because of deafness, shift work, or other factors. Other interesting stories are organized into categories of horror, crime, work, fun and games, foreign relations, animal

legends, and academic legends. The absence of a chapter of urban legends with sexual themes sets this book apart from previous volumes. Perhaps that well has run dry. A few favorites:- A family assumes the tin of unlabeled brown powder mailed to them by relatives is coffee. Too late they learn it was their cremated grandmother.- A flight attendant is unobtrusively wearing an inflatable bra under her uniform. Suddenly, the airplane cabin depressurizes...- A thrifty pet owner splints his budgie's leg with wooden matches to save a trip to the vet.

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