

## The Lore of Urban Legends

Urban Legend, urban myth, urban tale and contemporary legend.  
Sometimes described as modern folklore.

A humorous or horrific story or piece of information circulated as though true, especially one purporting to involve someone vaguely related or known to the teller.

A modern myth, of often frightening (gross or funny), **untrue** story in which the storyteller insists is true, but has no evidence to support it.

Never happens to the person who tells it to you. (FOAF—friend of a friend)

Urban legends are:

Intended to be taken as stories or real events happening to real people in real locations.

Consistency separates an Urban Legend from a rumor, lie or fairy tale.

Has irony

Emotion

Thrive on new Technology.

Most often told conversationally and happen locally or somewhere familiar to teller and listener.

Most familiar ones are probably:

The Chocking Doberman, Spiders in the hairdo, Rat in the chicken bucket, Mexican Pet, Bloody Mary, Boogie Man, The Hitchhiker and don't forget Moonville Tunnel, Cry Baby Bridge and the Kidnapper at Wal-Mart.

[urbanlegends.com](http://urbanlegends.com) Most Awesome! Has tons of good stuff.

[Urbanlegendsonline.com](http://Urbanlegendsonline.com)

[americanfolklore.net/folklore/urban-legends](http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/urban-legends)

[scaryforkids.com/urban-legends](http://scaryforkids.com/urban-legends) Second most awesome!

[Mashable.com/2015/10/27/horror-greats-urban-legends](http://Mashable.com/2015/10/27/horror-greats-urban-legends)

Offers videos, stories, local lore and a quiz. Really cool.

[Americanfolklore.net](http://Americanfolklore.net) I would recommend you start here if you don't usually tell urban legends. The site offers the older legends you may be familiar with.

[Theatlantic.com](http://Theatlantic.com)

Tells us why we want to believe the legends and other interesting stuff.

Scambusters.org

Urban Legends and Hoaxes Resource Center.

A must for almost everyone. "At this site you can quickly find out whether popular (and usually 'urgent') emails are true or whether they are Urban-legends or hoaxes.

Snopes.com also covers current "is this true?" rumors

Scaryforkids.com/urban-legends

Beside having a lot of urban-legends the site offers stories by category such as ghost, horror, true stories, scary riddles, creepy, short, Halloween, spooky, sad, funny. Plus a category called creepypasta and chain letters.

Thoughtcatalog.com/jacob-geers/2016/here-is-the-scariest-urban-legend-from-every-state

The story for Arkansas has a picture of "The Dog Boy." The stories are short, but inspiring.

YouTube has videos of eight urban-legends "that turned out to be true!"

My favorite book sources are:

Thomas Craughwell

*Baby On the Car Roof and 222 More Urban-legends*

*The Cat in the Dryer and 222 More Urban-legends*

*Alligators in the sewer and 222 More Urban-legends*

Jan Brunvand

*Encyclopedia of Urban-legends, Choking Doberman, The Mexican Pet* and others

Gail Stewart

*Urban-legends*

If you can't find an urban-legend you want to tell in these books you should probably be writing your own legends.

Remember my motto: If it isn't any fun I am not doing it.

Have fun.

Bizzie Vunderink