
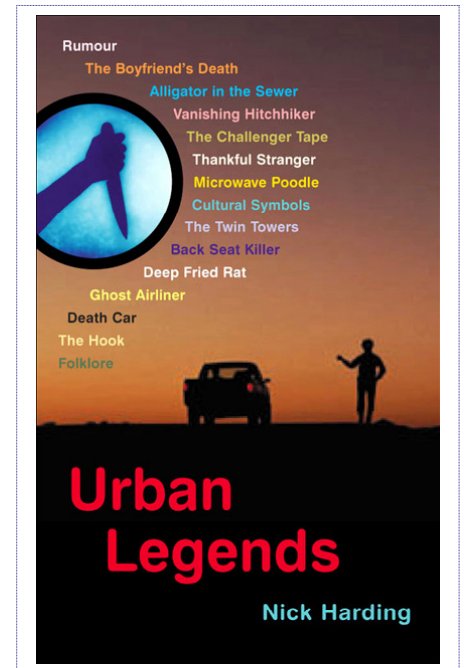


# Urban Legends

## Nick Harding

**new title**

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- everyone knows one and they have tremendous word-of-mouth power, but they haven't been brought together in this way before
- with the rise in internet use, there has been a correspondingly explosive growth in the urban legend phenomenon
- the related pocket essential on conspiracy theories sold incredibly well

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.

**Nick Harding** is a screenwriter, film producer, comedy sketch writer and poet. He is currently working on two major feature films for theatrical release and was co-writer of the *Notebooks of Cornelius Crow* directed by Sean Martin (*Black Death*, *The Knights Templar*). When off duty he can be found underground in the caves of the Mendip Hills.

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