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L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels

By Paul Young



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Every city has its urban legends, its tall tales, and even its outright lies, and Hollywood and Los Angeles have enough to fill a book--and Paul Young has done just that.

L.A. Exposed includes the facts behind the myths surrounding everything from the tall tales of tinsel town, to the legend and lore of LA landmarks, to rock n' roll rumors, to Southern California's unnatural history, to the city's crime lore, to tales of corruption and conspiracy in the land of sunshine and health; *LA Exposed* dares to ask the hard questions. Does L.A. really have earthquake weather? Did Alfred Hitchcock ask Grace Kelly to do a strip teast in her front window? Is there treasure buried in the Watts Towers? Are there still opium dens in Chinatown? Was Barbara Streisand ever in a porn film? Young gives readers the lowdown on the city's most enduring myths, exploring their origins, and whether there is an ounce of truth to any of them.

L.A. Exposed, inventive, witty, and addictive, is sure to be a hit in L.A. and beyond.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Was Fidel Castro an extra in a Hollywood movie? Did Hitchcock ask Grace Kelly to do a strip tease in her window? Do murder rates go up when the Santa Ana winds arrive? These and other rumors are explained and dispelled (or verified) in *L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels*. Paul Young (Buzzwords: *L.A. Freshspeak*, with Anna Scotti) researched dozens of persistent urban myths and scandals surrounding the celebrities, landmarks, natural history, politicians and criminals of Los Angeles. Writing in the breathless, hyperbolic style of the tabloid stories he investigates, the knowledgeable Young is not immune to stirring up a few conspiracy theories of his own.

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From Library Journal

Young (coauthor, Buzzwords: *L.A. Fresh Speak*) has compiled a wide collection of stories about the many myths, rumors, urban legends, and flat-out lies surrounding Los Angeles and Hollywood. The book has limited academic value, but fans of popular culture in general and those who enjoy stories about the City of Angels in particular will find a treasure of fascinating tales. Young tends to focus on the sexually lurid aspects of Hollywood mythmaking, with many stories fit for the *National Enquirer*. He considers such rumors as Jamie Lee Curtis's being a hermaphrodite, Errol Flynn's spying for the Third Reich, whether Tom Cruise is gay, and so on. Also recounted are specific claims about the city, such as the treasure buried in Watts Towers and the mythic opium dens in Chinatown. The author seldom reaches any conclusions about these stories; mostly, he simply tells us that many rumors are false. Diehard fans of L.A.-style sensationalism might appreciate this collection, but those looking for any real conclusions about the city and its inhabitants will be disappointed. Recommended with reservations for public libraries specializing in popular culture.

Tim Delaney, Canisius Coll., Buffalo

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From [Booklist](#)

The breathless title gives hope that this may pack the same punch as Kenneth Anger's trash fest *Hollywood Babylon*. Although Young's account has its fair share of sensationalism--he covers some of the same scandals Anger did, including the Fatty Arbuckle affair--its pages are padded with other, less-than-titillating "allegations," such as the fact that before L.A. had aqueducts, the city hired rainmakers to find water. But on to more pressing questions: Was Charles Manson secretly working for the FBI? Did President Kennedy have Marilyn Monroe murdered? Young answers "speculation" to the first, and "no one will ever know for sure" to the second. Equivocating answers like these sometimes make the book less than satisfying, and there's a psychobabble problem, too: Manson represents "the dark sinister forces of the unconscious, which when ignored . . . explode in paroxysms of repressed rage." On the plus side, the format, reminiscent of *Confidential* magazine, is delightfully kitschy; and the contents, though uneven, are sometimes both fascinating and funky. Enquiring minds will find the good parts. *Ilene Cooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Swisher:

The book L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels? Wide variety you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you could give for each other; you can share all of these. Book L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels has simple shape but you know: it has great and big function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by open up and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Samuel Gorman:

Do you one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels book is readable simply by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer connected with L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels content conveys thinking easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different such as it. So , do you continue to thinking L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Paul Moore:

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Jack Jackson:

This L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels are generally reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The reason why of this L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this L.A. Exposed: Strange Myths and Curious Legends in the City of Angels giving you an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

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