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# The Exploding Toilet



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## Synopsis

Hey, did you hear about the guy who dropped a lit cigarette into the toilet without seeing the gasoline rags soaking in the bowl? Of course you did, it happened to your cousin's gym teacher. Or was it your gym teacher's cousin? Storytellers David Holt and Bill Mooney follow up their previous hit *Spiders in the Hairdo* with a whole new collection of modern urban legends. Here you'll find stupid criminals, government SNAFU's, scary stories, and a section featuring the Internet. These stories are too good not to pass on.... Once you start telling them, your friends will say you're on a roll! These prankster school stories will teach readers the importance of courage, resourcefulness and fairness.

## Book Information

Age Range: 1 - 14 years

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Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up – Seamy, quirky, or scary, these expanded versions of urban myths and legends are striking nuggets of jolting, sometimes shocking episodes for an audience that is difficult to shock. Even for those who've heard it all before, these pieces are good for laughs, gasps, wincing, or sighs of relief or disbelief. A follow-up to Holt and Mooney's *Spiders in the Hairdo* (August House, 1999), these often humorous entries provide surprise twists. In one selection, a woman licks an envelope only to find it filled with roach eggs that eventually hatch on her tongue; in another, thanks to a gas station attendant, a woman avoids getting into her car where an attacker awaits. The book

is perfect for sleepovers or camping trips where a bit of a thrill is in order. Simple writing style and brief entries make this a fun selection for reluctant readers as well. --Tracy Karbel, Glenside Public Library District, Glendale Heights, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**David Holt Bio:** David Holt found his life's journey in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. With a passion to become an old-time banjo player, David traveled to remote mountain communities like Kingdom Come, Kentucky and Sodom Laurel, North Carolina searching for the best traditional musicians. Holt found hundreds of old-time mountaineers with a wealth of folk music, stories and wisdom. There was banjoist Wade Mainer, ballad singer Dellie Norton, singing coal miner Nimrod Workman, and 122-year-old washboard player Susie Brunson. Holt learned to play not only the banjo but also many unusual instruments like the mouth bow, the bottleneck slide guitar and even the paper bag. For over three decades, David's passion for traditional music and culture has fueled a successful performing and recording career. He has earned four Grammy Awards and performed and recorded with many of his mentors including Doc Watson, Grandpa Jones, Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Roy Acuff and Chet Atkins. Today he tours the country performing solo, with his band The Lightning Bolts and with Sutton, Holt and Coleman. His work has been featured in a number of public television productions.

The other, more negative, reviewer is a little harsh but I can see his point. This isn't a book that you become enamored with necessarily the minute you pick it up. It seems to be a bit more basic, less comprehensive or "professional" than something you might want for the genre. STILL...if you read through it's first half and haven't found yourself engaged or smiling regularly - then I think there might be something wrong with you. Major folk tale, legends, or "weird short stories" fans may really be able to get something out of it. That's why I bought it - because I like the much shorter, more unpredictable stories out there of all kinds. They're all just so fun and easy to read. Whether it's Brothers Grimm or old American scary stories - these kinds of legends and fairy tales (well-known or not) - always seem to rise above with a certain charm. That being said, I'll admit to only liking about half of the "tales" included within this title. Some seem pointless. However, some of the ones I did like are real gems that I'd be happy to re-read down the line. I would try this book because, at the end of the day, the authors have done a neat job of laying out these pieces while including some good ones that you might not be able to find in-print anywhere else.

If you're considering this book, pick it up and read a section of it (some are under a paragraph long). If you think its stupid, you'll think the whole book is stupid. If you like one section, you'll like the book. Its cheesy. It tells nothing about where these urban legends started. Its a loose collection of urban legends. It made me smile a few times but it never made me laugh. Its good to have to sit next to your toilet for reading to pass time. My kid didn't like it really. She came to me a few times because she didn't understand what was so funny about a story. And I couldn't find it. Kind of a waste of time. I give it a two because i think if you can't get your kid to read anything else, this might be the kind of reading he or she would want to do. I picked it up for us thinking it would be funny and it wasn't really funny at all.

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