



## **Hippo Eats Dwarf: A Field Guide to Hoaxes and Other B.S.**

*Alex Boese*

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Can you grow a bonsai kitten? Should you stock up on dehydrated water? Is it easy to order human-flavored tofu? Or is this all just B.S.?

In a world of lip synching, breast implants, payola punditry, and staged reality shows, it's hard to know the real from the fake. Hippo Eats Dwarf is the essential field guide to today's Misinformation Age. Whether you're deciphering political doublespeak or trying to decide whether to forward that virus warning, hoaxpert Alex Boese provides the guidelines you need. For instance, Reality Rule 6.1: Just because you read it on the Internet doesn't make it true.

With case files, reality checks, definitions, and plenty of doctored photos, Hippo Eats Dwarf is an entertaining guide to life, death, eBay, and everything in between.

## Hippo Eats Dwarf: A Field Guide to Hoaxes and Other B.S. Details

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Author : Alex Boese

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## **From Reader Review Hippo Eats Dwarf: A Field Guide to Hoaxes and Other B.S. for online ebook**

### **Indy says**

It seems that people's wisdom does not grow with their age, especially in modern age when advanced technology fosters an overflow of information (true and false) on various social media and internet.

This book shows you the world's greatest urban myths, fakes and hoaxes. You will be surprised to know how many people take them as real and treat those very seriously.

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### **Barbara says**

The book was published in 2006, which dates it a bit, but the information contained within makes for a breezy read. This nonfiction guide to Internet hoaxes and urban legends explains itself rather well in the introduction: "Living in a hippo-eats-dwarf world requires hippo-eats-dwarf survival skills." There is so much in our world that is fraudulent, it's necessary to be able to determine what's real and what's fake. The author holds a degree in the history of science and has also authored another book, *The Museum of Hoaxes*, which I also recommend.

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### **Arminzerella says**

This is a collection of crazy things – images, stories, chain letters, warnings, fakery, etc. that have been reported in the news, found on the internet, and circulated via email. It's perfect for browsing if you're looking for a laugh or some interesting conversational tidbits to bring to your next gathering (and if you don't have access to Snopes.com, where you can go to learn about and in many cases debunk all of the panicked emails forwarded to you by your mother).

I got about half way through this – reading it straight through – and then I was finished (but the book goes on!). While it can be read like this, most readers will probably want to skim it or open it randomly and feast their eyes on whatever they find on the particular page on which they've landed. There's actually a lot of early internet day nostalgia betwixt these pages – if you've been online since the early 90s, you'll find yourself exclaiming, "I remember that!" And since these things often make the rounds many times over the years, others may be experiencing these phenomena for the very first time. Oh lucky you! Pick it up, read a little, put it down – you're almost sure to find something weird and hilarious in this field guide.

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### **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Taylor Rector for TeensReadToo.com

HIPPO EATS DWARF: A FIELD GUIDE TO HOAXES AND OTHER B.S. is hilarious! If you want something light and fun to read, then this is the book for you! And how could you not want to read a book

called HIPPO EATS DWARF? As if that isn't the greatest title ever!

This book is all about hoaxes that people have created or have thought up! There are some great ones in this book. They are things as obvious as the "you must forward this e-mail or you are going to die" e-mails that everyone gets to the unreality of reality TV shows.

I really liked this book, and have a friend who really liked it, also. There are some really funny, useless facts in this book, too. I definitely will tell all of my friends to read this!

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### **Kevinjwoods says**

Badly needs updating to take away some of the more obvious urban myths such as the Fargo tourist that he cites as real.

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### **Alice says**

I've given this book 3 stars, but it's really more a 3.5, I'm just being stingy.

Hippo Eats Dwarf is exactly my type of book, I'm really into myths and subliminal messages and things of that nature, so I was extremely and excited and surprised to receive this book. And let me tell you, it does not disappoint. This book of random and unuseful facts is extremely interesting and I soaked up every ounce of information. However, towards the end, I did feel the book got a bit too samey, and thus my interest waned. This may have been my fault, as I feel this book was more a pick up and read whenever, rather than a sit down and read front to back, which I did. Thus, I downgraded its mark.

I would definitely recommend this to those who are interested in hoaxes and things like that, and I would definitely recommend it!

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### **Amy Bunn says**

(This review first appeared on Williamsburg Regional Library's *Blogging for a Good Book*.  
<http://bfgb.wordpress.com/2007/10/12/...>)

Boese ferrets out the truth behind urban myths, scams, hoaxes, outright lies, and a few strange things that actually turn out to be true. Some of these stories will be familiar (Is anyone still falling for that Nigerian bank scam? You know, the one where some guy asks you to send some money to help him get his money into the U.S.....). Other stories might not be (Did you know that the Sudanese press once contributed to a rumor that a Zionist agent was loaning out electric combs that removed the borrowers' genitals? I missed that one!)

The author's approach is lighthearted and humorous, and while this isn't the kind of book that cites everything, Boese exudes authority and reliability in his conclusions. As each individual entry represents a quick, self-contained reading experience, you can choose to read one entry at a time, or you can enjoyably devour an entire chapter at once.

If you're interested in some additional entertainment, take a gander at the customer reviews for this book on Amazon. They're a perfect example of why Hippo Eats Dwarf warns "Amazon reviews should be taken with a heavy grain of salt."

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### **Alex says**

Disappointing. The vast majority of Boese's "reality rules" don't include anything a reasonably intelligent person wouldn't already know. There are occasionally some interesting examples, but overall I feel like I wasted my time on this book. Also, some of his criticisms are ridiculous, such as saying that LotR fans don't understand what reality is because they sometimes debate the finer points of the elvish language. Apparently Boese doesn't know that Tolkein enjoyed inventing languages, and constructed the stories around his languages, making debates about the elvish languages he created just as valid as debated about any other language. Also, Boese's own grammar reflects his inability to fully follow a single train of thought.

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### **Fran says**

I really enjoyed this book and I hope the author publishes an updated version.

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### **Anita says**

This compilation of urban legends, hoaxes, and funny stories is oddly dated. The speed of information in the internet age makes 2006 seem a long time ago. Rather than timeless, this book is outdated. Bernie Madoff has outshone the Enron house of cards, the Michael Jackson suicide hoax has been long forgotten after his real death, and most of the slang has been usurped with new terms.

Some things never change however. These sorts of books are always better as bathroom books (read a little periodically) rather than straight through. It is never a good idea to monkey around with print color. Brown print on green pages--hard to read, I found the changing page and ink colors distracting and cheap.

That being said, I do have something to say about hippos and dwarfs.

Kristin, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Kristin, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Not believe in carnivorous hippos! You might as well not believe in Santa Claus!

Yes, Kristin, there is a circus where hippos feed on unsuspecting dwarfs and jackalopes run free. A world where Nigerian millionaires are giving away money, and Brittany Spears sings live.

No yawning hippos endangering short people! Ridiculous. Thank heavens there is a place where the Weekly World News lives and reports forever. A thousand years from now, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, it will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.\*

\*My apologies to the New York Sun.

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### **Kaje Harper says**

I admit, I grabbed this off the library shelf because the tornado sirens were going off and I needed something in hand to read while cowering in the shelter zone of the library. But I checked it out after the all clear and read it all the way through. This is an amusing account of hoaxes and scams, mainly on the Internet but also in real life. Some have had amazing durability as urban legends. Others are surprising only in that people actually fell for them (spaghetti trees?) This is mostly for fun, in short humorous sections perfect for reading in waiting rooms (if you can avoid snorting with laughter in public) or for ten minutes at the end of a long day when you need to turn your sour mood around. Most people won't find a lot of new or protective information here (especially given the 2006 date), although handing it to your teenager may be an acceptable way to instill a little caution. Some warnings about things like phony E-bay bids or faux blogs may be good reminders of the benefits of skepticism. But mostly this is entertainment, and I defy anyone to read it without a giggle or three.

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### **Alice says**

This is a fun little book that's surprisingly relevant given when it was written.

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### **Kirsti says**

An interesting guide to hoaxes, and I have to admit, some of them I've been fooled by for years! While I was never going to go to Nigeria to collect my boyfriend's mysterious Uncle's fortune (did you know that these have moved on from JUST emails to actual letters as well? We didn't, but Bowie has had two rich relatives die in different countries just this year! Imagine that!) some of the urban legends had me at fact for ages.

This is the kind of book you should read occasionally, so you don't get bored with the similar stories. Also, there are questions at the end of each chapter; I recommend reading the question then flipping to the answers. I read all the questions and then answers and couldn't remember the original question!

Interesting book, well researched and written. Four stars.

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### **Hung Tran says**

Enjoyed

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### **Beatrix says**

Outdated.

