STRANGE BUT (MOSTLY) TRUE® STORIES

BOOK 2



The *Baychimo* | The Mothman Mystery
Man vs. Gator | and More!



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A SUPER FIND

Imagine finding a valuable item hidden in a wall. What if it was worth more than the house it was found in? Now that would be an amazing find.

David Gonzalez fixes up old homes. In 2013, he was working on a house he had bought in Minnesota. Gonzalez tore down the walls and ceiling. Newspapers from 70 years ago had been stuffed inside. They had been used as insulation. As Gonzalez removed the papers, he came across something amazing. It was a copy of *Action Comics No. 1.*

This very rare comic book is from 1938. Within its pages, Superman appears for the first time. Today, the Man of Steel is one of the most popular superheroes ever.

Gonzalez did some research. The comic

was very valuable. He decided to auction it off. A fierce bidding war occurred. Many people wanted this rare comic. It eventually sold for $175,000. That is over 17 times more than what Gonzalez paid for the house.

Another copy of the comic sold for $2.16 million in 2011. That one was in better condition than Gonzalez's find. His copy could have sold for more. But the cover was damaged.

Work continued on the house. Gonzalez soon made another discovery. Another comic book had been hidden in the walls. This one was *Superman No. 4* from 1940. It was estimated to be worth between $500 and $5,000. That was much less than his first find. But it was still a lot of money. Especially since all Gonzalez had to do to find it was knock down a wall.

THE STRANGE TRUTH

- Gonzalez sometimes leaves money in the walls of houses that he is working on. He hopes it might be discovered by someone in the future.
- Fifty-one people bid on Gonzalez's copy of *Action Comics No. 1*.
- Gonzalez and his wife's aunt got into an argument about how much the comic was worth and accidently tore its cover. This tear knocked $75,000 off its value.
- It is unknown if Gonzalez decided to keep or sell his copy of *Superman No. 4*.
- One town's mayor asked Gonzalez to search three houses for valuable items that may have been hidden within their walls.



THE *BAYCHIMO*

In early October 1931, a cargo ship called the *Baychimo* became stuck in the thick Alaskan ice. The crew stayed aboard. They hoped the ice would break up soon. But a bad storm hit the area. Winds howled. Blinding snow fell. Violent waves rocked the ship.

Two weeks later, the ship was still stuck. Half the crew was airlifted to safety. The captain ordered everyone else to shore. There, they set up a small camp. Weeks went by as they waited for a break in the weather.

A blizzard hit on November 24. It hid the ship from view. By morning, the storm had finally passed. But the *Baychimo* had vanished. Had the ship broken up and sunk? That seemed to be the most likely explanation.

Several days later, a hunter visited the crew.

He told the captain he had seen the *Baychimo*. The crew followed the hunter's directions. They found the ship floating 50 miles from their camp. It appeared to have been damaged in the storm. Afraid that it would not sail for long, the captain decided to abandon the ship.

From that day on, the *Baychimo* has been a "ghost ship." It drifts aimlessly among the packs of Arctic ice. People have seen the ship. But it is always from a distance. Often it is surrounded by fog. Sometimes it is masked by rain or snow. The ice packs usually prevent other ships from getting close to it. Perhaps the *Baychimo* is indeed a ghost ship.

THE STRANGE TRUTH

- After deciding to abandon the ship, the crew removed its cargo. Then they were airlifted to safety.
- The *Baychimo* has been seen 12 times since it was abandoned.
- In 1933, a group of Eskimos took shelter aboard the *Baychimo* for ten days while they waited for a bad storm to pass.
- Another crew got close enough to board the *Baychimo* in 1939. However, large pieces of ice prevented them from bringing the ship to shore.
- The last recorded sighting of the ship was in 1969. It has not been seen since. But wreckage has not been found either.

STRANGE BUT (MOSTLY) TRUE® STORIES

Ghost ships roam the seas, inciting fear and fascination in those who see them. A man saves his son, and a daughter saves her mother. Ancient artifacts suggest that advanced forms of technology may be older than first believed. These and other strange stories can be found in this incredible collection.

Who isn't fascinated by the world of the weird? These story collections are the ultimate in high-interest reading. The people, places, and things within their pages range from the peculiar to the preposterous, from the creepy to the utterly terrifying, and from the odd to the awful. Yet all stories are based on eyewitness accounts or the solid research of serious investigators.

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STRANGE BUT (MOSTLY) TRUE® STORIES

BOOK 5



King Tut's Curse | Japan's Sunken City
The Killer Countess | and More!



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THE BLOB WAS REAL

The movie *The Blob* came out in 1958. In it, alien goo falls from space. A blob lands on Earth and begins consuming everything in its path. This sounds like science fiction. But the idea actually came from real life.

It was September 26, 1950. Two police officers were on patrol in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their names were Joe Keenan and John Collins. The night seemed pretty normal. Then the men saw something drop from the sky.

The officers wanted to find the object. They drove to where it had landed. What they found was not easily explained. It looked like purple jelly. There were sparkly crystals inside. Mist rose off the six-foot blob.

Collins and Keenan stared at the jelly. They called in for backup. Then Collins decided to

touch the blob. His hand came away covered in small bits of goo. These soon evaporated. Scum was left behind on his hand. It did not have a smell.

Backup finally arrived. They were just in time. The blob dissolved right before their eyes. Not a trace was left. Grass under the goo was not even bent. FBI agents were also called. But there was nothing for them to see.

Local media picked up the story the next day. With no evidence, it was not taken seriously. The FBI asked the Air Force for help. But the Air Force said no.

Mysterious purple jelly had fallen from the sky. What was it? Where had it come from?

Nobody can say for sure. But Hollywood loves a good story. This one inspired the movie *The Blob*. A sequel was made in 1972. The original 1958 film was remade 30 years later. In 2017, there were rumors that a third remake was in the works. Even without solid proof, the story of the blob still holds up in theaters.

THE STRANGE TRUTH

- The purple jelly was on Earth for about 25 minutes before it disappeared.
- According to Collins and Keenan, the blob appeared to be alive. They said it seemed to move and shake on its own.
- This was not the first—or the last—report of mysterious space goo. In 1846, people in Loweville, New York, claimed a large pile of smelly, glowing jelly fell from the sky. It evaporated within minutes.
- In 1969, scientists in Australia collected over 200 pounds of goo. The jelly-like substance appeared after a meteor shower in the area. Samples contained amino acids. These are the building blocks of living organisms.
- Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, was featured in parts of the original *The Blob*. Today, the small town holds an annual Blobfest to honor the movie.



JAPAN'S SUNKEN CITY

There are many stories about the island of Atlantis. The first was written over 2,300 years ago. Plato, a Greek thinker, told the tale. In his story, Atlantis was a great empire. But then disaster struck. Earthquakes hit the island. Floods did too. Atlantis sank below the waves. It has been lost ever since.

Stories of underwater cities might seem like legends. But there may be some truth to them.

Japan has a real underwater city. Huge sunken pyramids have been discovered near Yonaguni. This is a small Japanese island. A diver found the stone structures in 1986. At first, many believed they had been made by nature. New findings suggest otherwise.

Fifteen structures have been found in total. Ten are near Yonaguni. Five others were

discovered near Okinawa. This is Japan's main island. Parts of a castle have been identified. There are also five temples. Roads connect the structures. Holes in some stones may have once held wooden posts.

There are structures on the nearby coast. These look much like those found underwater. This is one reason people now think it was a man-made city. But more studies are needed to know for sure.

THE STRANGE TRUTH

- Japan's underwater structures are sometimes called the Yonguni Monument.
- Scientists are not sure when the structures were built. They may be up to 10,000 years old.
- One scientist thinks the city sank about 2,000 years ago after an earthquake hit Japan.
- Legends tell of a Pacific civilization called Mu that disappeared underwater long ago. Some think the Yonaguni structures may be what remains of their city.
- Rocks shaped like animals have been found among the structures. Faces have also been found carved into stones.

STRANGE BUT (MOSTLY) TRUE STORIES

The discovery of King Tut's tomb brought a curse upon those who found it. A young killer countess bathed in the blood of her victims. Two men murdered 16 people and sold their corpses, all in the name of science. Some stories sound too strange to be true. But the astonishing tales within this collection have facts to back them up.

Who isn't fascinated by the world of the weird? These story collections are the ultimate in high-interest reading. The people, places, and things within their pages range from the peculiar to the preposterous, from the creepy to the utterly terrifying, and from the odd to the awful. Yet all stories are based on eyewitness accounts or the solid research of serious investigators.

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