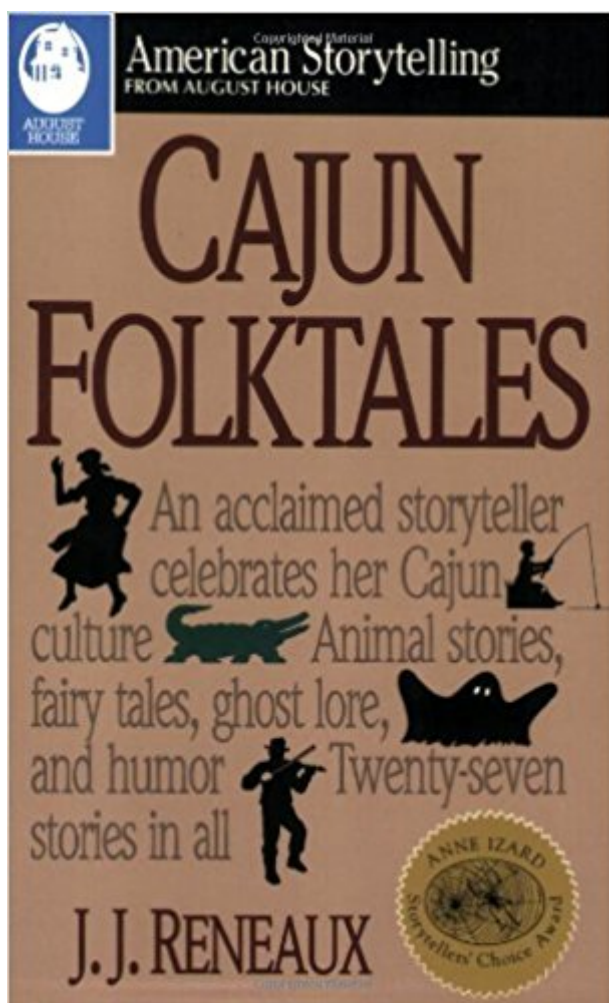


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Cajun Folktales (American Storytelling (Paperback))



Synopsis

Nationally acclaimed storyteller J.J. Reneaux grew up Cajun for true, surrounded by the stories, music, food, and culture of rural communities in southeastern Texas and southern Louisiana. *Cajun Folktales* serves up a spicy gumbo of more than twenty traditional Cajun animal stories, fairy tales, ghost stories, and humorous tales. A traditional storyteller who collects by word-of-mouth, Reneaux has developed her repertoire over years of collecting on front porches, school playgrounds, and her beloved fishing trips. She has refined her work in performances nationwide, including the National Storytelling Festival, where she has appeared numerous times. These stories of Cajun treasure and lost jewels will teach readers the importance of resourcefulness, courage and responsibility.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #727,416 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Anthologies #75 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Country & Ethnic #1253 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

Customer Reviews

While the tales of African Americans and Native Americans have been much anthologized, the vibrant oral folk tradition of the Cajun has been more or less neglected by American publishers. This excellent anthology by Reneaux helps plug that inexplicable gap. Reneaux, a noted storyteller and a Cajun herself, retells 27 tales she heard in childhood from relatives or has heard since from fellow Cajuns. Their folklore is as spicy and interesting as their famed food and reflects a variety of flavors and influences. The story of Lapin and his theft of honey from Bouqui, for instance, is a Cajun favorite and is clearly recognizable as one of the contests between Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox.

Likewise, the aetiological tale of why alligators hate dogs is reminiscent of Native tradition. The author tells a wide variety of tales--animal stories, ghost stories, fairy stories. One of the best relates the Hansel and Gretel-like story of Catafo and his brothers, who out-smart their devilish host. Another perhaps also familiar one tells of the ghost of the renowned pirate Jean Lafitte trying to free himself of his cursed treasure. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

J.J. Reneaux Bio: Singer-songwriter, humorist, and author J.J. Reneaux combined her music, folklore, superstition, customs and true-life stories in her books and live performances. Cajun, Creole, Spanish, Irish, and Native American voices speak throughout her songs and stories, reflecting her own multicultural heritage and creating a colorful tapestry of life in the Deep South. Sassy and poignant, her performances were rooted in tradition yet remained surprisingly fresh. A natural comedienne, Reneaux lampooned modern culture with music, wit and honest-to-God true stories in contemporary performances for adults. Reneaux's lively school concerts and family shows delighted audiences of all ages with her multicultural mix of Southern folktales and music, as well as her original stories and songs. Known for her soulful singing and her gift for telling stories in original songs, Reneaux stories capture the rich rhythms and sounds of her native South. Her songwriting has reminded critics of artists like David Wilcox and Mary Chapin Carpenter, while her bluesy voice has inspired comparisons with Grammy Award winner Bonnie Raitt.

great stories! loved them

I really enjoyed this book! I have also read other books by the late J.J. Reneaux and listened to her tapes, and I believe she was a master storyteller. Another reviewer complained that Reneaux was "dumbing down" her Cajun persona, but I think it was JUST a persona she was putting on to make the stories more "flavorful" and entertaining. Anyway, it is a wonderful collection of folktales. My children loved them!

This is a very entertaining book. However some of the stories are more like ghost stories. I read before bedtime on recent mini-vacation. Most stories are very short, some I read aloud to my husband while he drove. It's a quick read. Thanks for the quick shipping. I purchased this book as a used book but it is more like new.

Amazing book. Has many good folktales in it. Not exactly what I was looking for but still a great one.

When was the last time you had fun reading about folktales with the kids. This is a great collection for all ages. Great little collection of folktales.

Rather redundant. Not what I expected.

Authentic Cajun Folktales was well written and authentic. I hated for it to end.

I had listened to this many years ago and was entranced by J.J. Reneaux's storytelling. Because I had listened to it as a cassette tape, I figured it was updated to a CD. Did not notice anything in description mentioning that it was a cassette tape vs CD. I returned it to the seller for return but have not heard back.

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Cajun Cuisine: Authentic Cajun Recipes from Louisiana's Bayou Country
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