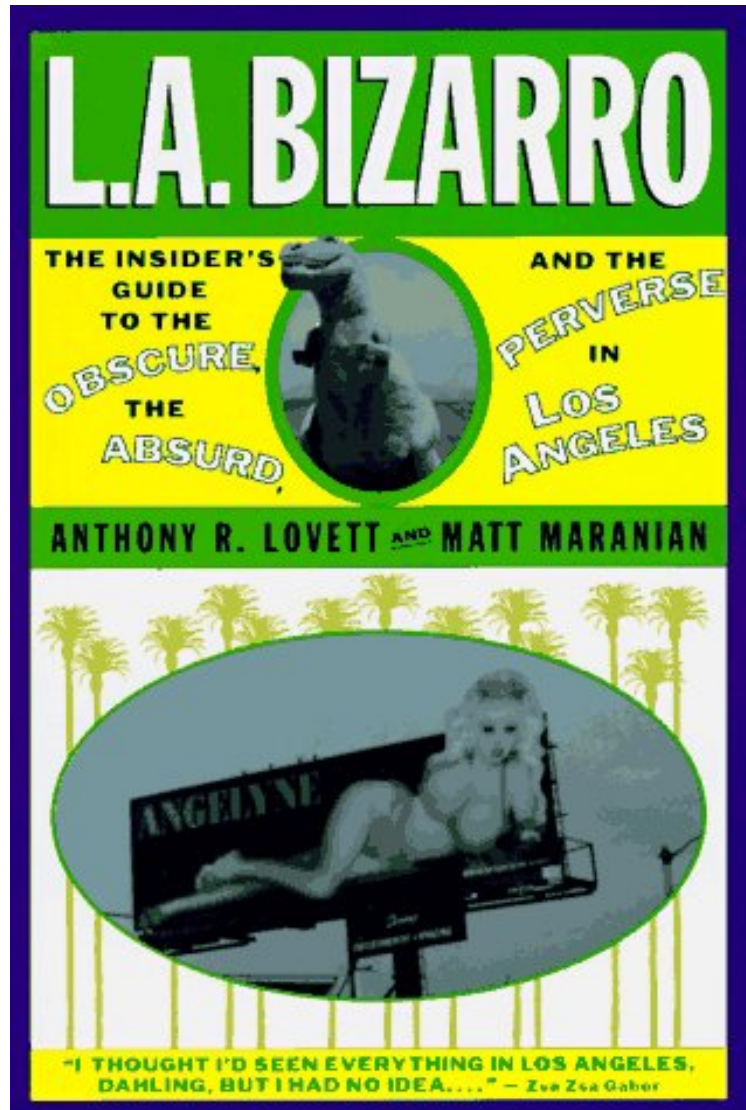


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Anthony Lovett, Matt Maranian
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Anthony Lovett, Matt Maranian : L. A. Bizarro! The Insider's Guide to the Obscure, the Absurd and the Perverse in Los Angeles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised L. A. Bizarro! The Insider's Guide to the Obscure, the Absurd and the Perverse in Los Angeles:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book that made me fall in love with L.A.By JamesIt was the review of Cole's P.E. Buffet (page 12) that did it. How can you NOT want to dine in a restaurant described as follows:

"Once you have gotten used to the stale cigarette effluvium you'll detect a putrid sub-odor; hard to place, but something akin to the scent of the repeatedly pissed-in pants of an elderly man who's recently consumed a large plate of steamed asparagus"? Sadly, I missed the asparagus undertones, as the doggie (I hope!) doo-doo I stepped in on my way into the restaurant masked even the fragrance of my tasty, inexpensive lunch of BBQ lamb shanks. I've now eaten my way through most of the restaurants in LA Bizarro and I've never had a bad meal. Indeed, some of the places Lovett and Maranian mention--Clifton's Cafeteria, for instance--are now among my favorite places to dine on earth! I'm also working my way through the non-culinary attractions and having a helluva time doing so. I was glad to read last year that Chronicle Books plans to publish an enlarged and updated edition of this indispensable vade mecum, for time has ravaged some of the more promising-sounding attractions. For example, Broadway's Orpheum Theater, home to the Marx Brothers among others, has been gloriously restored, but the men's-room glory hole to which the authors envision Groucho resorting for some pre-curtain relief has, tragically, been remodeled out of existence. Still, ten years after it's publication, this is the BEST guide to L.A. I know. In fact, though I own many L.A. guidebooks, I own THREE copies of this one. One stays in the car, another lives in my day-pack, and a third adorns my bathroom, where its bowel-movement-length entries have beguiled many an otherwise unremarkable stool-time. (By the way, Maranian's Pad and its sequel, Pad Parties, are the only decorating and entertaining manuals any LA Bizarro lover will ever need.) Thanks, fellas!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good macabre fun for the discerning... go slumming, vicariously!

By Douglas B. Jones I like this book, for the most part, and as a former resident of La La Land in the makeup and FX field, it tickled me. Mostly. The mixed emotions engendered are like those of one watching THE LOVED ONE for the first time. Sick humor. It gets you in the discomfort zone, where sham religion meets an industry based on formaldehyde and flowers. At its best, there's a whimsical black humor; at it's worst, it's like the obsessive train-wreck watching and ghoulishness found in HOLLYWOOD BABYLON. I plan to take a tour. This book will rest alongside THE GHOUL'S GUIDE TO LOS ANGELES.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun but pretty outdated

By E. Lamoureux I've lived in L.A. all my life. This book not only listed many of L.A.'s odder greatest hits, but it included several places I was totally unaware of. The only "problem" with the book is it's outdated and several of the places no longer exist. If there's a newer edition you should definitely find it; unless of course you're an Angeleno and would enjoy a walk down memory lane.

Imbued with the cross-pollinated sensibility of The Encyclopedia of Bad Taste and Roadside America, this is the best of the obscure, the absurd, and the perverse in Los Angeles. In other words, L.A. Bizarro is the Fodor's Guide to/from the land of Never, Never. Most information available to people traveling to or living in L.A. is geared to mainstream tastes and the peanut-munching crowds. Finally, here's a guide for those who view the world through a psychedelic lens. Inside you'll find a guide to eateries, sex shops, curious tourist attractions, nude beaches, dive bars, off-the-beaten-path museums, murder sites, cemeteries, and more. L.A. Bizarro includes directions, admission fees, phone numbers, hours of operation, and all the usual details found in traditional "Dad's-screaming-at-Mom-who-holds-the-tourist-guide" books. From the Witch House to a curiosity shop that sells body parts, there are hundreds of funky sites, road trips, restaurants, and places to stay--complete with photos, guides, and tips.

"A demented guide to the dark side of drinking, dining and whining L.A.-style. A veritable treasure trove of bad, or no, taste." --Michael Musto, columnist for The Village Voice

"Why go to Mars when we've got it all here in L.A.?" --Larry Storch

"Both outrageous and informative--it's why I love L.A." --Steve Edwards host of Good Day L.A.

"I'll say anything you want me to say, about this book. It's fabulous." --Quentin Crisp

"Finally there's a book that tells L.A.'s secrets, secrets I never even knew about. This is a must-read if you live in L.A. or are just visiting. This is a m a a z i n g." --Rodney Bingenheimer, deejay, KROQ, Los Angeles.