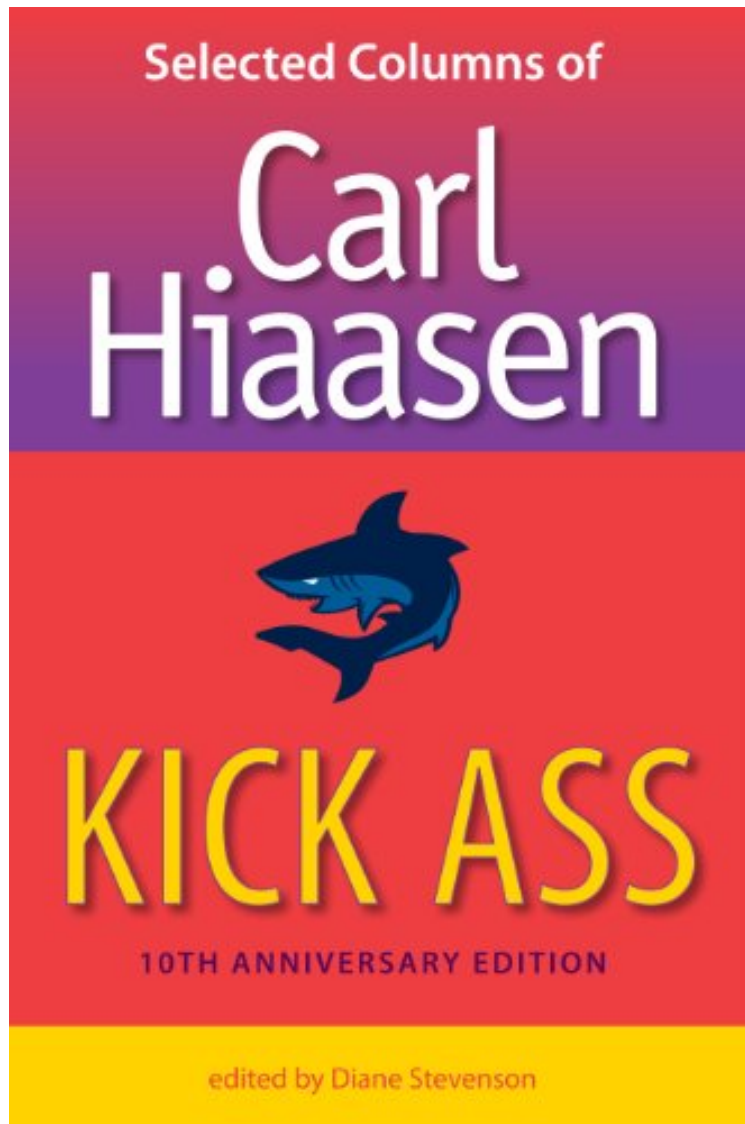


[Free pdf] Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen

## Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen

*Carl Hiaasen*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1381459 in Books University Press of Florida 1999-12-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.22 x 1.70 x 6.281, 1.90 #File Name: 0813017173471 pages | File size: 40.Mb

**Carl Hiaasen : Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen:

72 of 74 people found the following review helpful. And you thought his novels were strange By Doug Vaughn The novels of Carl Hiaasen are darkly comic visions of the hell that greed and overdevelopment have created in much of south Florida. This book, a collection of his newspaper columns for the Miami Herald, reveals much about the origins of that vision. In these columns Hiaasen emerges as a fierce, intelligent and tireless critic of corrupt politicians,

thoughtless overdevelopment, hypocrisy and human stupidity generally. These columns, some about local Miami politics and crime, some about Florida and some about the state of America generally, all contain elements of clear thinking, bitter humor and genuine indignation. His choice of subjects shows his eye for irony and the columns can be read both for information and for his humorous take on the subject. Like Molly Ivins, who can speak the truth and make us laugh about things that are probably worthy of tears, Hiaasen manages to ease the pain of much that he reveals in the columns by recasting it as comedy. He makes us laugh first, and then leaves us with troubled thoughts. Makes me wish he wrote for the Washington Post. The citizens of D.C. could use a good laugh at much that goes on. We just don't have a Carl Hiaasen here to do it justice. Reading this book won't make one want to move to Miami, but it will make one want to read more Hiaasen. Always a pleasure.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Carl Hiaasen's superb journalistic style... it's all here

By John Williamson For this reader, *Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen* (1999) is a classic of real journalism, and the columnist and novelist is still going strong at the Miami Herald today, where he's been since 1976. He's also the author of many of this reader's favorite novels, and some have also made their way to film. Beginning with his 'Welcome to South Florida' the author introduces us to such everyday Florida events that visitors to the Sunshine State often miss, such as animal sacrifice, riots at the beaches, and a shootout over limes at the supermarket. It's book is a collection of over 200 columns broken down into 18 chapters, chronicling events and defining the issues that kept the South Florida melting pot bubbling throughout the '80s and '90s. In his introductory essay, Hiaasen provides us with an overview of his career up to the end of the 20th century and outlines his principal concerns as a journalist. As noted by fellow Floridian Diane Stevenson in her Preface to this book: "This anthology was therefore originally intended to answer the need for a more permanent record of Hiaasen's career as one of the country's most influential and articulate journalists. But what also emerges from the collection, most significantly for those of us who care about Florida's future, is a clear picture of Carl Hiaasen's continuing role as an uncompromising and eloquent defender of this state." If you ever wondered where the author came up with the ideas and themes for his novels, it's easy from this book to see that they came from real life in South Florida. Hiaasen's 2001 book *Paradise Screwed* is a continuation of this journalistic theme, another collection of essays from his Miami Herald columns. *Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen* is highly recommended to fans of the author's novels, if just as good background material. It's a book that should also be required for any college journalism student.

10/26/2012

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction... Proof that History repeats itself.

By Kathy Sharpe This book proves that History repeats itself, that the Truth is Stranger than Fiction. This book would be great for Florida-philes and those with a penchant for political shenanigans. Every State in the Union needs a writer journalist like Carl Hiaasen.

"You just cover a lot of territory and you do it aggressively and you do it fairly and you don't play favorites and you don't take any prisoners. It's the old school of slash-and-burn metropolitan column writing. You just kick ass. That's what you do. And that's what they pay you to do." --Carl Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen is one of America's finest novelists. His newspaper column is another side of the same talent, examining with a corrosive writer's eye the outrageous carnival of Southern Florida. The inhabitants are all here: thieves, conmen, and hustlers, perfumed swine and oiled mannequins, legal swindlers and patriotic crooks, executioners and lap dancers, and yes, even an occasional hero. This is a splendid collection by a native son whose rage at the despoiling of Florida can only be relieved by dark laughter.

--Pete Hamill

Readers who eagerly anticipate each new Carl Hiaasen novel will relish this selection of his Miami Herald columns, written with the same dark humor and satirical edge as *Tourist Season*, *Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, and the rest of Hiaasen's brilliant and nationally acclaimed fiction. Known for evoking the disastrously flawed paradise of modern South Florida, Hiaasen proves in these columns that facts can indeed be stranger than the fiction they inspire. Beginning with "Welcome to South Florida," a chapter introducing such everyday events as animal sacrifice, riots at the beach, and a shootout over limes at the supermarket, this collection organizes over 200 columns into 18 chapters, chronicling the events and defining the issues that have kept the South Florida melting pot bubbling throughout the '80s and '90s. An introductory essay provides an overview of Hiaasen's career and outlines his principal concerns as a journalist. Since its inception in 1985, Hiaasen's twice-weekly "baseball-bat-to-the-forehead" column has become enormously popular for its passionate conviction and willingness to confront powerful interests in pursuit of the public good. Amid the corruption and chaos of a city on the edge, Hiaasen's pointblank honesty and clear articulation of what's right have secured him wide respect across the community's many racial and ethnic divides as well as the admiration of his peers, who compare him to A. J. Leibling, I. F. Stone, and H. L. Mencken. In addition to South Florida color and world-class journalism, readers of *Kick Ass* will find one of Florida's staunchest defenders in action, and they'll take great pleasure in watching him work.

Bestselling author Carl Hiaasen has written *Tourist Season*, *Strip Tease*, *Sick Puppy*, *Skinny Dip*, and many other novels that have helped define Florida noir. He is also the author of three popular books for young readers, *Hoot*, *Flush*, and most recently, *Scat*. His nonfiction includes *Team Rodent: How Disney Devours the World* and *Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return to a Ruinous Sport*. A Florida native and lifelong resident, Hiaasen still writes regularly for the Miami Herald, where he has worked for 33 years and where these columns first appeared. Diane Stevenson teaches research writing in the psychology department at the University

of Florida.

From Kirkus's a public service to his many fans, this compendium of Miami Herald columns by best-selling novelist Carl Hiaasen (*Lucky You*, 1997, etc.) reveals an angry, alert civic muckraker in the pugilistic vein of Mencken or Royko. Though best known for his ribald crime fiction, with its meticulous universe of South Florida idiocy and venal conspiracy, Hiaasen cut his teeth as an investigative reporter, and this spirit is strong in both his chosen subjects and his wry attention to unforgiving evidentiary detail. As editor Stevenson notes, the collections thrust, which she constructed by sifting through Hiaasen's 1300-plus columns, was to present his advocacy of realistic growth and decent government in Florida. Along the way Hiaasen stops to gut innumerable big fishcrooked politicians, rogue cops, insensate tourists, swollen developers within a rough chronology reaching back to the cocaine-crazed Reagan '80s. Although Hiaasen is a truly funny writer, a stern moral compass lies beneath his slapstick. His quixotic outrage regarding the despoliation of his home state (cf. the columnist/terrorist of his *Tourist Season*, 1986) is as unforgiving as an Uzi, as authentic as a Waffle House breakfast. Hiaasen's zestful attacks on Miami's many embarrassing or indicted leaders end up addressing the threats posed, for instance, by the crash overpopulation of Florida, epitomized by the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Andrew upon shoddy developments, a dire issue that pro-business boosters (e.g., The Mouse) labor to minimize. But even the loopier pieces (tame dachshund-eating alligators, Geraldo Riveras faked drug raids) are informed by Hiaasen's unforgiving focus upon the social rot beneath the zany facade. Such columns, like his fiction, reveal Hiaasen as a crystalline, pitiless seer of human weakness in much the same vein as his Floridian forbears, Charles Willeford and Harry Crews. Deeply satisfying, both for what it reveals of the serious priorities of a supposedly light novelist and for the outrageous epic of Florida profiteering and entropy within. -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. ...this collection of lively and well-reported pieces... illuminated by all the wit and keen descriptive powers of his fiction. -- Salon.com Carl Hiaasen is one of America's finest novelists. -- Pete Hamill Reminiscent of the snarky, opinionated newspaper articles of the great Mark Twain, Hiaasen's columns are finely crafted little gems. -- Booklist From the Inside Flap Readers who eagerly anticipate each new Carl Hiaasen novel will relish this selection of his Miami Herald columns, written with the same dark humor and satirical edge as *Tourist Season*, *Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, . and the rest of Hiaasen's brilliant and nationally acclaimed fiction. Known for evoking the disastrously flawed paradise of modern South Florida, Hiaasen proves in these columns that facts can indeed be stranger than the fiction they inspire. Beginning with "Welcome to South Florida", a chapter full of such everyday events as animal sacrifice, riots at the beach, and a shootout over limes at the supermarket, this collection organizes more than 200 columns into 18 chapters, chronicling the events and defining the issues that have kept the South Florida melting pot bubbling throughout the eighties and nineties. An introductory essay provides an overview of Hiaasen's career and outlines his principal concerns as a journalist. Since its inception in 1985, Hiaasen's twice-weekly "baseball-bat-to-the-forehead" column has become enormously popular for its passionate conviction and willingness to confront powerful interests in pursuit of the public good. Amid the corruption and chaos of a city on the edge, Hiaasen's pointblank honesty and clear articulation of what's right have secured him wide respect across the community's many racial and ethnic divides as well as the admiration of his peers, who compare him to A.J. Leibling, I.F. Stone, and H.L. Mencken. In addition to South Florida color and world-class journalism, readers of *Kick Ass* will find one of Florida's staunchest defenders in action, and they'll take great pleasure in watching him work.