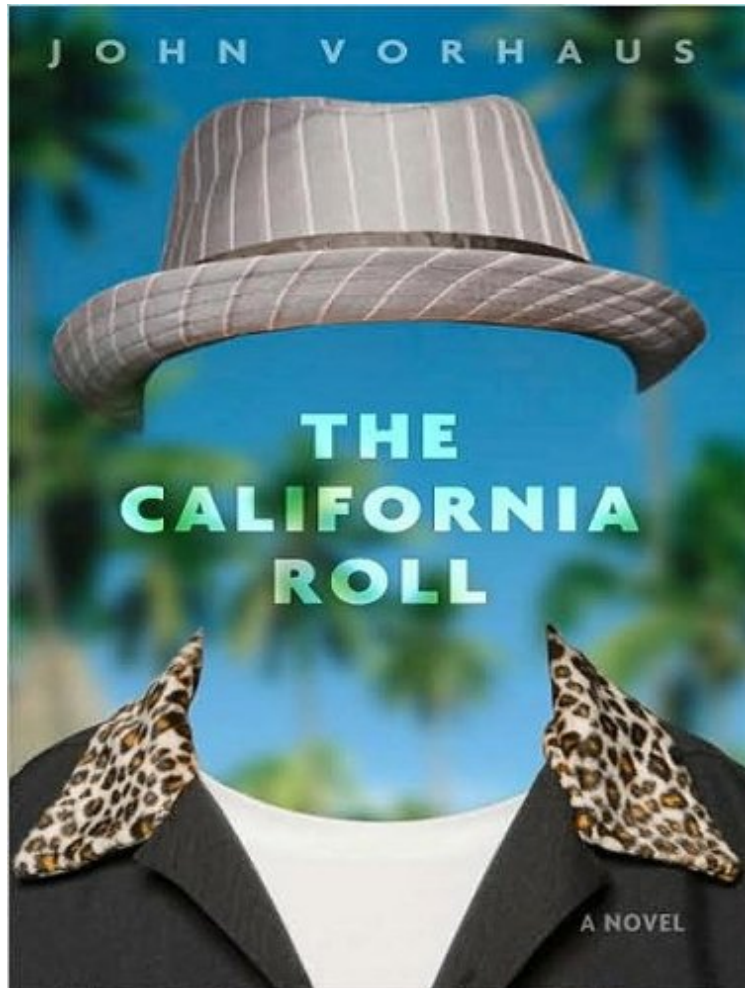


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The California Roll: A Novel

John Vorhaus

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John Vorhaus : The California Roll: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The California Roll: A Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I really liked this book once I got passed the protagonists BSBY Kindle CustomerI really liked this book once I got passed the protagonists BS. It was a fun read and the roll just kept on rolling, right onto book two. I love it when authors stray form the conventional path of writing a novel and this book is good example.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Looks like some readers got connedBy Dr Mitchell EarleywineThis is delightful from start to finish. Those who disliked the twists and turns at the end might be missing how the author is winking at the reader about the genre. The narrator details how all modern cons are variations on ancient ones, then pulls a series of fast ones that fans of other works on trickery and deception should recognize as part of the humor here. The language is witty throughout, but the big story is a joke in a tradition of grand jokes. I wouldn't mind losing beer money to this guy just to watch him work.0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. This is a 95% GREAT novel. The charactersBy Jerry WittThis is a 95% GREAT novel. The characters, the voice, the cons, are all top notch. I am now a fan of the writer and I'm going to track down more of his fiction.

What do the Merlin Game, the Penny Skim, the Doolally Snadoodle, and the Afterparty Snuke have in common? They're all the work of world-class con artist and master bafflebagger Radar Hoverlander. Radar's been "on the snuke" since childhood, but he's still looking for his California Roll, the one big scam that'll set him up in sushi for life. Trouble arrives in the stunning, sassy package of Allie Quinn—either the last true innocent or a con artist so slick she makes Radar look like a Quaker. Radar's hapless sidekick, Vic Mirplo, a lovable loser who couldn't con a kid out of a candy cane, thinks Radar is being played. But if love is blind, it's also deaf, dumb, and stupid, and before Radar knows it, he's sucked into a vortex of double-, triple-, and quadruple-crosses that'll either net him his precious California Roll or put him in a hole in the ground. As timeless as a perpetual motion machine, as timely as a Madoff arraignment, *The California Roll* brings you deep inside the world of con artistry, where every fact is fiction and the second liar never has a chance.

From Publishers WeeklyVorhaus's amusing thriller about the misadventures of a con man in Los Angeles hums along for a while through gags and gaffes and witty dialogue, but never gels as a whole. Radar Hoverlander, a longtime grifter whose tool box of cons is deep and wide, is looking for the California Roll, the holy grail of cons that will set him for life. He thinks he's found it in the form of the Merlin Game, a complicated pyramid scheme. Then Radar runs into Allie Quinn, a sexy, slick fellow grifter who lures him into a con of her own. Vorhaus, author of *The Comic Toolbox: How to Be Funny Even if You're Not* and the *Killer Poker* series (*Killer Poker Online*, etc.), has put more effort into generating laughs than developing the plot. Like a lot of comic novels, this one suffers from extended expository passages in which the narrator falls in love with his own voice at the expense of the action. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From BooklistMaster of the snuke and its bafflebagger and the scourge of every mook, con artist Radar Hoverlander wonders if he's met his match in Allie Quinn. She's dazzling and highly intelligent and seems to be setting him up for a con. She also leads a brittle, beautiful Australian cop and a bent FBI agent to him, and everyone but Radar has multiple agendas. Radar simply wants to avoid prison or being killed and to work toward the grand snuke, the California Roll, the last payday he'll ever need. The California Roll is grand entertainment. Radar, Allie, the law-enforcement odd couple, and hapless grifter Vic Mirplo are all cleverly developed. Double and triple crosses abound in the careening plot, and Vorhaus, who writes primarily about poker, really seems to understand the bedrock mendacity of the grift. It's in the blood, like peanut allergy, he writes. The writing is tight and wonderfully glib, and Vorhaus slyly, shrewdly hints that he's snuking the reader. No caper-novel fan should miss this one. --Thomas Gaughan "I loved this comic caper with its twisty pretzel plot, clever invented language, and an attitude that's Carl Hiaasen channeling Dane Cook."—Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "[G]rand entertainment...Double and triple crosses abound in the careening plot...The writing is tight and wonderfully glib, and Vorhaus slyly, shrewdly hints that he's snuking the reader. No caper-novel fan should miss this one."—Booklist

"Amusing thriller about the misadventures of a con man."—Publishers Weekly

"Now that's a scheme!"—Charles Ponzi

"Whether you're a mook or a snuke, *The California Roll* is more than entertainment, it's an education. Buyer beware: John Vorhaus will steal your money and hours of your life, giving you nothing in return but a great read—fast, funny and very, very smart."—Harley Jane Kozak, Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity award-winning author of *A Date You Can't Refuse*

"Please let me send you \$50 million."—Patrick Noochi, Nigerian businessman

"John Vorhaus sure knows his stuff—a little too well, if you ask me. *The California Roll* is a hilarious and highly suspicious ride into the world of grift. It's an immensely enjoyable read and an excellent primer if you're looking for a career change."—Lisa Lutz, New York Times bestselling author of *Revenge of the Spellmans*

"It's not too late to get a real job!"—Mom