



Kick Ass: Selected Columns

Carl Hiaasen , Diane Stevenson (Editor)

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This collection of more than 200 of bestselling author Hiaasen's "Miami Herald" columns. . . shows you that Hiaasen's seemingly implausible fictional premises aren't really far-fetched at all. He just knows Florida ("Playboy").

Kick Ass: Selected Columns Details

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Author : Carl Hiaasen , Diane Stevenson (Editor)

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Alexis says

I'm going to florida in March and I always like to read about the culture of where I'm traveling. I'm excited about the den of thieves and Mafiosos and illegal immigrants that I will encounter on my travels. oh yeah, and gun toting grandmas too! Carl Hiassen is hilarious and pretty uch everything he writes is worth reading.

Edward says

I simply cannot say anything bad about this collection of Hiaasen's best Miami Herald columns. It is sad, funny and angry all at the same time. Hiaasen is clearly a meticulous researcher, and that allows him to simply skewer just about everything about South Florida government and politics with the steady hand of someone who has all the facts and knows that things are even worse than they seem.

Steve says

Most reviews of this book, including the cover blurbs, note the direct connection between the characters in Hiaasen's novels and the crazy "only in Florida" true stories that populate particularly the first section of this book. And there is plenty of kookiness to go around, but the part that captivated me was the environmentalism, and Hiaasen's passion for Florida's wild places. These themes also come through in his novels, but come from his experience and the (mostly tragic) history of southern Florida development. The stories are fascinating and the writing is as brilliant as his fiction — witty, sharp and profound without being heavy-handed. If you want a taste of his passion and ecological argument, read this piece

I also appreciated the effort that went into compiling this collection. A University of Florida professor compiled about 15 years of his columns into thematic chapters — often finding columns published months or years apart to continue a story or theme.

I only give this four stars because it is somewhat outdated now. The environmental concerns are perhaps even more valid, but these are columns from a daily newspaper, sometimes from 20 or 30 years ago, so it's not particularly, timely, but still worth a read, particularly for fans of Hiaasen's fiction.

Greg Howard says

I learned very quickly in this collection of Hiaasen's newspaper columns, that I really prefer his novels. Too much preaching and not enough whimsy. Although, I'll admit, there's plenty of problems in South Florida for Hiaasen to preach about.

Linda says

As always, he is magnificent. Unfortunately, with all of those editorials, the problems in Miami and the stupidity of the state legislature just keep on happening. This really my second reading of the book. This book would be a great gift to anyone who is interested in local politics. I can't believe there aren't some places where some of this stuff isn't going on. Football stadiums, bribes to building inspectors, etc. And this is not fiction, which also writes and is very funny.

Second reading, June 18, 2015. Just as good as the first time.

Joe says

buy own keep reread do not lend.

J. D. says

A treat, as usual, to see Carl Hiaasen trash Florida politicians.

Martha says

I always loved his columns in the Miami Herald and missed reading them when I moved to Boston. So reading, rather skimming and reading, some of the columns sort of caught me up in what happened after I left in 1987. The Fla. story is so depressing. The astronomical growth that they can't manage, the environment going to shambles, the water, the Everglades, the wildlife moving toward extinction b/c of greed = growth.

Keith Fillmore says

Might just be me, but I was bored silly. Big fan of Carl's fiction, particularly the young adult books like "Hoot". The columns, however, were hard to get into. The rants get old especially since there was no follow-up, so you don't know how things ended. I skipped about half of the book (like the stuff about politics) and ended up reading mostly the articles about wildlife and the destruction of the environment.

Joyce says

Corruption is rampant everywhere. Sometimes it is good to be reminded that people don't change much and neither do politicians. Hiaasen is a joy to read, but it would have been better had I read this when it came out, instead of years later.

Josh Liller says

Hiaasen is a much beloved and highly successful Florida writer famous for skewering the stupidity and absurdities of South Florida. So I was quite surprised when this collection of his newspaper columns bored the hell out of me. This was possibly my first ever exposure to Hiaasen's writing; I may have read his column a few times before, but I've definitely never read any of his novels. Much like the film "In Bruges" I felt like this was something I should like and it just fell completely flat. Some articles reminded me of The Onion (but they predate that site of course), which is a likewise beloved source of satire and lampoon that has always failed to entertain me.

Bryce Wilson says

One of the world's greatest raconteurs doing what he does best. Namely stirring the shit of politics and society at large while reveling in a sense of disbelief, absurdity and righteous anger.

Somewhat esoteric (He writes about ALOT of minor politicians from the eighties) but rewarding none the less.

Barry Cooke says

Very good collection of Newspaper columns written over the years by the author outlining the greed & corruption of the authorities in Florida.

Lisa says

Carl Hiaasen is hilarious. This is a great bathroom book! His newspaper articles are short and a great laugh. I truly love a smart ass.....

Eliana says

Consistently one of the funniest writers out there. Always enjoy his books! But this is a collection of his editorials. Scathingly funny, witheringly dry commentary on Florida politics make up the bulk of these articles.
