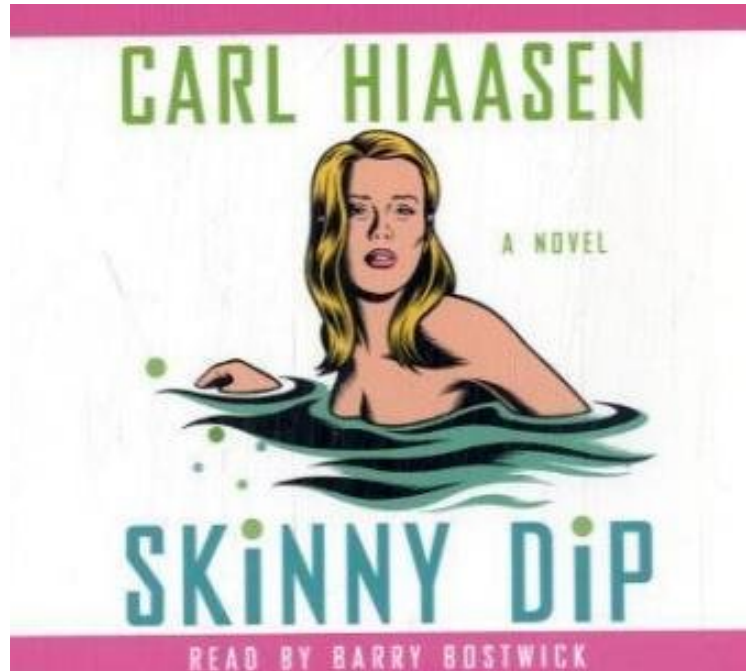


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Skinny Dip

Carl Hiaasen

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Carl Hiaasen : Skinny Dip before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Skinny Dip:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read for a long plane flight By heuristikI found this book to be a good page turner, and a particularly good read for a plane flight from Tampa to Boston. I appreciated the Floridian landscape. The idea was fun -- who doesn't love a vengeance story? -- but ultimately, the characters had a kind of police-procedural flatness. and by "police procedural," I mean "Law and Order," not "The Killing." Although the details of how weren't absolutely apparent, you knew what was going to happen pretty early. Joey Perrone would destroy her would-be murderer of a husband. Along the way, she'd hook up with the man who saved her, a kindly but humble accomplice who happens to inhabit his own private island (but who is neither rich nor evil), and she'd spend lots of money on replacing her wardrobe. Don't think too deeply about the plausibility of this plot! Enjoyable, but not memorable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read from Hiaasen! By Tom GI't's been a few years since I read one of Carl Hiaasen's books and after reading Skinny Dip I ask myself, "Why the delay?" It was another fantastic read full of twists and turns, the piling on of bad luck for one of the key characters and some sole searching and a turnaround (of sorts) for one of the least expected bad guys. Hiaasen continues to be the master at weaving a well thought out story together with excellent Floridian references that should put his books on the required reading list for those who need to know Florida. Nothing is left out in this book; stilt city, cruise ships, the glades, and the ribbons of hot asphalt that connect it all together. If you think you know what is going on in this state, think again. Better yet read one of Hiaasen's books and learn. I recommend this as a strong "Buy" for entertainment, action, and mystery. The educational value is tossed in by Hiaasen as a bonus....If you need more psychotic insanity may I

recommend another Florida writer named Tim Dorsey. He'll introduce you to his friend Serge Storms. And if you can't handle the wackiness of Hiassen, you have another Florida writer named Randy Wayne White to appeal to your mystery and action reading needs; a trio of great writers that tell the story of the Sunshine State. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Soo Very FunnyBy Margo ThomsenThis is one of my favorite books. It will make you laugh out loud and then you will actually see the characters when you visit Fla. Carl Hiassen books are great and so much fun!!!

Chaz Perrone might be the only marine scientist in the world who doesn't know which way the Gulf Stream runs. He might also be the only one who went into biology just to make a killing, and now he's found a way—doctoring water samples so that a ruthless agribusiness tycoon can continue illegally dumping fertilizer into the endangered Everglades. When Chaz suspects that his wife, Joey, has figured out his scam, he pushes her overboard from a cruise liner into the night-dark Atlantic. Unfortunately for Chaz, his wife doesn't die in the fall. Clinging blindly to a bale of Jamaican pot, Joey Perrone is plucked from the ocean by former cop and current loner Mick Stranahan. Instead of rushing to the police and reporting her husband's crime, Joey decides to stay dead and (with Mick's help) screw with Chaz until he screws himself. As Joey haunts and taunts her homicidal husband, as Chaz's cold-blooded cohorts in pollution grow uneasy about his ineptitude and increasingly erratic behavior, as Mick Stranahan discovers that six failed marriages and years of island solitude haven't killed the reckless romantic in him, we're taken on a hilarious, full-throttle, pure Hiassen ride through the warped politics and mayhem of the human environment, and the human heart.

.com Charles "Chaz" Perrone fancies himself a take-charge kind of guy. So when this "biologist by default" suspects that his curvaceous wife, Joey, has stumbled onto a profitable pollution scam he's running on behalf of Florida agribusiness mogul Red Hammernut, he sets out right away to solve the problem--by heaving Joey off the deck of a luxury cruise liner and into the Atlantic Ocean, far from Key West. But--whoops!--Joey, a former swimming champ, doesn't drown. Instead, as Carl Hiassen tells in his 10th adult novel, *Skinny Dip*, she makes her way back to shore, thanks both to a wayward bale of Jamaican marijuana and lonerish ex-cop Mick Stranahan (*Skin Tight*, 1989), and then launches a bogus blackmail campaign that's guaranteed to drive her lazy, libidinous hubby into a self-protective frenzy. You've got to hand it to Hiassen: He's perfected a formula for crisply written, satirical crime fiction that makes the best use of imaginatively repulsive villains, as well as less thoroughly venal scoundrels and victims who ultimately overcome their antagonists, all while stumping for the preservation of Florida's environment, particularly the Everglades. In *Skinny Dip*, we find Chaz (who'd rather be golfing than puttering around the "hot, buggy, funky-smelling and treacherous" reaches of nature) falsifying water samples to help Hammernut turn the 'Glades into "God's septic tank." That scheme, though, is endangered not just by Joey's sudden disappearance, but by the suspicions of a python-loving police detective and Chaz's own outstanding inability to tame his Viagra-enhanced tumescence. Even by assigning Chaz a baby-sitter--the hulking, hirsute, and painkiller-addicted Tool--Hammernut can't keep his pet biologist out of trouble. As Joey and Stranahan unfold their revenge plot, and Tool's conscience grows in competition with Chaz's ego, the reader can only marvel at the extent of the train wreck ahead. As much fun as Hiassen has delivering Chaz his climactic comeuppance, what's missing from *Skinny Dip* is a more complex, more credible development of Mick Stranahan's character and the relationship he builds with the much younger Joey Perrone. Like Erin Grant, from *Strip Tease*, Joey has far more going for her than her bra-cup size; but "hero" Stranahan is of far less interest here than any of his fellow players. --J. Kingston Pierce

From Publishers Weekly

Hiassen's signature mix of hilariously over-the-top villains, lovable innocents and righteous indignation at what mankind has done to his beloved Florida wilderness is all present in riotous abundance in his latest. It begins with attractive heiress Joey Perrone being tossed overboard from a cruise ship by her larcenous husband, Chaz—not for her money, which she has had the good sense to keep well away from him, but because he fears she is onto his crooked dealings with a ruthless tycoon who is poisoning the Everglades. But instead of drowning as she's supposed to, Joey stays afloat until she is rescued by moody ex-cop Mick Stranahan, a loner who has also struck out in the marriage department. Then the two together, with the unwitting aid of a suspicious cop who can't pin the attempted murder on Chaz, hatch a sadistic plot to scare that "maggot" out of what little wit he has. Even Tool, a hulking brute sent by the tycoon to keep an eye on Chaz, eventually turns against him, and much of the fun is in watching the deplorable Chaz flounder further and further in the murk, both literally and figuratively (Chaz's job, as the world's unlikeliest marine biologist, involves falsifying water pollution levels for the tycoon). Hiassen's books are so enjoyable it's always a sad moment when they end. In this case, however, sadness is mixed with puzzlement because the book seems to end in mid-scene, with Chaz in trouble again—but is it terminal? We thought at first there were some pages missing, but Knopf says that was the ending Hiassen intended. Odd.

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From Bookmarks Magazine

For two decades, Florida native Hiassen has mined the seamy side of the Sunshine State. In his eleventh novel, he once again draws on his intricate knowledge of Florida's cultural and natural landscape to weave together absurd, oddball characters (the hirsute "protector" Tool in particular) and an even more

ludicrous plot. It's entertainment galore—but, like Hiaasen's previous novels, it comments strongly on environmental devastation and eco-justice. A few critics complain that the author doesn't fully exploit the possibilities of his set-up—a large-scale government project to restore the Everglades. The pat ending, too, leaves something to be desired. Still, in his best form, Hiaasen provides “entertainment with an emotional punch” (Orlando Sentinel). Copyright © 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.