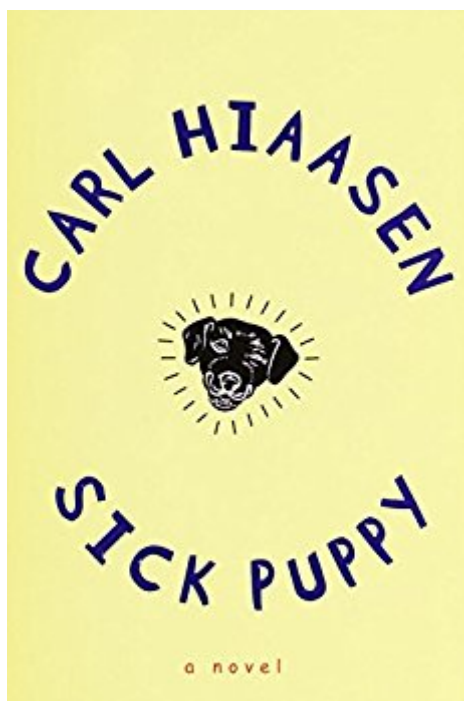


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Sick Puppy (Skink Book 4)



Synopsis

When Palmer Stoa notices the black pickup truck following him on the highway, he fears his precious Range Rover is about to be carjacked. But Twilly Spree, the man tailing Stoa, has vengeance, not sport-utility vehicles, on his mind. Idealistic, independently wealthy and pathologically short-tempered, Twilly has dedicated himself to saving Florida's wilderness from runaway destruction. He favors unambiguous political statements -- such as torching Jet-Skis or blowing up banks -- that leave his human targets shaken but re-educated. After watching Stoa blithely dump a trail of fast-food litter out the window, Twilly decides to teach him a lesson. Thus, Stoa's prized Range Rover becomes home to a horde of hungry dung beetles. Which could have been the end to it had Twilly not discovered that Stoa is one of Florida's cockiest and most powerful political fixers, whose latest project is the "malling" of a pristine Gulf Coast island. Now the real Hiaasen-variety fun begins . . . Dognapping eco-terrorists, bogus big-time hunters, a Republicans-only hooker, an infamous ex-governor who's gone back to nature, thousands of singing toads and a Labrador retriever greater than the sum of his Labrador parts -- these are only some of the denizens of Carl Hiaasen's outrageously funny new novel. Brilliantly twisted entertainment wrapped around a powerful ecological plea, Sick Puppy gleefully lives up to its title and gives us Hiaasen at his riotous and muckraking best. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Carl Hiaasen's Bad Monkey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I, as a Floridian, am a huge Hiaasen fan. I was quite disappointed by LUCKY YOU, it had none of that Hiaasen flair I am used to. I bought SICK PUPPY the day it came out, and ended up staying up all night reading it for 6 hours straight. It is his best yet (even better than TOURIST SEASON and STORMY WEATHER, his best two if you ask me). It is great to have Skink and Jim Tile back, and I love the character of Twilly. This is a must have book for all Hiaasen fans. All you have to do now is buy his book on Disney and your collection is complete.....

This is a great book. I read it all in one sitting and it really made me think, and laugh, all at the same time. The characters were great, the plot flowed well, and I loved the rhinoceros hunt. All in all a funny and meaningful book. Sound like the author is mad, but laughing. I am too.

Carl Hiaasen's "Sick Puppy" brings back his usual madcap hijinks, something that I felt was missing in his last novel, "Lucky You". The crooked politicians are there as is an environmental terrorist and the ever popular ex-Governor of Florida, Skink. The story has some extremely hilarious moments. I particularly liked the 911 calls listened to by Mr. Gash, they were hilarious! The bad guys get their (unusual) due at the end, always a fun thing about a Hiaasen book and Skink rides off in the sunset waiting to appear again (probably in Hiaasen's book after the next one - he has a pattern of showing up). My only criticism is that Hiaasen's books are starting to sound the same. Twilly Spree, the environmental terrorist, is like Skip Wiley from Tourist Season. Palmer Stoa is like Francis X. Kingsbury from Native Tongue and Desiee Stoa is like the lead female character in every Hiaasen book. The only thing he didn't do this time was have a reporter or former reporter (Hiaasen's regular gig) as a character in this book. I think Carl Hiaasen needs to look at a whole new type of plot for his next novel, one that doesn't involve trying to save the ever-shrinking Florida landscape. I think he could really write the ultimate comedy novel if he broadened his horizons. And with all of the crookedness in Florida, it shouldn't be a problem.

As soon as I saw this book out, I had to buy it! Having read almost everything this author has written, getting the latest was indeed high priority. Now I've rated this book "only" four stars, so let

me explain. Yes the book is hilarious. And from the very first page. But in comparison to "Double Whammy", my favorite Hiassen book of all, I've come to "expect" serious whackiness in his characters now. Perhaps that's why "Double Whammy", for me, was the funniest book I've ever read. I wasn't expecting it, and furthermore, the book started out disguised as a rather serious mystery, and it was somewhere into the book as the characters developed, that I realized how crazy, and how dumb, some of them were. "Sick Puppy" makes no effort to disguise this. It is evident from the beginning that all the characters are nuts and no telling what foolishness they will get into. Furthermore, while the book certainly entertains, the end result doesn't have quite the ingeniousness built into the climax, as say the fishing tournament at the end of "Double Whammy". And I only rate this book four stars, simply because I don't think it's quite as good as "Stormy Weather", "Tourist Season", "Native Tongue", "Double Whammy", "Skin Tight", which I would all rate five stars. But like any Indiana Jones and Star Wars movie is entertaining to watch over and over, so are Hiassen's books, and "Sick Puppy" is no exception. And I'm quite sure we have been primed to see more of Boodles and Twily in the future. Bring them on! I'll buy the next Hiassen book as soon as it comes out to.

Though it's hardly a laugh a page as the dust jacket might have you believe, Sick Puppy is still an entertaining read. John Grisham take note: this is how you can wrap a message in an entertaining story unlike the purely preachy Street Lawyer. There are at least a couple dozen major laughs in the book, with a general air of lightness throughout the rest of the text. The book won't tax your brain, or even be very memorable, but it's great for an in between book.

Since Tourist Season, Hiassen's books have reminded me of aerobatic flying in the most satisfying way...you expect a wild ride, but like any force of nature, he manages to throw new stomach-twitching high-lows that you didn't think were waiting for you. What's rewarding in a more aching way is rediscovering that you can still share his subtext of outrage at social and political drifts that we've come to take for granted...from ravaged lands we've stolen from our children to please greedy developers to the hearts of Russian women who will not only sell their bodies for sex, but deliver them to an operating table for hilarious yet cruelly-disfiguring cosmetic surgery. It's good to read a master at the top of his game, but it's even better to heed his alerts to a culture almost lost to the creeping evil of individual self-absorption.

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