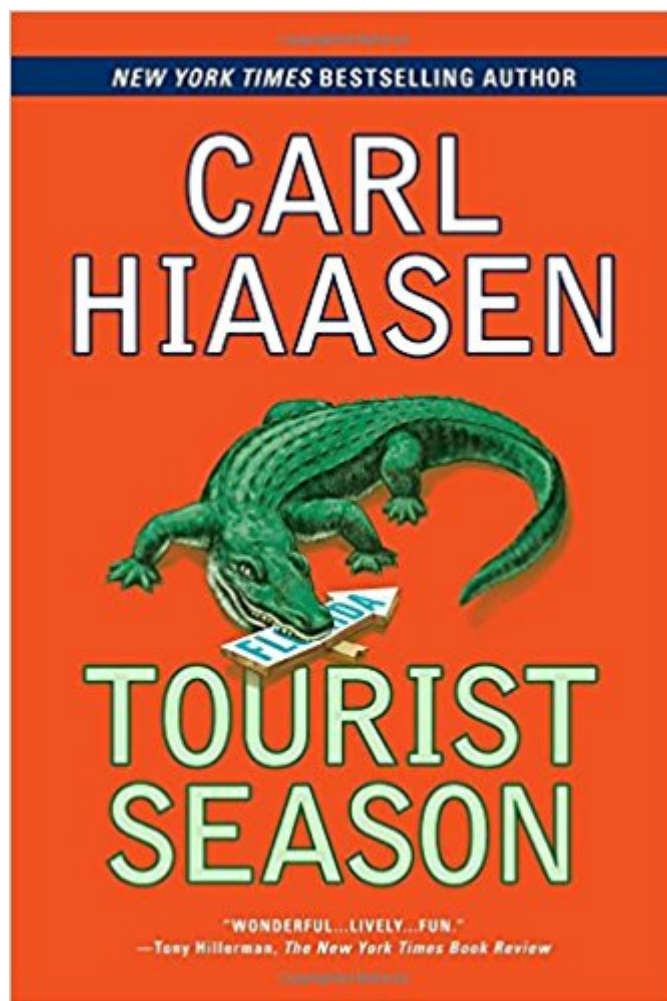


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Tourist Season



Synopsis

Take a trip to exotic South Florida with this “dark, funny book” that established Carl Hiaasen as one of the top mystery writers in the game. The first sign of trouble is a Shriner’s fez washed up on a Miami beach. The next is a suitcase containing the almost-legless body of the local chamber of commerce president found floating in a canal. . . . The locals are desperate to keep the murders under wraps and the tourist money flowing. But it will take a reporter-turned-private eye to make sense of a caper that mixes football players, politicians, and one very hungry crocodile in this classic mystery that GQ called “one of the top ten destination reads of all time.” Hiaasen keeps the suspense pumping along. “San Francisco Chronicle” “Kept me riveted to the end.” “Chicago Tribune” New York Times Bestselling Author Robert B. Parker carlhiaasen.com penguin.com

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Customer Reviews

When the president of the Miami Chamber of Commerce is found dead inside a suitcase with his legs sawn off and a rubber alligator stuffed down his throat, news and police locals prefer to believe it’s simply another typical South Florida crime. But when letters from a terrorist group, Las Noches de Diciembre, link the man’s death to the disappearances of a visiting Shriner and a Canadian tourist, former newsman (now private eye) Brian Keyes intuits that someone is out to kill Florida’s tourist trade. His investigation leads him to an old journalism crony obsessed with fury against the

state's irresponsible development policies. Miami Herald columnist Hiaasen writes with a seriousness of intent and knack for characterization which, unfortunately, outstrip his comic talents. This is an auspicious solo debut for the serious Hiaasen (he has written three thrillers with William Montalbano), but a lukewarm one for him as a potential comic-absurdist. (March 24pCopyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for Tourist Season"Brash mystery adventure...ferocious fun....There's a fresh breeze, if not a full-scale hurricane, up from Miami. Hiaasen, himself a columnist for the Miami Herald, writes with sardonic wit in a style so breezy that you want to hang on to the mast with both hands."~•Marilyn Stasio, The Columbus Dispatch"A terrific send-up of Floridiana...zany...satire as withering as a Dade County frost at the peak of citrus harvest...one novelist who never seems to forget for a minute that a chief purpose of any work of fiction is to entertain."~•The Cleveland Plain Dealer~"A remarkable example of what talented writers are doing these days with the mystery novel."~•Tony Hillerman, The New York Times Book Review"Makes Miami Vice look like Terry and the Pirates....I can't remember another novel that combines violence and comedy as successfully."~•John D. MacDonald, New York Times bestselling author of the Travis McGee series"Fiendish suspense and wicked black humor...does for Florida what Candy did for sex, and what Semi-Tough did for football. A rollicking, exciting, exceptional book."~•John Katzenbach, New York Times bestselling author of Hart~s War"Ferocious and ferociously funny. You race through its pages at a gallop."~•John Godey, New York Times bestselling author of The Taking of Pelham One Two Three"A most engaging novel....Hiaasen has perfectly blended black humor with stark terror."~•The Associated Press"A wonderful achievement, continuously inventive and surprising, very funny but deadly serious beneath the laughs. Hiaasen's voice is his own...a hell of a job."~•Pete Hamill, New York Times bestselling author of Forever"Wondrously told! Tourist Season is what we read novels for~•high entertainment and high excitement."~•Richard Condon, author of Prizzi~s Honor

I've been reading Carl Hiaasen's work for years, having jumped in around the middle, with "Native Tongue," "Skin Tight" and "Striptease." I've more recently been working my way through the rest of his catalog, including "Stormy Weather" and "Double Whammy," with his two latest books in hardback waiting on my to-be-read shelf. But years after the liner notes for a Jimmy Buffett song ("The Ballad of Skip Wiley and Skeet" off his "Barometer Soup" album) made me go look for this

Hiassen's guy's works in a book store, I'm finally getting around to "Tourist Season," the first novel Hiassen wrote, featuring rogue newspaper columnist Skip Wiley. It's said that you spend your entire life writing your first novel, as you inevitably put pretty much all the good stuff in that one. Whatever the state of your craft, it's where your ideas, your good bits, your passion all gets poured into. While I've enjoyed other Hiassen books more (notably "Native Tongue" and "Skin Tight"), this certainly seems to be true for "Tourist Season." While all of his books have an overt current of rage directed at developers, destructive big business and endemic corruption, he always makes sure to leaven that with humor, a little zaniness, and some sweetness. Not here. Sure, there's some amusing bits, a lot of them, really, but Hiassen's subsequent work has never been this dark, his rage never so undiminished. While all of his books barrel towards their climax, this is the first one I've read in which it's hard to see how there could be a happy ending, where the bad guys aren't REALLY bad and where it doesn't all seem like cosmic justice on the last page. I won't spoil the ending, but by midway through the book, it's clear that with the heaping handfuls of moral ambiguity mixed in, it's hard to have anything better than a bittersweet ending. In a nutshell, Miami newspaper columnist Skip Wiley has had enough. Enough of the influx of Yankees to Florida and the concomitant woes of greed, development and reckless destruction of the environment. Especially the latter. When Skip Wiley goes missing, and a new terrorist organization, the Nights of December, starts targeting the tourist industry in South Florida (starting by shoving a rubber alligator down a man's throat and then putting his dead body inside his luggage), Skip's editor calls a former reporter turned private investigator to track him down. Hiassen almost certainly does not advocate terrorism, murder and kidnap, but the cause is clearly near and dear to him, and he argues the Nights' cause eloquently. That makes their extremism tragic, and the possible endings all troubling. A solid novel, and one of Hiassen's best. While all of his novels will make you laugh, and keep you turning the pages, anxious to see what the next twist in the roller-coaster ride will be, "Tourist Season" will make you think, too. Definitely recommended for any of his existent fans, as well as fans of Dave Barry or Elmore Leonard.

Great book, in the tradition that I've come to expect from this great author. Hiassen addresses sensitive environmental issues in a ways that grips even the interest of people who would otherwise turn a blind eye or a deaf ear. ...and it's all wrapped up in a fun filled, thrilling story!

Brian Keyes, a former newspaper reporter is now working as a private eye, and he's been hired to prove the innocence of a suspect in the rather bizarre murder of the president of the Miami

Chamber of Commerce. Keyes believes that his client is innocent, and discovers that the murder may be tied to the disappearance of a visiting Shriner. Then other tourists and snow birds begin disappearing. There is a local terrorist group, the Nights of December, aka "The Nachos" who are claiming responsibility and Keyes knows the leader of the group very well. Skip Wiley is a well loved newspaper columnist who is dismayed at the rate of development in Florida and is determined to drive all the people out so that Florida can return to it's natural state. There are alligator attacks, bombings, beauty queens and Shriners involved, and it was a fun read.

I always enjoy his books. Not one of his best but still worth the read. The bad guys were entertaining.

This story showed its age with references to 'current' celebrities (Michael Landon being one), and lifestyle (no cell phones). Some of this was amusing and transported me back to the 80's. But the story as a whole was only mildly engaging. What I did enjoy was the sarcastic humor that would appear just when I was getting bored. I took this with me on a sailing trip and the light reading was just enough, along with the rock of the waves, to put me to sleep every night.

Carl Hiaason's books are hilarious, but he tends to write the same book over and over.

I've become a devoted fan of Carl Hiassen. I'm generally more of a "great books" type (Faulkner, Tolstoy . . . pretentious list of stuff). But a good read is a good read. His prose is a lot better than some award winning books I've started and stopped reading recently. Sometimes disturbing and dark, sometimes hackneyed, sometimes laugh-out-loud funny . . . I've read 3 of Mr. Hiassen's books in succession, currently reading a 4th.

Just a little bit of a disappointment for this long-time Hiaasen fan. It was hard to get into. I kept reading only because it was Mr. H, and I thought any minute it would become a fun read. But at best it was only mildly and sporadically entertaining. Nearly 400-page narrative too long for the somewhat strange, weak plot. Couldn't develop any interest for the characters. Can't recommend this one--particularly if you've read any of his other books, all of which are much better. Gave three stars instead of two only because it wasn't totally unlikeable.

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