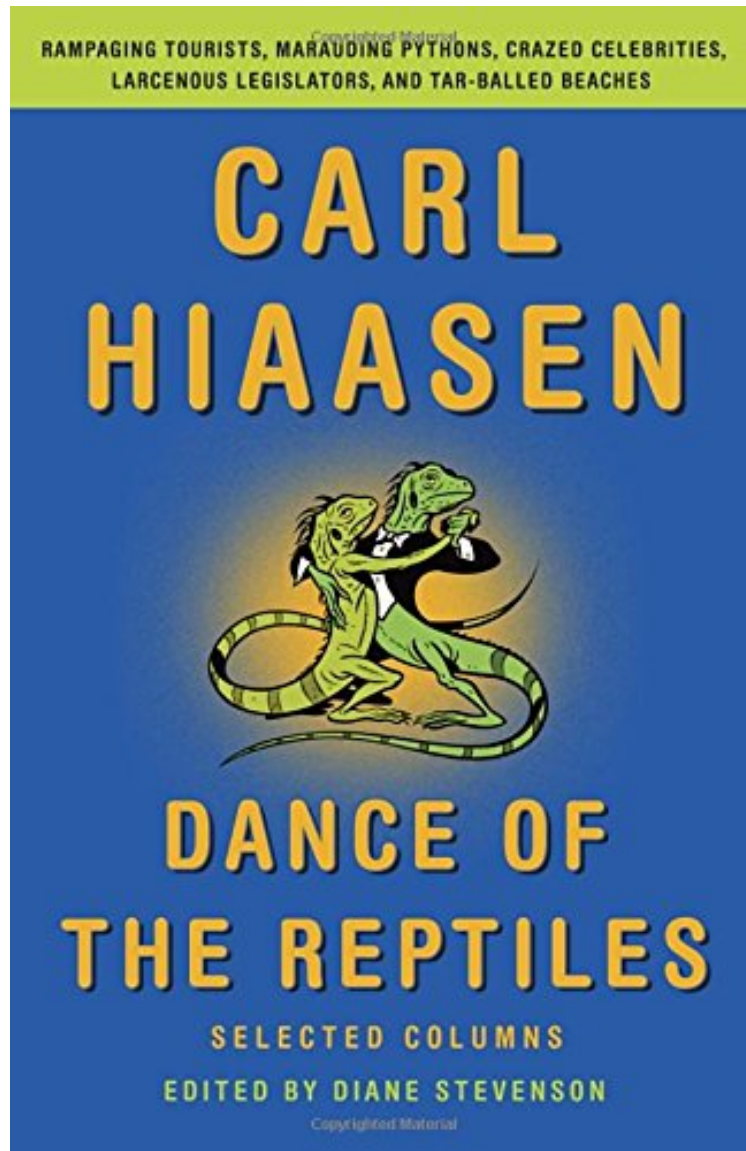


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## Dance of the Reptiles: Rampaging Tourists, Marauding Pythons, Larcenous Legislators, Crazy Celebrities, and Tar-Balled Beaches: Selected Columns

Carl Hiaasen

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Carl Hiaasen : Dance of the Reptiles: Rampaging Tourists, Marauding Pythons, Larcenous Legislators, Crazy Celebrities, and Tar-Balled Beaches: Selected Columns before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *Dance of the Reptiles: Rampaging Tourists, Marauding Pythons, Larcenous Legislators, Crazy Celebrities, and Tar-Balled Beaches: Selected Columns*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Like other books of Hiassen's columns *By Those Darn Donkeys!* This one is not a novel, probably a collection of columns. I'm sure the description says this. Like other books of Hiassen's columns, I am amazed he gets in the paper as he exposes so much, names names. But it also ages quickly as it's related to news. Maybe we couldn't take a book of 500 pages that tracked just one issue like draining the swamps. It reminds me a lot of Hawaii. Always selling paradise and turning it into a parking lot. With no good mitigation of runoff, ruining watershed, allowing septic tanks near the ocean. Fight! Fight! Fight! We have to fight every little battle, we have to. Everyone read this, think of your community, and keep on fighting, exposing, testifying, and if you have Hiassen's talent, keep writing. It's such a downer, so if you want an upper, feel good thing, not for you. If you want to be informed, it's for you. I'd say I loved it, but I will say I have set it aside for a while to come back to. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed his other detective madcap murder mystery novels quite a bit. His main theme, warranted, is the heartbreak of seeing environmental destruction for superficial glamour. Perhaps it will become "too expensive". Our immediate future is certainly grim as protections and previous legal pathways to impede development are being gutted. Have no doubts that much of the swamp can restore itself, in time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you like Carl Hiassen novels don't read this book! *By OH Diver* Very disappointed! I enjoy a Carl Hiassen story every once in a while. I've read *Bad Monkey*, *Skinny Dip*, *Skink*, etc. But this is not a typical Carl Hiassen story. It's a book of his newspaper articles. They are very uninteresting, politically left wing slanted and many have nothing to do with Florida, his normal theme location. I'm afraid since reading this I'll not purchase another Hiassen book. His quirky ways are entertaining in a novel but sad in real life.

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** If you think the wildest, wackiest stories that Carl Hiassen can tell have all made it into his hilarious, bestselling novels, think again. *Dance of the Reptiles* collects the best of Hiassen's Miami Herald columns, which lay bare the stories--large and small--that demonstrate anew that truth is far stranger than fiction. Hiassen offers his commentary--indignant, disbelieving, sometimes righteously angry, and frequently hilarious--on burning issues like animal welfare, polluted rivers, and the broken criminal justice system as well as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Bernie Madoff's trial, and the shenanigans of the recent presidential elections. Whether or not you have read Carl Hiassen before, you are in for a wild ride.

**From Booklist** This is the third collection of Hiassen's op-ed pieces from the Miami Herald, following *Kick Ass* (2002). Known primarily for his mystery novels, Hiassen also produces a weekly newspaper column, which often delivers blistering indictments of the people and policies that he believes ruin Florida. The "reptiles" of the title sometimes refer to actual reptiles, as in pythons and alligators. More often, the term refers to lobbyists, politicians, tourists, and environmental evildoers. The two- to three-page essays take direct aim at their targets ("*Go Away*" addresses the tourists and new residents who are spoiling Florida; "*Drill, Spill and Kill*" very effectively goes after BP) and span the years 2001–12, making many of them, like the ones focusing on former President George W. Bush, literally seem like old news. Still, even after the fact, they are entertaining for Hiassen's ability to awaken outrage and for his eye for oddity (the latter, of course, is a defining characteristic of his fiction). While this may seem like an unnecessary collection in this era of finding articles online, it is still, by turns, both hilarious and unnerving. --Connie Fletcher "Although some say the satire practically writes itself in this state, Hiassen raises it to a higher level. One caveat, though: Unless you have an intravenous drip of blood pressure meds, you might want to read just a few of these columns at a time." --Tampa Bay Times "Hiassen doesn't really need to keep his day job as a columnist for the Miami Herald, but fortunately for the residents of Florida and for his vast readership, he has. . . . The state of Florida does not come off too well in Hiassen's columns, but one welcome positive of the Sunshine State is obvious—Carl Hiassen." —The Free-Lance Star (Fredericksburg, VA) "Hiassen makes this parade of idiocy and avarice palatable with a kind of gallows humor. The more appalling the situation, the greater the potential for hilarity. . . . He is not so much stridently liberal as steadfastly sensible, his wit girded by palpable anger." --The Post and Courier (Charleston) "Hiassen employs a seasoned bullshit detector that is among the most acute in American journalism. . . . If Florida is the poster child for a nation's fiscal and political disintegration, Hiassen is the state's galloping knight (in)errant, slaying the dragons of ineptitude, arrogance and idiocy." --Kirkus "Entertaining. . . . Hilarious and unnerving. . . for Hiassen's ability to awaken outrage and for his eye for oddity." --Booklist "Praise for Carl Hiassen's previous column collections, *Paradise Screwed* and *Kick Ass* "Shows you that Hiassen's seemingly implausible fictional premises aren't really far-fetched at all. He just knows Florida." —Playboy "Reminiscent of the snarky, opinionated newspaper articles of the great Mark Twain, Hiassen's columns are finely crafted little gems." —Booklist "Lively and well-reported . . . Illuminated by all the wit and keen descriptive powers of his fiction."

—SalonAbout the AuthorCarl Hiaasen was born and raised in Florida. He is the author of thirteen novels, including the bestsellers *Bad Monkey*, *Star Island*, *Nature Girl*, *Skinny Dip*, *Sick Puppy*, and *Lucky You*, and four bestselling children's books, *Chomp*, *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. He joined *The Miami Herald* in 1976 and worked on the newspaper's magazine and investigations team before starting his column in 1985. In 2010, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.