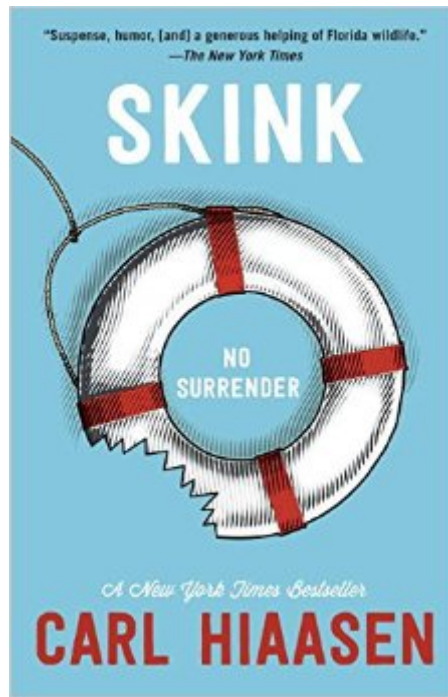


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Skink--No Surrender



Synopsis

Carl Hiaasen serves up his unique brand of swamp justice in the New York Times bestseller *Skink* "No Surrender." A National Book Award Longlist Selection When your cousin goes missing under suspicious circumstances, who do you call? There's only one man for the job: a half-crazed, half-feral, one-eyed ex-governor named Skink. Skink joins 14-year-old Richard on a breakneck chase across Florida, undaunted by lightning storms, poisonous snakes, flying bullets, and giant gators. There are a million places cousin Malley could be, a million unpleasant fates that might have befallen her, but one thing is certain: in the Florida swamp, justice is best served wild. SUNSHINE STATE AWARD FINALIST!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1,017 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

A good, clean read for a long plane ride. This book is intended for a younger audience, as the main characters are 14-year old teenagers. When I bought this book, I did not realize this when notified me that the new Hiaasen novel had just been released. I skipped the reviews and immediately clicked the button for the Kindle version. I was on vacation, so I kept on reading, finding myself enjoying another Hiaasen novel. The story is told from the point of view a 14-year old boy who tries to save his best friend, his cousin of the same age but opposite gender, who has been kidnapped

by 26-year old male psychopath whom the cousin met in an Internet chat room. The plot includes some of the typical lowlife in Hiassen novels, as well as the good guys (I've read nearly all of them, especially all the ones for adult readers). Skink is his usual self, now 72 years old and going strong, but the colorful (swearing) adult language is absent from Skink, as well as the rest of the characters. In other words, if it were a movie, it would be G rated, or possibly PG. I've been hoping that Hiassen would write a new novel similar to the earlier ones for adults, and miss some of his witty sarcasm, humorous slants to the characters, exposition of their human foibles, and the nearly incredible, hilarious situations they get themselves into. But I understand that Hiassen is trying to get the main moral message that permeates all his books across to the younger generation--because they are the future. I'd highly recommend this book to teenagers, but adults can enjoy it too and pass it on to their children when they're old enough to read it.

Lurking in the background of many of Carl Hiassen's novels, and taking a crucial role in some of them, is Skink. A hermit, lover of nature, hater of polluters and out-of-control developers, this former governor of Florida, officially believed to be dead, has chosen to live off the grid, pursuing his own agenda. In Skink--No Surrender the governor takes a larger role than in previous books. Richard, the book's teenage narrator, first meets Skink on the beach near his home. Skink has buried himself in the sand, disguising himself as a turtle nest, with hopes of catching someone who has been collecting turtle eggs. (Later on Skink gets his man!) Despite their age difference, and Skink's many quirks and oddities, the two make a connection. When Richard tells Skink about his cousin Malley's running off with an internet predator, finding and rescuing Malley becomes Skink's new mission. The mismatched pair set out together in Florida-wide manhunt. Fans of Hiassen's fiction will recognize the familiar settings, characters, and attitudes that inhabit his fiction: the hapless criminals, the less-than-intelligent adults, the riffs on endangered species and habitats, the somewhat random but still enjoyable plot connections. Fans of Hiassen's stories for younger readers will recognize characteristics Richard shares with earlier Hiassen protagonists: independent thinking, curiosity, a love of nature. Skink--No Surrender establishes a sort of middle ground between Hiassen's novels for adults and his YA novels. It has a bit more violence and more mature subject matter than the latter and less than the former. If there's a complaint it would be that even though Hiassen takes on the sticky subject of internet relationships and the terrible risk kids take when meeting someone online, it doesn't seem to weigh as heavy as it probably should. So Malley ran off with a guy who turns out to be a criminal, but that's OK, here come her cousin and Skink, in a madcap adventure to the rescue! In the hilarity, there is real peril, and there are real consequences, but it just seemed to

be taken lightly. Above all is Skink. His oddball lifestyle (roadkill for dinner, anyone?), complete lack of fashion, grooming, or even bathing, coupled with his elevated sense of justice, his almost superhuman strength and skills (he's a Vietnam vet), and his resourcefulness (aided, of course, by his retired highway patrol buddy), make Skink one of the most oddly memorable and strangely lovable characters you'll come across. I'm glad to see him get a leading role in this new book, and, as always, glad to see that Hiaasen has more stories to tell! Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

I love reading Carl Hiaasen books. He cannot write them fast enough for me. Like all of his books, "Skink" can stand on its own and it is not necessary to read the earlier books. However, doing so will greatly enhance the reader's understanding of what is going on. Skink is a character that sometimes has a major role in Hiaasen's repertoire and sometimes makes a cameo appearance. As you can imagine from the title, Skink is a major player in this book. Hiaasen's writing is always entertaining and always funny. The funniest factor is that the crazy scenarios that he describes are so darn believable. He has said in interviews that we are so lucky that so many bad guys are so unbelievably stupid. Most of the bad guys are, truly, nominees for the Darwin Awards. "Skink" deals with the plight of leatherback turtles, the life of a young man trying to survive his mother's second marriage, a secret guilt and a secret love. Much of the story takes place on the water and there is a part concerning an alligator that appears to be shamelessly stolen from Peter Pan. You won't want to put it down. I do not give out five star reviews very often.

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