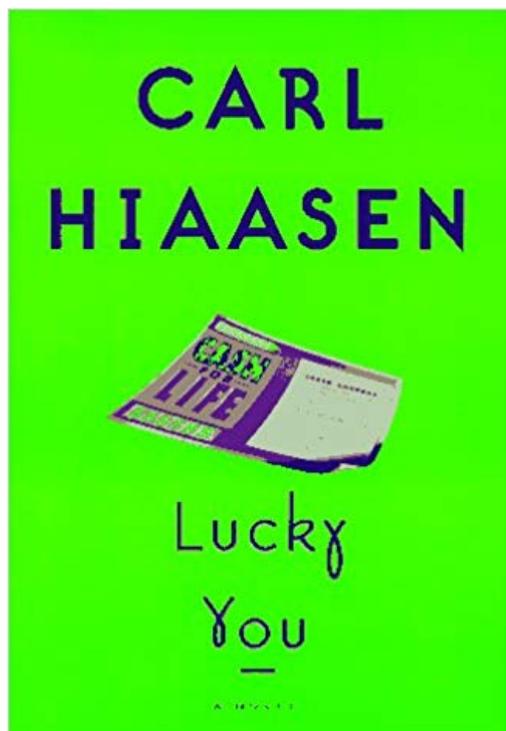


Lucky You *by* Carl Hiaasen



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Grange, Florida, is famous for its miracles--the weeping fiberglass Madonna, the Road-Stain Jesus, the stigmata man. And now it has JoLayne Lucks, unlikely winner of the state lottery. Unfortunately, JoLayne's winning ticket isn't the only one. The other belongs to Bodean Gazzer and his raunchy sidekick, Chub, who believe they're entitled to the whole \$28 million jackpot. And they need it quickly, to start their own underground militia before NATO troops invade America. But JoLayne Lucks has her own plans for the Lotto money--an Eden-like forest in Grange must be saved from strip-malling. When Bode and Chub brutally assault her and steal her ticket, JoLayne vows to track them down, take it back--and get revenge. The only one who can help is Tom Krome, a big-city investigative journalist now bitterly consigned to writing frothy features for a midsized central Florida newspaper. With a persuasive nudge from JoLayne, Krome is about to become part of a story that's bigger and more bizarre than anything he's ever covered. Chasing two heavily armed psychopaths down the coast of Florida is reckless enough, but Tom's got other problems--the murderous attention of a jealous judge; an actress wife who turns fugitive to avoid divorce court; an editor who speaks in tongues; and Tom's own growing fondness for the future millionairess with whom he's risking his neck. The pursuit takes them from the surreal streets of Grange to a buzzard-infested island deep in Florida Bay, where they finally catch up with the fledgling militia--Chub, Bode Gazzer, a newly recruited convenience-store clerk and their baffled hostage, a Hooters waitress. The climax explodes with the hilarious mayhem that is Carl Hiaasen's hallmark. Lucky You is his funniest, most deliriously gripping novel yet.



Reviews of the **Lucky You** by Carl Hiaasen

Vital Beast

I have read a number of Hiaasen novels, but not for a few years. How wonderful to be welcomed back to a wacky Florida world he illustrates like a mad modern art painting. The characters are delightfully evil and deceitful, typically disillusioned and finally redeeming. Florida is now my adopted home and these personalities are more believable everyday good and bad. A terrific vacation read to be savored by the beach wherever it might be. Don't miss it.

Auridora

I got into Hiaasen after reading an article on Florida crime fiction in the New Yorker. The article concentrates specifically on Hiaasen's writing, at one point comparing his style with Tom Wolf's Miami novel "Back to Blood". There are style similarities - both are social satirists, both see the world through a glass, darkly. However, neither is Hiaasen the word smith that Wolf is, nor is his intent the same. I've always felt Wolf works best as a social critic. He tends not to delve deeply into his characters' psyches, but rather rumages around in the milieu in which they live. For me, Hiaasen's primary intent is to entertain, and he does that in spades. *Lucky You* is chock full of outlandish characters and situations. I had a lot of chuckles and a few belly laughs reading him. He's a great read when you need a break (for me a two day reading break before I march into Foote's third volume of his Civil War narrative), or simply want an entertaining read. My second Hiaasen, and I will definitely read more.

Sarin

Laugh out loud funny turns into leaden droning as the story drags on and on. Couldn't wait till the pain was over. One of Hiaasen's worst.

August

Although this book has quirky characters and the usual satirical look at things in the state of Florida it is not as engaging as many of Hiaasen's other books. It seemed to be a rather "slow read" when compared to many of his other books. Although superior to most satirical writing from current authors this is not one of Hiaasen's best. As "Hiaasen's best" is outstanding, this means the book is entertaining if one is not familiar with his other offerings. Books like *SICK PUPPY* are "laugh out loud" funny. This one is amusing but has a bit of a bite.

Impala Frozen

It was a ghastly winter here in the great white north. Words froze as soon as they left your mouth...hung in the air in broken sentences. (they're thawing now...awful noise). Trapped indoors by long grey days and mindless T.V. re-runs I was filled with joyful anticipation when I found *Lucky You*. I wasn't disappointed. Carl Hiaasen has a way of making me laugh my way through his books. His characters are drawn with insight, humour, and a caring recognition of our human flaws...no matter how ridiculous or pathological those flaws might be...you find yourself rooting for the bumbling heroes and hoping that the bad guys get their just deserts. Winter was a little less bleak...the days a little less dark. Thanks again Carl.

Venemarr

I read this book while getting inspiration for my book *The Medici Iris: A Tale of Murder, Sex, Drugs...and Horticulture* - Hiaasen always has crazy capers with multiple character arcs that come together at the end. It's hard to pull off, but he often brings it all together.

I had trouble with country-losers wanting to get ANOTHER winning lottery ticket [could they not see they had already WON?!], but it would not have been a story if they had had any brains.

The reporter protagonist was was a good character. I liked the pokes he took at his editor and his relationship with the leading lady evolves in a believable way. No spoilers - but the last part of the book is a little morbid [in a good way] out in the bayou...but what a good place for it all to happen.

Enjoyed it and will check out more by this author

Ffel

Snarky, Funny, Quaint, Romantic and a Good Adventure. I really like this author. I've read 3 so far and will be downloading more. Note: some of Carl Hiaasen's books are written for youth - I read one of them and liked it, even though it was an easy read.

Although this is not my favorite Carl Hiaasen book it is still a great example of his talent, his craftsmanship, and his storytelling gifts. I have watched most seasons of the cable series "Justified" and there are elements here that I see here with race relations, greed, neo-nazi groups, white supremacists, lotto fever, and white trailer trash. It is very comical and you will wonder constantly if anyone is the least bit normal in this novel. Enjoy and don't take it seriously at all. The characters in this book are all outlandish and exaggerated yet they are also very believable.

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