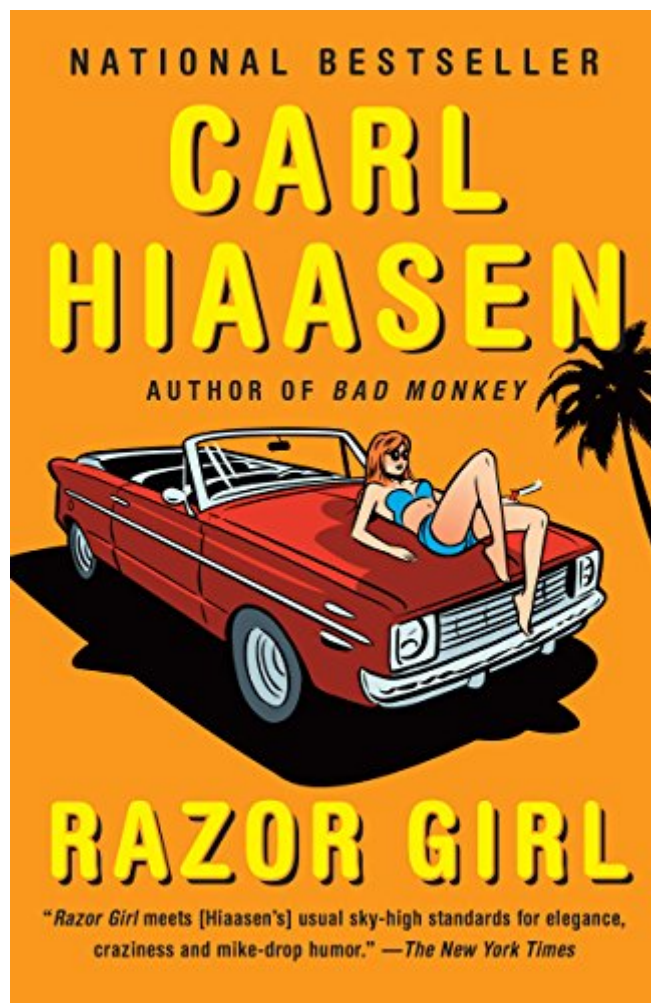


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Razor Girl: A Novel



Synopsis

A lovable con woman and a disgraced detective team up to find a redneck reality TV star in this raucous and razor-sharp new novel from Carl Hiaasen, the bestselling author of *Bad Monkey*. Merry Mansfield, the eponymous Razor Girl, specializes in kidnapping for the mob. Her preferred method is rear-ending her targets and asking them for a ride. Her latest mark is Martin Trebeaux, owner of a private beach renourishment company who has delivered substandard sand to a mob hotel. But there's just one problem: Razor Girl hits the wrong guy. Instead, she ends up with Lane Coolman, talent manager for Buck Nance, the star of a reality TV show about a family of Cajun rooster farmers. Buck Nance, left to perform standup at a Key West bar without his handler, makes enough off-color jokes to incite a brawl, then flees for his life and vanishes. Now a routine promotional appearance has become a missing persons case. And Andrew Yancy, disgraced detective-turned-health inspector, is on the job. That the Razor Girl may be the key to Yancy's future will be as surprising to him as anything else he encounters along the way—including the giant Gambian pouched rats that are haunting his restaurant inspections.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book had somehow eluded my notice for the better part of a year. When I was looking for some new, lighthearted reading material, I pounced at this one and dove right in. In *Razor Girl*, there's a heavy dose of the characteristic Hiaasen wit and hi-jinx, and we catch up with our old buddy Yancy as he slogs through his personal hell of inspecting cut-rate Key restaurants. We're introduced to the titular "razor girl," who behaves similarly to your average "free spirit" in a Hiaasen book. It's hard for me to put my finger on, but I felt like this book took a while to "get going" in the manner of Hiaasen's excellent previous books. The arc and the characters meander along before really picking up steam, ostensibly as Hiaasen got comfortable writing in his old style. *Razor Girl* delivers on cultural relevance, spoofing the redneck culture of "Duck Dynasty" hilariously in a side plot that ends up becoming central. Overall, it's very much worth the read, if not quite as sharp as much of Hiaasen's past "adult" work.

Razor Girl is pure Carl Hiaasen, at least judging by the previous four novels of his I have read. "The" *Razor Girl* is another femme fatale character from the author of South Floridian sex-fueled suspense-comedies (is that even a category?). She has a memorable strategy for kidnapping that would allow one to quickly identify other Hiaasen fans in any room by uttering the phrase "Razor Girl," or attaching that attribute to any descendants of Eve in the vicinity. In addition to the RZ, the cast of characters includes a Duck Dynasty-like family of invented cable bayou dwellers, their Hollywood entourage, mobsters (gotta like the name Big Noogie), and the returning Food-Inspector (and former detective) Andrew Yancy. Murder fuels the plot and in Hiaasen style, all the story lines converge by the end of the tale. Funny, crude and filled with memorable if one-dimensional characters. The definition of escapist reading.

I have read all of Hiaasen's books. I must confess this one is a little different. I am not really sure what word I am looking for but the book is a bit dark. There seems to me a lot of negativity. Many of Hiaasen's books move around and you feel like you are learning about Florida, this book kind of stayed in one location. I usually enjoy books that have a multiple story line that weaves in and out. I did get that same feeling with this book, it seemed more like multiple story lines that stood alone. Though it was not my favorite book, I will read the next Hiaasen with anticipation.

When Lane Coolman's car is bashed from behind on the road to the Florida Keys, an ordinary car accident turns out to be an intentional hit. Behind the wheel of the other car is Merry Mansfield (aka Razor Girl; you'll understand when you read the book), and this car accident scam is the beginning of events that provide continuous humor throughout the book. In addition to Lane Coolman and Merry Mansfield, the cast of interesting characters include: Trebeaux, the owner of Sedimental Journeys, a company that steals sand from one beach to restore erosion on another; Dominick "Big Noogie" Aeola, a NYC Mafioso who hates the cold up north; Buck Nance, the star of a reality show called Bayou Brethren, who is actually a Wisconsin accordionist; a psycho known as Blister, who idolizes Buck Nance and tries to imitate the reality show character; Brock Richardson, a wealthy Miami liability lawyer, who is getting addicted to the very product he is litigating against; and Andrew Yancy, a former Detective who was busted down to a roach patrol inspector, who believes that solving a high-profile murder will lead to getting his detective badge back. The book provides ongoing humor that at times caused me to laugh out loud. While the book could be considered R-Rated by some, it is not offensive in my opinion. I gave this book a 4-star rating because the humor is consistent throughout the book, but never goes overboard. I have never read any of this author's other books, but based on my experience with this book and the positive reviews his other books have received, I plan on doing so.

If Hiaasen is writing a novel, Occam's Razor would say that it probably has a gaudy cover with a scantily clad woman. The main character is a man with a strong, but very flexible moral code. The novel will be set in South Florida and the cast of characters will make very bad and often spontaneous decisions. There will be a lot of bright clothes, nudity, crime, and gross food. The main theme of the novel will be comedy instead of a deep insight into morality. That 17th century friar sure is a good prognosticator.

A fun read. I like Carl Hiaasen and this book is probably my favorite. Although from New York, I used to do a lot of SCUBA diving in the Keys and I am familiar with some of the locations in the story so I had a connection to the locale. He writes a snappy, never dull, intricate story that you never lose interest in. So many of the characters are caricatures but still seeming real. The main characters are likable (maybe even lovable) and the villains are detestable. Some of the "wise guys" are likable too. Sort of a Sopranos redux. Buy it, you'll like it!

Have loved Hiaasen books and this one starts out great. I had high hopes for an engaging and funny

read. As the book progressed, it seemed to flounder and by the time I got about 3/4 of the way through I was losing interest. I actually stopped reading at 90%. My wife was reading it at the same time and she quit about half way through. I couldn't see any reason to encourage her to go further as I was ahead of her in the book.

Other authors write about South Florida and the Keys, but no one writes like Carl. From the central characters who are flawed but likeable to the depraved and clueless protagonists, they are well constructed. The plots always have a number of unforeseen twists. Hiassen, as usual, makes sure that he gets in his digs at the developers who have ravaged and continue to ravage the area. Another enjoyable well written tale.

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