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Diane Editor Stevenson

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Diane Editor Stevenson : Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen (Hardback) - Common before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen (Hardback) - Common:

72 of 74 people found the following review helpful. And you thought his novels were strangeBy Doug Vaughn
The novels of Carl Hiaasen are darkly comic visions of the hell that greed and overdevelopment have created in much of south Florida. This book, a collection of his newspaper columns for the Miami Herald, reveals much about the origins of that vision. In these columns Hiaasen emerges as a fierce, intelligent and tireless critic of corrupt politicians, thoughtless overdevelopment, hypocrisy and human stupidity generally. These columns, some about local Miami politics and crime, some about Florida and some about the state of America generally, all contain elements of clear thinking, bitter humor and genuine indignation. His choice of subjects shows his eye for irony and the columns can be read both for information and for his humorous take on the subject. Like Molly Ivins, who can speak the truth and make us laugh about things that are probably worthy of tears, Hiaasen manages to ease the pain of much that he reveals in the columns by recasting it as comedy. He makes us laugh first, and then leaves us with troubled thoughts. Makes me wish he wrote for the Washington Post. The citizens of D.C. could use a good laugh at much that goes on. We just don't have a Carl Hiaasen here to do it justice. Reading this book won't make one want to move to Miami, but it will make one want to read more Hiaasen. Always a pleasure.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Carl Hiaasen's superb journalistic style... it's all hereBy John Williamson
For this reader, Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen (1999) is a classic of real journalism, and the columnist and novelist is still going strong at the Miami Herald today, where he's been since 1976. He's also the author of many of this reader's favorite novels, and some have

also made their way to film. Beginning with his 'Welcome to South Florida' the author introduces us to such everyday Florida events that visitors to the Sunshine State often miss, such as animal sacrifice, riots at the beaches, and a shootout over limes at the supermarket. It's book is a collection of over 200 columns broken down into 18 chapters, chronicling events and defining the issues that kept the South Florida melting pot bubbling throughout the '80s and '90s. In his introductory essay, Hiassen provides us with an overview of his career up to the end of the 20th century and outlines his principal concerns as a journalist. As noted by fellow Floridian Diane Stevenson in her Preface to this book: "This anthology was therefore originally intended to answer the need for a more permanent record of Hiaasen's career as one of the country's most influential and articulate journalists. But what also emerges from the collection, most significantly for those of us who care about Florida's future, is a clear picture of Carl Hiaasen's continuing role as an uncompromising and eloquent defender of this state." If you ever wondered where the author came up with the ideas and themes for his novels, it's easy from this book to see that they came from real life in South Florida. Hiaasen's 2001 book *Paradise Screwed* is a continuation of this journalistic theme, another collection of essays from his *Miami Herald* columns. *Kick Ass: Selected Columns of Carl Hiaasen* is highly recommended to fans of the author's novels, if just as good background material. It's a book that should also be required for any college journalism student. 10/26/2012 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *The Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction...Proof that History repeats itself.* By Kathy Sharpe This book proves that History repeats itself, that the Truth is Stranger than Fiction. This book would be great for Florida-philes and those with a penchant for political shenanigans. Every State in the Union needs a writer journalist like Carl Hiaasen.

A collection of over 200 of best-selling author Carl Hiaasen's *Miami Herald* columns, written with the same dark humor satirical wit as his fiction. Evokes the disastrously flawed paradise of modern South Florida, its developers, conmen, crooks, cops.