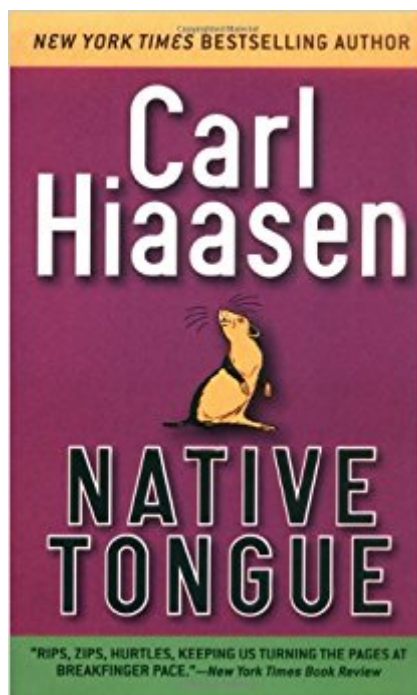


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# Native Tongue



## Synopsis

Now reissued--one of the most beloved novels by the "New York Times" bestselling author in which dedicated, if somewhat demented, environmentalists battle sleazy real estate developers in the Florida Keys.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 481 pages

Publisher: Vision (November 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0446613207

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Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 1 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 320 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Humor > Lawyers & Criminals #77 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Humor &

Satire > Dark Humor #168 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Satire

## Customer Reviews

Writing like an Edward Abbey of South Florida, Hiaasen ( Skin Tight ) sets his reluctant journalist hero after a morally corrupt real estate developer planning to build an 18-hole golf course on North Key Largo. Burned out as an investigative reporter for a Miami newspaper, Joe Winder now writes PR releases for the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills, a sleazy theme park owned by Francis X. Kingsbury, who hopes to increase his fortune with a nearby golf resort. When Winder learns that the purportedly last living pair of blue-tongued mango voles, recently stolen centerpieces of the Rare Animal Pavilion, are not an endangered species as claimed, he joins the forces opposed to his boss. These include the Mothers of Wilderness, an organization of well-heeled blue-haired activists, and a semi-crazy recluse named Skink, a former Florida governor who has become a sort of Robin Hood of the Keys. Hiaasen keeps a broad cast of zany characters--Winder's girlfriend answers the phone for a call-in porn service; a steroid-crazed, weight-lifting ex-cop ingests hormones from a portable IV--moving at a breakneck clip. Murders (one accomplished by an amorous rogue dolphin), explosive revenge taken on land-moving machinery, the triumphs of love found and principles regained, and the singular environment of the Florida Keys are ingredients of this sometimes scattershot but always inventive entertainment. 50,000 first printing; BOMC alternate. Copyright

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Imagine you're driving a rented Chrysler LeBaron convertible to the perfect family vacation at the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills when a rat is tossed into your car by a passing pickup. The rodent in question is not a rat, but a rare blue-tongued mango vole just liberated from the Kingdom by the militant Wildlife Rescue Corps. Welcome to the world of Native Tongue, where dedicated (if somewhat demented) environmentalists battle sleazy real estate developers in the Florida Keys. Hiaasen reminds one of Harry Crews in his depiction of a South full of eccentric people involved in crazy schemes. It is a measure of the writer's talent that no matter how bizarre the situation, it is believable. Late in the book a character laments his predicament as "an irresistible convergence of violence, mayhem and mortality!" If he had added nonstop hilarity, he would have had a perfect description of this book. Highly recommended. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/91.- Dan Bogey, Clearfield Cty. P.L. Federation, Curwensville, Pa. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I picked up Native Tongue for the first time in Europe. I was thirteen and I had already gone through the books that I had brought for the trip. An adult I was traveling with handled me this (along with an Anne Rice book) and I fell in love with the story of an ex reporter turned PR man. Coupled with the story of an ex-governor and a pair of bumbling thieves, Native Tongue is a great gateway into the world of Hiaasen. Re-reading this book, I was reminded by the theme of preservation. Nature is King in Florida, and also in Hiaasen's world, and those who forget that, tend to get 'theirs' in hideous ways. And the reporter in me loves the old reporter talk from Joe Winder's days in the bullpen. When the precious blue-tongued mango voles at the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills on North Key Largo are stolen by heartless, ruthless thugs, Joe Winder wants to uncover why, and find the voles. Joe is lately a PR man for the Amazing Kingdom theme park, but now that the voles are gone, Winder is dragged along in their wake through a series of weird and lethal events that begin with the sleazy real-estate agent/villain Francis X. Kingsbury and can end only one way. Who Should Read This Book: Fans of humor, dark humor and who want a bazaar, gonzo-type story mired in a little bit of truth. Final Thoughts: This continues to be one of my favorite Carl Hiaasen books. While I mourn the death of the blue tongued vole as a species, I am happy that dolphins get to win in the end, though. I feel like wildlife wins at the end of each Hiaasen book, which is a good or a bad thing, depending on how you feel about wildlife in Florida. I read most of this on an airplane, listening to the

audiobook while on a red eye flight (and seeing dinosaurs with lighted exoskeletons do construction work in some weird way--I blame exhaustion) and reading the ebook on my Kindle. I bought a copy of the paperback for my husband on a trip to Florida, but I have no idea where THAT copy is. Maybe I'll find it shortly.

Hiaten is a master storyteller. We listen to his stories on road trips through our beautiful Utah. The book is funny, a bit ridiculous, while cleverly promoting wise use of natural resources and basic common sense.

I read everything Carl writes! Period. He is consistent and his characters become a part of your expectation. I always wait for the words, "plastic shower cap" : "Glass eye" : "Trooper" : "Roadkill" and so many other hints that My Favorite character has just landed slap dab in the middle of my latest read. Hiaasen writes about my home state, Florida. I have been to every single location he mentions. I lived in Islamorada for two years so his stories about the Keys are like reading about my own back yard! He has a love for that wonderful state and is writing these fun and wonderful stories to open the eyes of the reader (in a screaming funny way) to the plight that over population and pristine undisturbed nature should have heroes. And Hiaasen gives us those heroes! And How! Uncle Raggy

Fun but uneven storytelling.

A Disney like theme park run by a mob-rat in witness protection; A sleazy PR boss and the PR employee who just can't handle the lies, two stolen endangered animals, that are actually just regular animals with their tongues painted purple, an enthusiastic group of elderly protectors of wildlife, the leader isn't afraid to use a gun; two clueless criminals; and Skink the former governor turned hermit. What's not to love?

Carl's stuff is always a fun romp. As it were, I'm revisiting all of the "SKINK" books in preparation for the forthcoming novel where he is a "headline" character. Meanwhile, now that I reside in FL it's kind of fun reading about places that I've become quite familiar with. If you want something that's quite literally laugh out loud funny.... get it! Read it! Get another! If you want to learn about this mysterious "Skink" fellow.... start at the beginning with Double Whammy.... and work your way forward from there. You WILL have a good time!

I find these books fun to read and frequently find myself laughing out loud. The characters are outlandish but not so much so that the reader is distracted. If you want a light, yet hilarious, mystery book, you can't go wrong with a Skink book.

great book

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