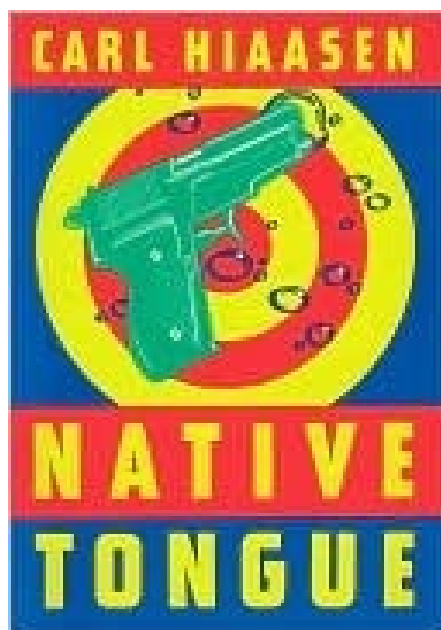




Native Tongue

Carl Hiaasen

Download now

Read Online ➞

Native Tongue

Carl Hiaasen

Native Tongue Carl Hiaasen

"Ruthlessly wicked...Wonderful...His best book yet."

ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION

When the precious clue-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....

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Carl Hiaasen's *Bad Monkey*.

Native Tongue Details

Date : Published (first published 1991)

ISBN :

Author : Carl Hiaasen

Format : Kindle Edition 476 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Humor, Crime

 [Download Native Tongue ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Native Tongue ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Native Tongue Carl Hiaasen

From Reader Review Native Tongue for online ebook

The Badger says

No actual feedback because I read this when I was 12 (and just found it in my mom's books). However, I remember really enjoying it.

Thomas Todd says

Really enjoyed this book. Loved the humor injected from start to finish.

Eric says

3.5 stars

Joe Winder is a journalist who is fed up with mainstream news so he takes a job as a publicity writer for a Disney-like theme park. This park also has animal exhibits one of which is of endangered voles. The voles are stolen by a couple burglars hired by an environmental extremist. The burglar idiots think they just have a couple of rats and decide it would be fun to throw one of the rats into passing convertible just for yucks.

Winder and his boss, Charles Chelsea, begin writing a series publicity articles that tries to twist the situation to make more money for the theme park. The theme park owner is out make a buck and uses any gimmick he can regardless if it is not entirely legit. The park security is made up of thugs with the chief security man a bodybuilder hooked on steroids.

The theme park owner is also developing a "waterfront" condominium complex. When they bulldoze the land by Winder's favorite fishing spot, he decides to go rogue.

The situation turns chaotic. Skink, the ex-governor turned environmental vigilante and hermit, turns up at strategic moments to save Winder's bacon.

As much as I enjoy Carl Hiaasen's books, *Native Tongue* was sort of a hit and miss proposition for me. I'm not sure why. The story is well written. The characters are the usual cast of eccentric old balls. This is Book 2 of the Skink series. I have read almost all of the books of the series out of order. The books seem to read well as standalones because so few characters carryover from one book to the next. Oh well, this a fun book with a story full of laughs.

Frank says

I can't get enough of Hiaasen! This was another of his hilarious satires - full of wacky characters that inhabit South Florida. I think this is about the 7th Hiaasen I have read and I would rank this with his best. (Others I have read include Tourist Season, Double Whammy, Strip Tease, Lucky You, Skin Tight, Nature Girl). This novel is one of his most direct assaults on developers wrecking havoc on the Florida environment. The targets include the amusement parks such as Sea World and Disney but he also takes shots at phone sex

operators and their clients, steroid-pumped bodybuilders, and extreme animal lovers and birdwatchers. Hiaasen again came up with some great characters including the ex-Mafia snitch who owned a Disney-like amusement park, the bodybuilder security guard who gnawed off his own foot to free himself from a car parked on it, the senior citizen lady environmentalist who doesn't hesitate to shoot whoever disagrees with her, and the ex-Florida governor who lives in the Florida wilderness and wears a dead panther's tracking collar! The book also had a few celebrity guest appearances – I laughed out loud when Willard Scott was interviewing Robbie Raccoon at the amusement park and told him he was a little overweight. Robbie responded: "Look who's talking, lardass." Overall, a very high recommendation for this one.

Marcie says

Notes for myself: Characters include Joe the burn-out ex-newspaper man turned PR hack for a rip-off amusement park, that was founded by a mob guy in the witness protection program, Frankie. Frankie's obsessed with competing with Disney. The smarmy Charles Chelsea is the head of PR, Joe's boss. Joe's girlfriend Nina who dumps him works the sex-talk phone lines. Pedro, the steroid-popping head of security, is the precursor to another character in another of his books...Tool. Also, there's Molly the pistol-packing environmentalist grandma and the two thugs she hires. Ton of other characters are woven in. Names not important because we've seen the types before in his novels...

Formulaic. He's got characters with integrity, characters with none, and those with none who get some at the end.

Two things I did like and smile when remembering: Skink is in this one, too, but not nearly as much as "Stormy Weather." He's running around the Florida swamplands, in and out of scenes wearing a radio collar(that he took off a dead panther that wildlife feds were tracking). Endangered Panther #17 was smacked by a bottle distributing company truck on the highway, and Skink is keeping its memory alive.

The other thing I really enjoyed was the "battle of press releases" between Joe and his former boss Charles...Joe's were the stuff of fantasies! How many times have I wanted to do some major damage in the media after leaving a corrupt place of employment! A very amusing fencing match-up ensues, with thrust and attack, deflect and defend, everybody spinning, throwing around fake expert testimony and careful word selection. Hilarious and well-done.

BUT overall, this ranks as #4 on the list of 4 Hiaasen novels I've read to date.

Richard Derus says

Rating: what? I was too busy laughing to hear you

Blue-tongued mango voles. If you've read the book, you've now collapsed on the floor howling in remembered glee. If you haven't read the book before, well, it's time now.

Mix Hiaasen's trademark hapless idiot criminals, burnt-out losers, small-minded grifters, and slimy real estate developers, add a cut-rate theme park, shake with a dose of environmentalist headline-grabbing, and *poof* you have the kind of book that makes summer beach reading so much fun.

What can I add that will make a difference? Book's been out 20 years and there's already a gabloozel and six reviews, so pick it up! Really, there is so much fun to be had in Hiaasenland it's a shame to miss out. He writes very well-built sentences, he creates recognizable characters, and he has a flensing knife of an eye for human nature. If you haven't, please do; if you have, but weren't amused, please try this one; if you have and rolled around laughing, well, we're soul mates. Will you marry me?

David says

You would think a book set at a cut-rate Florida theme park, featuring an environmentalist granny with an itchy trigger finger, an ambitious phone sex worker, an ex-governor living in cranky hermitry in the Everglades occasionally shooting up tourists' rental cars, bunging cops and robbers, oversexed porpoises, and "blue-tongued mango voles" would be a comedy gold mine. And *Native Tongue* is funny, but while it's funny in bits and pieces, I just didn't think the book as a whole was as funny as *Double Whammy* or *Nature Girl* or *Strip Tease*. Carl Hiaasen's books about weird, weird Florida are full of weird, weird people, and he excels at comic irony and plots that slowly wend their way towards a slightly over-the-top denouement.

Native Tongue will be enjoyable to Hiaasen fans, but it's not one I would start with.

Anthony Eaton says

Carl Hiaasen does what he does, and he does it well. That's basically it.

You know when you pick up a book by Hiaasen that you're going to get:

- a) Sleazy Florida land developers
- b) A protagonist who's a little person fighting a losing battle, but doing it with style.
- c) A romantic subplot, usually involving a remarkably competent woman
- d) Theme: 'Don't tear up the everglades / gulf coast'
- e) A number of laugh-out-loud moments
- f) An over the top bad guy, probably addicted to something bizarre. In this case, steroids.

This one doesn't disappoint on any of these counts. There were, I'll admit, a couple of times when I felt it was all getting just a little too predictable - Hiaasen following a well established formula - but the final chapters got me in and cracked me up, so all was forgiven in the end.

Sure, there might be a formula, but if it aint broke...

Thomas says

This book has more hilarious adventures of "Skink", ex-governor of Florida. Some of the wacky characters are two misfit burglars, an obsessed older woman environmentalist who shoots people plus the owner and various employees of "The Amazing Kingdom of Thrills" amusement park. All of these people interact and produce some laugh out loud lines.

Thomas Strömquist says

Carl Hiaasen at his very best; 4 stars for the writing and story, another 1/3 for this having an even larger portion of humor + 1 star for the blue-tongued voles alone. So that comes to... all the stars! We don't need no stinking literary super high quality! We have blue-tongued rodents and Skink!

Jenn says

So, Skink is one of my favorite characters in the long and chequered history of my falling in love with book characters, so I'm not sure why I've never read *Native Tongue*, since Skink is such a key character here (Sick Puppy is still my favorite Hiaasen ever, and subsequently, one of my favorite books ever). I enjoyed this thoroughly - Yes, Hiaasen has recognizable, identifiable patterns and traits to all his books: the destruction of the Florida landscape, the weirdness of native Floridians, the tired/burned out, world weary ex-journalist protagonist - but I love all these things and they make for some engrossing, page-turning reads for me for sure!

Noralil Fores says

By page 320 I was quite ready to put Carl Hiaasen's *Native Tongue* down. As cleverly drawn as Hiaasen's characters are, it seems he was quite unwilling to let them go, and hence 100 pages after I was done reading, the book ended.

The story follows former investigative reporter turned PR man Joe Winder as his job and the events around it at the Amazing Kingdom theme park on North Key Largo turn from bad to worse. Following the daytime kidnapping of two endangered mango voles, the park goes into panic mode, one that roller coasters into murder, arson, love affairs and accidental death via sex with dolphins. Through all of this, *Native Tongue* conjures all the best of the South Florida mystery. A former investigative reporter himself for the *Miami Herald*, Hiaasen peppers all of his prose with the obscure and eccentric journalistic detail that makes the Miami crime scene so interesting to follow. In a way, the book even made me want to go home, to the mangoves and the warm waters, and this mind you, is not a feeling often inspired in me, so strip malled, trafficked, lack of insured and expensive is South Florida now.

Essentially, for a quick and thoughtless, though not thought numbing, read *Native Tongue* is an ideal pick, an airplane or travel book for sure, the type you read going from one place to the other.

Amanda says

I recommended this book to a large crowd of people in an airport one time because I was laughing so hard, snot was coming out of my nose and one lady finally said "WHAT are you reading?!?!". Approximately half of the crowd standing there wrote down the title and author... hope they had the same snot-laughing-experience I had! :)

BarbaraW says

Mr. Hiaasen is always a good choice. This one's about the troubles for a Walt Disney wanna be in Key Largo. Well done, funny and captivating.

aPriL does feral sometimes says

A pair of blue-tongued mango voles, perhaps the last on earth, are the sad victims of an indifferent heist by two inept burglars, Bud Schwartz and Danny Pogue. The two thieves did not know the small creatures were voles; they were under the belief they were rats, and while escaping from the theme park they had burglarized they had playfully tossed the animals into the open windows of the rented cars of tourists on the highway. Since they had grabbed the box without opening it, they did not know there were only two voles inside. They believed their employer, Molly McNamara, would not care if she got a box of rats minus the two who had somehow got out of the box. As they drove to her house, they were already making plans for the money she would pay them.

Molly McNamara, as the President of the Mothers of Wilderness, an environmental activist organization she founded, hired the two young men to break into the animal labs at the Amazing Kingdom of Thrills to rescue them from the third-rate Florida theme park, owned by a dreadful Florida land developer Francis Kingsbury. Kingsbury had announced that he intended to breed the rare animals, whose habitat was being destroyed by golf courses and houses, in an attempt to save the species. The Federal government helpfully gave him \$2,000,000 after processing his paperwork on the breeding effort.

Of course, Kingsbury is actually a participant in the destruction of Florida's habitat. His latest deal is adding a new golf course adjacent to the tourist theme park, but he needed funds. Scamming the government with a vole breeding program seemed the perfect way to raise money for the golf course. Now, he has several problems.

Fortunately, Joe Winder, one of Kingsbury's employees in the park's Publicity Office, along with Charles Chelsea, is a whiz at preparing public relations announcements for the press. The two publicists create a positive publicity spin out of the disaster by thinking up the idea of a \$10,000 reward for the return of the voles.

Winder has already decided he didn't like the spinning he is required to do for his boss, Chelsea, and the owner, Kingsbury, even if he is good at it. Winder took the job because he needed the money - he once was a reporter, but he had had a little incident which made certain he could no longer get a job as a reporter. He regretfully is an honest man in a corrupt state. Unknowingly, he is working for another corrupt Florida businessman.

There is another honest man in Florida, though. Skink, the famous mystery madman of the Everglades, who was introduced in a previous book, Double Whammy and Joe Winder are now on a collision course of mutual environmental activism. Hilarious hijinks ensue!

This novel can be read as a standalone. While there are serious environmental issues fueling many of the motives and activities of the characters, the book is pure fun to read.
