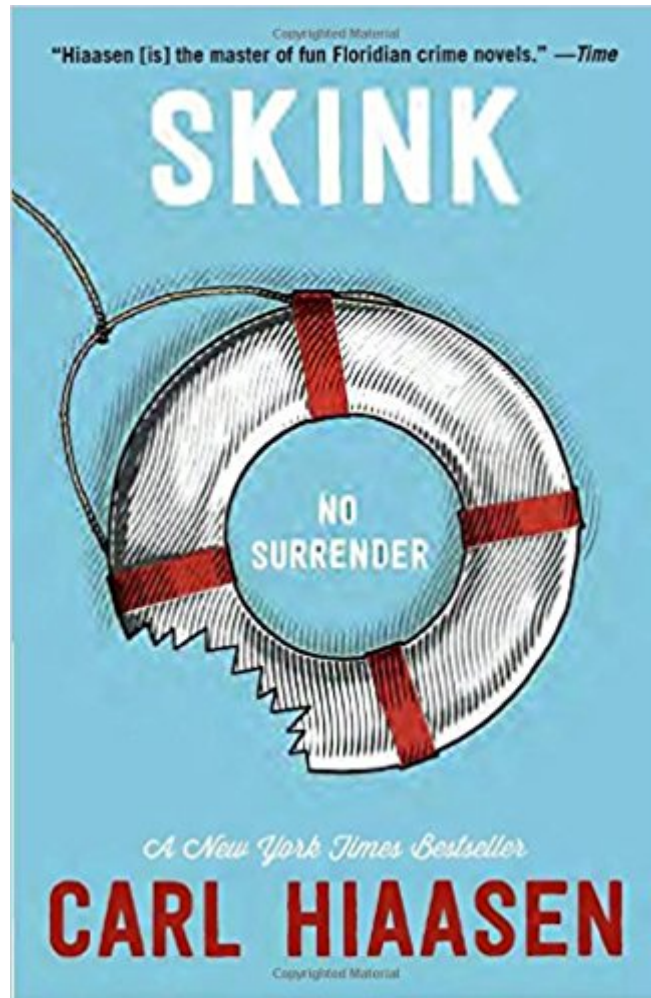




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Skink--No Surrender



Synopsis

Carl Hiaasen serves up his unique brand of swamp justice in the New York Times bestseller *Skink* "No Surrender. A National Book Award Longlist Selection" When your cousin goes missing under suspicious circumstances, who do you call? There's only one man for the job: a half-crazed, half-feral, one-eyed ex-governor named Skink. Skink joins 14-year-old Richard on a breakneck chase across Florida, undaunted by lightning storms, poisonous snakes, flying bullets, and giant gators. There are a million places cousin Malley could be, a million unpleasant fates that might have befallen her, but one thing is certain: in the Florida swamp, justice is best served wild. SUNSHINE STATE AWARD FINALIST!

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up "Richard and his cousin Malley are best friends. But while Richard is pretty levelheaded, Malley tends to get into trouble. So Richard is only mildly surprised to discover that she's run off with a guy she met on the Internet in order to avoid being sent to boarding school in New Hampshire. Richard wants to go find her, and luckily he runs into what may be the perfect person to help him do just that: a ragged, one-eyed ex-governor of Florida named Skink. With Skink at the helm, the two set off across Florida in search of Richard's cousin. While Malley's character is not as fully

developed as the others and the story seems highly improbable, Skink, a favorite character from Hiaasen's adult novels, is incredibly memorable. Whether it's diving in to a gator-infested river after a rogue canoe, getting his foot run over by a semi while trying to save a baby turtle, or hiding out in the sand to save the next turtle, Skink is always full of surprises. And like a cat with nine lives, one never knows how he'll make it out or what will happen next. One thing's for sure: readers will want to be along for the ride. Although the ending meanders, fans of Hiaasen's novels won't mind the detours one bit.â "Necia Blundy, formerly at Marlborough Public Library, MA --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The book itself is just a wonder, part love poem about the Florida wilds, part road-trip novel, and part thriller. The second half of the book is a nail-biter to rivalÂ Cape Fear. I love Hiaasen for adults. I love Hiaasen for kids. But most of all, I loveÂ thisÂ Hiaasen, which brings the two writers together in one book."Â --Cory Doctorow"Skink and Richard make quite a dangerous and entertaining duo in a story that careens perfectly from one crazy situation to the next. Reluctant readers (especially guys) will surrender themselves to this page turner. Cross your fingers that we havenâ t seen the last of Skink!" -- Booklist, starred"If you were pursuing your cousinâ s kidnapper across Florida, you would want a man like Skink at your side. Maybe." -- Kirkus Reviews"Skink is larger than life.... A presence to be reckoned with." -- The Horn Book"A high stakes, action-packed comedy with a lot of heart." â "VOYA

Hiaasen is the best author on the Choctawhatchee or any other river for that matter. Skink - No Surrender is Huck and Jim on the Mississippi with a different cast of characters including the Ex-Governor who is heart wrenchingly weird and appealing. With Skink as backup, Malley's 14 year old cousin sets out to save her from kidnapper Talbo Chuck (who?) and the fun really begins on the Choctawhatchee where Talbo is caught on a houseboat. Malley's cousin is the energetic driver of this tale and with Skink providing the muscle, the story becomes South Florida weird and highly entertaining. Several reviewers have commented that this is a story for young people, but I disagree... this is a story about young people that is enjoyable for any age reader. How can you not like a one eyed, shower cap wearing, homeless old man who is the self appointed patron saint of endangered species. Hiaasen has another winner in Skink.. just look for a straw in the sand.

I loved it as an adult and so did the girls I gave it to read - very well done! It addresses a very important and serious issue regarding trusting and meeting strangers, who you only "know" from the

internet chat room. It brings attention to environmental topics, teaches about animals and being smart, and how important friendships are, as well as how the loss of a beloved one can affect people - all without being boring, stereotyping, or raising the educational index finger too high. It addresses the delicate and painful encounter of being abducted and (maybe even) sexually assaulted without going into details and leaving a lot of it to the imagination and discussion for the readers, parents, and teachers. The girl is smart and strong willed, but young and unexperienced, like any young person. Her cousin, coming to her rescue with the hilarious "governor", is having his own issues and does not represent the typical male hero - he makes mistakes and has limitations, but his love and care for his cousin is strong enough to keep moving on. I will get more of the young reader books of Carl Hiaasen, who's adult novels I love as well. "Sick Puppy" (still my favorite) was the very first book I came across and read back to back in English - so entertaining, but with a serious message!

Good, but a change of pace for Hiaasen. You expect knife-edge satire and over-the-top humor from this author, even in the novels he writes for the younger set. "Chomp", in the latter category, is still one of my favorite comic novels. "Skink" runs more in the direction of action adventure story for pre-teens and above, with two fourteen-year olds as the protagonists, teamed with the classic Hiaasen character of Florida's former governor, Clinton Tyree, turned rogue avenger of the state's abused landscape and wild critters. Even scrubbed of profanity and creative mayhem, the story is well told and satisfying. It's just not the no-holds-barred, savagely funny stuff you get in the adult level books--or even the ironic hilarity in some of the previous teen books.

Carl Hiaasen did a good job of writing "Skink No Surrender". He was able to make the story believable and make the action interesting so that I wanted to keep reading. Even though I had to read the book for a class, I liked the book and think that it was worth reading. The main character is Richard and he is 13 years old. Richard is the narrator of the story and tells the story from his point of view. Hiaasen makes the story believable through this narration with his use of dialogue and the words that he uses. The plot keeps the reader interested. Richard realizes that his cousin Malley is in trouble so he sets off to find her. He meets the governor of Florida on the beach and they start talking. During the conversation he explains that his cousin lied about going away to boarding school and he knows that she left with someone she met on the internet. I won't ruin the ending, but the governor helps Richard on his journey to find Malley. The journey leads them around Florida before they are able to find her. Overall, I think the author's message is clear that it is important to

never talk to people online that you do not know. It also points out that even a young 13 year old can be brave and help others. I would recommend this book to middle school students and to anyone who enjoys reading about this age group.

When this book came out, I didn't rush to purchase. I thought it wouldn't hold my interest like the adult books written by Hiaasen typically do. But having waited and waited, and finally just needing to read something by this author, I revisited the reviews. Some wise reviewer indicated that it was entertaining for adults as well as young adults. Having just finished it, I agree. There's something for everyone here.....and if you are a big fan of Skink, like I am, this book will catch you up with him nicely!

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