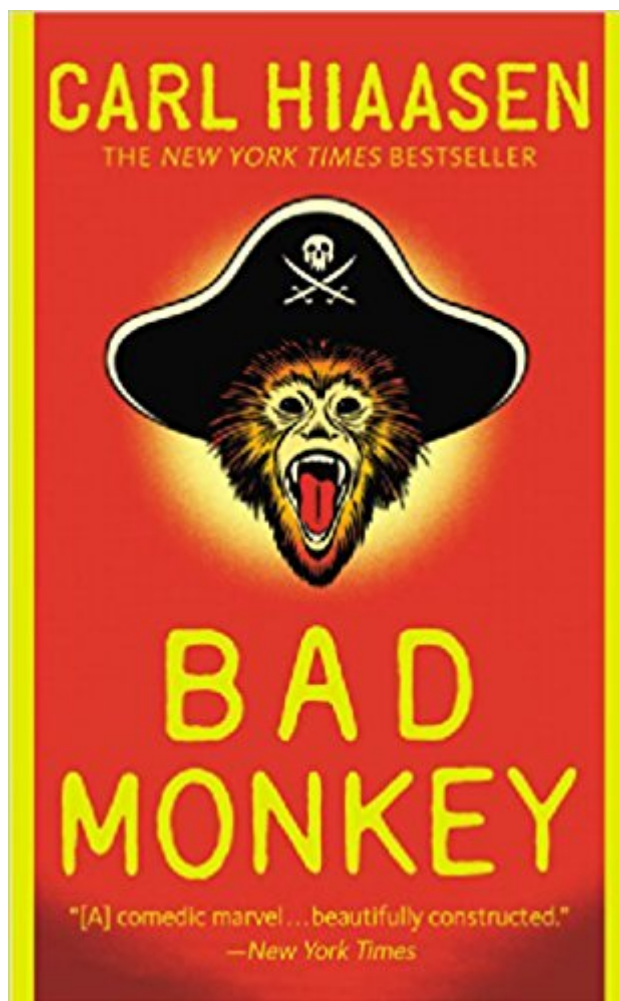




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Bad Monkey



Synopsis

Andrew Yancy-late of the Miami Police and soon-to-be-late of the Monroe County sheriff's office-has a human arm in his freezer. There's a logical (Hiaasenian) explanation for that, but not for how and why it parted from its shadowy owner. Yancy thinks the boating-accident/shark-luncheon explanation is full of holes, and if he can prove murder, the sheriff might rescue him from his grisly Health Inspector gig (it's not called the roach patrol for nothing). But first-this being Hiaasen country-Yancy must negotiate an obstacle course of wildly unpredictable events with a crew of even more wildly unpredictable characters, including his just-ex lover, a hot-blooded fugitive from Kansas; the twitchy widow of the frozen arm; two avariciously optimistic real-estate speculators; the Bahamian voodoo witch known as the Dragon Queen, whose suitors are blinded unto death by her peculiar charms; Yancy's new true love, a kinky coroner; and the eponymous bad monkey-who just may be one of Carl Hiaasen's greatest characters.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Booklist reviews of recent Hiaasen novels (Nature Girl, 2006) have noted his step back from apocalyptic plots. That trend continues with a shambolic comic tale of garden-variety Florida crime: a wealthy Medicare fraudster appears to have died in a boating accident. The only evidence of death is his arm, which is reeled in by a hapless vacationer. Enter Andrew Yancy, once and future Monroe County detective. He thinks the fraudster was murdered by his wife, and if he can prove it, he can get his old job back and leave restaurant inspections behind. Think of Yancy as a Hiaasenian knight aberrant. He means well, but many of his problems are hilariously self-inflicted.

His efforts take him from Key West to Miami to Andros Island, Bahamas, and back again. A huge cast of characters and a stunningly polyfurcated plot offer Hiaasen room to wow readers with information on grave robbery, restaurant-kitchen horrors, autoerotic asphyxiation, and even tips for beating Homeland Security's radar to fly into South Florida. And there is also a delightful interlude of canoodling on the tuna tower of a Key West charter boat as well as no-holds-barred portraits of the Dragon Queen – a loopy, libidinous, old Bahamian “woo-doo” practitioner – and the titular Bad Monkey. Plot convolutions twice cause him to insert multipage explanations of what's going on, but as always, Hiaasen is laugh-out-loud funny and thoroughly entertaining. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Hiaasen's crime fiction crossed over to mainstream bestsellerdom early on in his career, and his fan base continues to grow. --Thomas Gaughan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"[A] comedic marvel . . . [Hiaasen] hasn't written a novel this funny since *Skinny Dip*. . . . Beautifully constructed." – Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* "[A] deliciously zany romp. Buckle up for the ride." – *People* "Bad Monkey boils over with corruption and comeuppance. And yes, there's a monkey." – *O, The Oprah Magazine* "[A] rollicking misadventure in the colorful annals of greed and corruption in South Florida. . . . Hiaasen has a peculiar genius for inventing grotesque creatures . . . that spring from the darkest impulses of the id. But he also writes great heroes." – Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times* "This 'Triple-F'-fierce, funny, and Floridian . . . enfolds corruption, greed, mayhem, and very funny social satire in the way that only Hiaasen does it." – *Reader's Digest* "[Hiaasen is] one of America's premier humorists." – Rege Behe, *Pittsburg Tribune-Review* "No one writes about Florida with a more wicked sense of humor than Hiaasen." – Jocelyn McClurg, *USA Today* "The gold standard for South Florida criminal farce." – *Kirkus Reviews* "Inspired . . . Another marvelously entertaining Hiaasen adventure." – *Publishers Weekly* "Hiaasen is laugh-out-loud funny and thoroughly entertaining." – Thomas Gaughan, *Booklist* (starred)

Sometimes I like Carl Hiaasen's novels right away, and sometimes I just keep reading to see if I will like the book I am reading eventually. His stories for younger readers are absorbing and enlightening, but he is hit and miss with his adult fare, mainly because, although he is always readable, his adult characters are sometimes just too outrageous to care about. This is true of "Bad Monkey" in that the actions of the protagonist go way over the top and sometime about one third of the way through, I stopped caring whether he achieved his goals or not. And I never cared about the

monkey. However, I can see why he makes the best seller lists. He is readable, his characters are active, and his settings in South Florida color the outcomes in interesting ways. He has not yet matched "Lucky You," but I keep hoping.

This very, very funny novel takes us back to Hiaassen's South Florida stomping ground (with a side trip or two), and brings together an assortment of mostly undesirable but still gripping characters. The pace is frenetic from the first, and so is the humor. Not quite as good as "Razor Girl", for me at least -- wish I had read this one first -- but very enjoyable.

I don't write many reviews, but felt the need to here. This book was brilliantly funny from the start to finish. Hiaassen takes insolence and some flat-out disgusting scenes and makes them a laugh riot. I often sat (especially in the first few chapters) and laughed aloud until someone walked in the room. There are lots of subtle turns and some not-so-subtle that makes one think he spent some serious time thinking this novel out before he wrote it. Every single character has flaws and he exploits them in a way that you just laugh at. Hiaassen seems through his writing at least, like the guy you want to listen to at a cocktail party--laugh so hard you will split your sides and wet your pants. The only unfortunate thing about this novel is that every book club will read it, love it, and make it less interesting to talk about. So please don't buy it and let me enjoy it without seeing Hiaassen on Katie Couric hearing how much her book club loved it.

If you aren't already a fan of Carl Hiaasen, you should be. He writes his stories with plots centered in Florida, with this particular one extending to the Jamaica Islands. It's really difficult describing this convoluted tale whose central character is a cop/former cop who did something unpleasant with a hand held vacuum to his girlfriend's husband and was removed from duty because of it. As a result he 'unofficially' hunts down the story surrounding the finding of only the arm of a scam artist, which leads him to a Jamaican island and back again. Although this tale seems to be all over the map, Hiaasen cleverly intertwines multiple story lines into -at last- a cohesive whole that only an author like him could put together. The more I read this book, the more fun it became. What a kick. Two thumbs up!

Carl Hiaasen is one of my favourites, and once again he doesn't disappoint. I feel almost at home now in South Florida - this seems to be the only proper place for Hiaasen's comedy thrillers. Strangely enough by the way: one of the few other ones I liked was set in Germany: Ã A Suitcase

Full Of Blood (Berlin Noir). It's difficult to avoid spoilers here, but some have already been done in the description, like the human arm in Andrew Yancy's freezer. But it works as an appetizer, doesn't it? Yancy is not the ideal policeman, in fact when we meet him he is on 'roach patrol', i.e. restaurant inspector, because he is quite a difficult character - I'm not even sure if I liked him very much. He has to deal with a classic set of Hiaasen-style freaks like a voodoo princess, a coroner with interesting sexual ideas involving the autopsy table and of course the unholy monkey himself. The writing is as hilarious as usual. Hiaasen is the master of stupid disaster - most of his characters are basically driven by their selfish inanity, and he manages to squeeze gallons of comedy out of it. Many writers lose their grip after a couple of years, but Hiaasen is still out there in his own special league.

We have plenty of weird and zany characters to enjoy in Carl Hiaasen's latest send up of Southern Florida's policemen, real estate developers and crooked doctors. The title character, a simian named Driggs who is palmed off as a participant in a Johnny Depp movie, is not as interesting as Andrew Yancy, the novel's protagonist. If this was my book, I'd try to come up with a better title. Yancy is a former Miami detective, on the outs with his boss, and temporarily assigned as a health inspector of the county's restaurants, also known as "the roach patrol." But Yancy winds up with a severed arm in his freezer, a "normal" occurrence for a Hiaasen novel, and works hard to solve this crime in his spare time so he can get his old detective job back. Along the way, he meets Rosa Campesino, a hot Cuban doctor and forensic pathologist, who delights in having sex with Yancy in most unusual venues. But all is not sweetness and light. An unscrupulous developer is putting up a four story home next door to Yancy, clearly in violation of codes, a building that blocks his gorgeous views. Yancy fights back with bees, wild dogs, and other assorted weapons to foil the developer's sales pitches. There are so many different people in this novel that the plot gets a bit murky at times. Not to worry because Hiaasen periodically freshens up the story by letting various characters explain to others what has happened. The book was an enjoyable read and I found a giggle, chuckle or outright guffaw on almost every page.

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