



Scat

Carl Hiaasen

Download now

Read Online ➞

Scat

Carl Hiaasen

Scat Carl Hiaasen

Bestselling author and columnist Carl Hiaasen returns with another hysterical mystery for kids set in Florida's Everglades.

Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, is missing. She disappeared after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. And, to be honest, the kids in her class are relieved.

But when the principal tries to tell the students that Mrs. Starch has been called away on a "family emergency," Nick and Marta just don't buy it. No, they figure the class delinquent, Smoke, has something to do with her disappearance.

And he does! But not in the way they think. There's a lot more going on in Black Vine Swamp than any one player in this twisted tale can see. And Nick and Marta will have to reckon with an eccentric eco-avenger, a stuffed rat named Chelsea, a wannabe Texas oilman, a singing substitute teacher, and a ticked-off Florida panther before they really begin to see the big picture.

That's life in the swamp, kids.

From the Hardcover edition.

Scat Details

Date : Published February 28th 2012 by Yearling (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780440421047

Author : Carl Hiaasen

Format : Paperback 372 pages

Genre : Mystery, Young Adult, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Humor

 [Download Scat ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Scat ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Scat Carl Hiaasen

From Reader Review Scat for online ebook

Dalia M. says

This adventurous story begins with these three students Nick, Marta, and the talented Duane Scrod JR. Well one day there teacher, Ms. Starch, had a plan to go to a field trip where they would go the Black Vine Swamp. They were having an awesome time until a fire started and they had to go to school for safety. They were heading towards the bus but this girl lost her inhaler in the swamp. Ms.Starch bravely went to go get it...but she never came back. Nick was trying to find out what happened to Ms. Starch. Meanwhile his dad was in Iraq, Nick emailed him but he didn't answer. Nick was very worried about his dad but also about Ms. Starch. Then Nick and Marta decided to go in Ms. Starch's house where they find a lot of stuffed animals. They found out that she is still somewhere in the black vine swamp. Then they meet this guy Twilly which he says he is the nephew of Ms. Starch. Will this Twilly guy help Nick and Marta solve this challenging mystery? That's why YOU have to find out and read this lovely book, just like I did.

Courtney Tyler says

Imagine you are on a field trip and you are having a great time, but all of the sudden you hear shots and a loud screeching that pierces your ear. A massive wildfire breaks out. While everyone is loading back onto the buses, your teacher goes back into the swamp to get a student's inhaler, not knowing that she wouldn't be coming out? This was happening to Nick Waters, a student from Truman School. He was already having trouble at home, his father was in Iraq and he hadn't heard from him in a few days. When he does finally get in contact with his father, he gets the shock of his life. Nick and his friend, Marta, go on a search to find out what started the fire, what he had caught on his video camera the day of the fire, and where Mrs. Starch (his teacher) might be. If you want to find out the answers to these questions, you need to read SCAT! What I learned from this book is that environment is more important than money and riches. This is a fast paced and very entertaining book. I highly encourage you to read this book. I hope you will give it a try!

Jessaka says

I was looking for a light read, a young adult mystery story. I should have picked up one of my Nancy Drew or Hardy Boy books, but hey, this book was under \$2 on kindle, and kindle is easier for me to read. Also I liked how it was described: "Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, is missing. She disappeared after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. And, to be honest, the kids in her class are relieved."

My first thoughts when listening to her bullying Duane, a young boy in her class, was, No teacher does this. No teacher makes fun of a boy in class." She told him to write a 500 page essay on zits because he was picking at one of his zits, among other things, like not having read his lesson.

Then I thought back to my own youth, to a teacher named Miss Van Brunt, my 5th grade teacher. I remembered how she once said to one of the boys in our class, "What you need is this?" and she slapped her own face. At that moment I thought her rather crazy, and I didn't even know what crazy really meant. Later, she actually hit him across the face with a book. I kept thinking that the boy was Hap Lewis, so I called my friend Mary who I had ran around with since 3rd grade. Mary said that she had been in her class too. It was

Hap Lewis, a boy whose Spin the Bottle party I had been invited to for some odd reason. When the lights went out he found me and kissed me on my eye lid. I was embarrassed. Hap Lewis still lives in Paso Robles, Ca and owns, I think, an auto parts store. I always liked him as a person, but I don't recall why Miss Van Brunt didn't. My friend Mary said that one day Miss Van Brunt grabbed him by his shirt and pulled him out of his seat, and another day she pulled his hair. She went beyond bullying.

I also remember her for the songs that she taught us, songs that I felt stupid then and still do. The sub teach that took over Mrs. Starch's place sang strange songs. I think maybe Van Brunt's were patriotic songs of some sort because the only one I recall was patriotic. I still recall the tune and these words to it: "Oh, why oh why oh, did I ever leave Ohio?" I wished that wherever she was from that she would have gone back there.

And I recall being embarrassed when she gave me some used clothes because we were poor. It was a white slip, and I wondered if she thought that I should wear it as a skirt. I never wore it. This was the year that I was told that I could no longer wear Levis to school; I had to wear dresses. God, I hated that, but by the time I reached high school, I made my own dresses and had so many that I can't believe it even now, and shoes. I could babysit for \$5 a weekend and buy either fabric for a dress or a new pair of shoes.

And so back to this book: It started out pretty interesting, as I was listening to her rants and wondering why no one thought to fire her. And then she took the kids of a day trip to the swamp somewhere in Florida. Swamps fascinate me, but I won't go off down memory lane again. Then a fire broke out, and Mrs. What's Her Face, oh, yes, Mrs. Starch, gets the kids turned around to go back to the bus, and then one of the students has lost her inhaler, so Mrs. Starch goes back to look for it and never returns. Now we have fine makings of a good mystery.

But the mystery takes too many turns, so many that it felt like they were fillers. Nick, one of the main characters, has a dad that is returning from the Iraq war who lost an arm, so Nick wants to see what that is like and tapes his arm to his body so he can't use it. By now I am bored and see that I have 7 or 8 more hours of reading. I put the book down, but then the next day I picked it up. I want to know what happened to Mrs. Starch. I skimmed again.

Nick and his friend Maria decide to go to Mrs. Starch's house. Mrs? I question that. Was she really a Mrs. I don't recall, and I only bring it up because I can't imagine her being married, or at least not for long. Anyway, they go to her house, find the key under a planter, go inside, and begin looking around. I am interested in the book again. They find taxidermies. All kinds of animals. Strange. I wanted to be a taxidermist when I was a kid. I even wired the bones of a rabbit together in my high school biology class, one that had died. Now I am against killing animals. But the book picked up, and then after that it fell flat again as it began going off on another tangent: Bad men in the swamp.

And poor Duane was being accused of setting fire to the swamp and causing Mrs. Starch to disappear. This kid, much like Hap Lewis just couldn't keep out of trouble. Hap Lewis, I understand still had teachers jumping all over him in high school. I still liked the kid. After all he was my neighbor who kissed me on the eye lid.

Monica Edinger says

I enjoyed SCAT as I did the first two of Hiassen's kid books and I'm sure kids are going to enjoy it too. Florida, school story, spunky kids, endangered animals (even more, a baby endangered animal), creepy bad

guys who deserve all they get, moving parents --- a very nice package indeed.

I'm a fan of Hiaasen's adult books and feel he is now getting more and more into the groove of writing for children as distinct from writing for adults. I liked FLUSH better than HOOT and like SCAT about the same as FLUSH. With each book I find that he is more settled into a children's book vernacular. I remember thinking when reading HOOT that since he couldn't use the language and sexual humor of his adult books he was using scatological jokes instead and found some of them a bit tedious. FIUSH had a plot involving poop (that title tells it all), but I remember feeling it was more pulled together and he seemed to have less need to reach low as often humor-wise.

Hiaasen always has cartoony bad guys who deserve what they get. The ones in his kid books seem similar to those in his adult books --- thugs, idiots, and wise guys with no redeeming qualities so you can comfortably be happy when they get what they deserve. Most satisfying! I haven't found that changing that much from book to book although I feel as if some of the more painful stuff was offstage for this one. (A bad guy is thrown from his horse, but we don't see it just see him after the fact.)

As for the good adults, I definitely think he is getting better at giving us some well-rounded believable good adults. In this one there is Nick's father who is deployed to Iraq before the story begins. Nick and his mother's worry when there are no emails from his dad over a couple of days is extremely well presented. And there is also a teacher who turns out to be a Mrs. Granger sort a la Andrew Clements' FRINDLE. Nice.

I've been back and forth about giving this three or four stars. It feels a bit ephemeral, but I'm willing to believe that it won't be for a child reader, that it will be more transformational for a younger more naive reader than cynical ol' me.

The Captain says

Ahoy there me mateys! This was another audiobook that I picked up because of a cat on the cover.

I am so glad I did. Nick and Marta are in a biology class taught by the dreaded Bunny Starch. She is feared by students and teachers alike. The class goes on a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp. A fire breaks out and the kids are evacuated but Bunny Starch doesn't come out. Who started the fire? Where is their teacher? Is she dead or alive? Nick and Marta have to find out or an innocent student might end up behind bars!

This book was so funny and clever. The narration by Edward Asner was fabulous. The story has multiple viewpoints from the crazy people involved with the school and the case. The principal, the substitute teacher, and Smoke's dad were my favourites. I personally enjoyed the first half of the book best. Once the mystery is "solved," the story then becomes about protecting the environment and how to stop the bad guys. It wasn't bad at all. It is just that in the first half, I had no idea where the plot was going to go. And that was fun!

It was a fantastic introduction to the author's work and I will be reading other novels by him. Apparently he has 3 other books in this series. And a non-fiction book that makes golf sound interesting. Can't wait.

Side note: The First Mate told me that Carl Hiaasen is an award winning journalist! I didn't know that. The First Mate didn't know that he wrote novels. Arrr!

Check out me other reviews at <https://thecaptainsquartersblog.wordpress.com>

Kylisha says

Just think your my age and you and your class goes on a fieldtrip to a river and a something strange breaks out and u have no idea what to do and don't forget your just 12-13. And that strange thing was a fire broke out and something even worse happens a student has been separated from the class. What would you do? And Ms. Starch is a ghastly teacher. All of the other kids loathe when she doesn't return from a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, questions arise. Is she really dealing with a "family emergency" like the authorities are saying? Is she missing? Does the class bully and outcast have something to do with her leave of absence/disappearance? Nick and Marta become determined to uncover the truth. This alone makes a great plot for a story, but I've only told you about half of the story. The other half — or the real message, if I may — involves political matters: endangered species (the Florida panther plays a large part in the story), animal cruelty, the human-race, and even a gentle reminder to just say no! to drugs and alcohol.

Alison Strandell says

SCAT: Leaving, going away... also a name for panther poop?! I really liked this novel. It is a mystery that doesn't fully come together until the very last page. The setting is a Florida swamp, with non-stop action featuring the nature abusers versus the nature lovers. There are all sorts of interesting characters, ranging from senile teachers to a corrupt wannabe cowboy to a wealthy grandmother and even an Iraq War veteran. Carl Hiaasen writes with humor and wit, and I am definitely a new fan of his work.

Cessey Kamateh says

Carl Hiaasen Is A Great Author I if You Like Hoot Or Flush You Would Love This, This Book Is Great For Young & Older People. The Scene Is Florida (Like Always); The Characters Are Nick, Mrs. Strach, and Willy & Smoke etc. The Story Is Adventures. At The Beginning You Might THINK You Know The Ending But You Are Going To Be Shocked At The Ending Like I Was. The Ending Is Always Great. Hope You Take My Advice And READ SCAT c:

Mike French says

A very enjoyable and entertaining YA BOOK BY Carl Hiaasen. I highly recommend this book to readers of all ages. In this book the students of Truman School are on a mission to reunite a panther cub with its mother. I also recommend MANGO GLADES BY Bill H Myers. It also deals with the very endangered species-Florida Panthers.

Abbie says

Carl Hiaasen has written another good environmental book. My only complaint is that every book seems to follow the same pattern. The main character is some kid who accidentally gets involved in some issue and helps another person whose idea of saving the environment is pulling pranks on those who are committing environmental crime. This person is always elusive, dangerous and never wants credit. It was pretty good in general though.

Liza Fireman says

My daughter and I read this book together. It was funny, suspenseful, we laughed and hoped and worried. It is so great to find a good mystery book for her age group. Not too scary, not too childish, that's a tough area to hit successfully.

One of the best characters is Ms. Starch, the horrible teacher that everyone hates (that reminds each of us at least one teacher that we knew). The students have many speculations and myths about her, and some are even true. When she disappears in the Black Vine Swamp, even the students that hated her the most are just a bit worried, they didn't want her to be harmed, just not to be their teacher. Maybe behind her scary teacher-self there is a real human being?

The rest of the characters are also colorful and interesting. I promise laughing out loud throughout.

I loved the environmental aspects that Hiaasen. A story that includes nature, endangered animals, bad guys, good guys, worrying about parents (parents that leave, with good reason or not), with friendships.

My daughter was protesting every night when we needed to stop. The changing scenes made it easy for me to stop, but made her complain about staying on a cliff hanger. Highly entertaining, highly recommended. 4+ stars.

Shavon Shuler says

it all started out when a boy named nick waters goes on a field trip. on the field trip he go to the black vine swamp he hopes to see a panther. once arriving all the sudden the class heres a big bang and a ear pounding shriek. after things possibly couldnt get any worse a tragic fire consumes the once quiet swamp. the tromitized class scerries tords the bus witch seemed the safest place on earth at the the moment. then a dimwitted girl leaves her inhailer in the swamp... mrs. starch goes in the blistering fire to get it... she never returns. nick dosnt relize mre. starch is missing intill he reaches the school. nick cunvinces his friend marta to join him in the search for mrs. starch, and do everything in there power to find there beloved teacher.

Shelbie says

Imagine you're about 12-13 years old going on a field trip to a swamp with a scary teacher that no one really likes when a fire breaks out and she goes missing... Would you try and figure out what happened? Well two of her students, Marta and Nick, start to get curious about the whole situation and go to their teachers house. Once they get there, they break in and get caught by a man named Twilly.

They end up going threw alot for their teacher, and while all of this is happening some rich greedy men are in the swamp illegally stealing gas to get more money. Twilly goes threw a lot to try and stop them.

The only thing i didn't like about the book is how much it changes scenes and leaves you hanging at an important part, but other then that I would recommend it to anyone.

Jennifer says

Carl Hiaasen's books for young readers remain some of my son's personal favorites, so I am slowly but surely getting through them myself. I love how Mr. Hiaasen brings awareness of preventable man-made environmental concerns to our up-and-coming generation. He empowers his young readers with the perspective that adults are not beyond accountability and it is up to all of us to protect our earth and its vulnerable inhabitants.

Scat is a young-reader mystery with a strong dose of action and humor. Even though I personally didn't find it immensely entertaining (likely due to the targeted age group), I immediately saw the appeal. What kid wouldn't enjoy reading a story about the school's most feared teacher going missing during an out-of-control field trip?

I'd highly recommend Carl Hiaasen's novels for young readers if you are ever searching for gift ideas or reading material for youths in fifth grade through middle school. His collection for young audiences includes the following standalone novels as of October 2015:

My favorite quote:

"There's no shame in being smart."

As with Hiassen's other books, I kind of fell in love with the featured endangered animal. So in honor of my favorite characters, enjoy these images I found of the Florida panther.

Maricka says

I love this book! Scat is a mixture of a mystery and envriomental book. You'll get so caught in the book, you might want to read it again!! My class read it and they were really interested. Carl went all the way out again

with the disappearing of the teacher and making everybody accusing a dangerous little boy. I recemmed this book to the fans of Carl Hiaasen. Peace, love and happiness from Maricka
