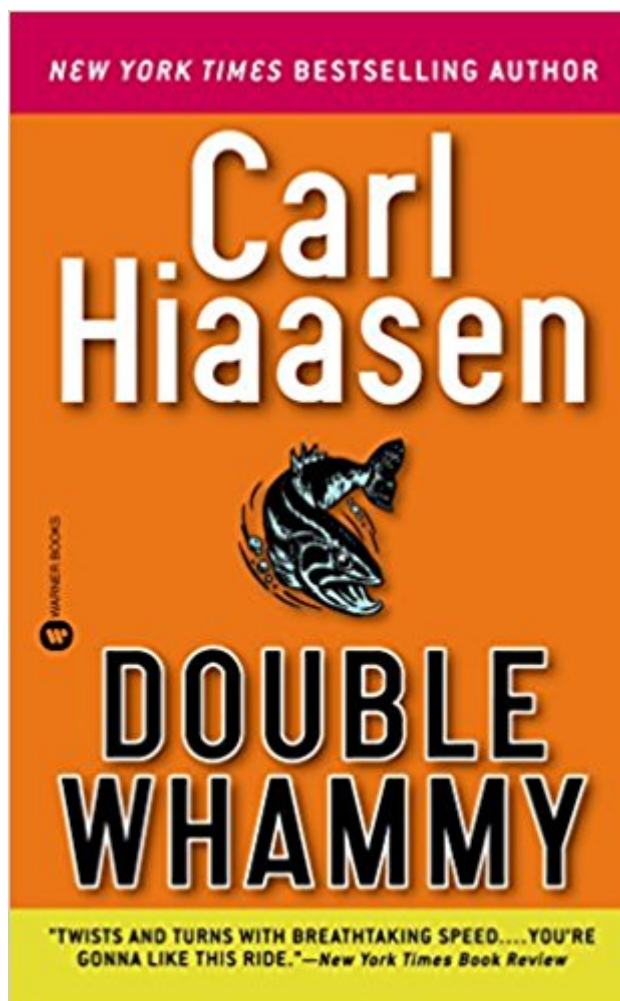


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Double Whammy



Synopsis

R.J. Decker, star tenant of the local trailer park and neophyte private eye is fishing for a killer. Thanks to a sportsman's scam that's anything but sportsmanlike, there's a body floating in Coon Bog, Florida -- and a lot that's rotten in the murky waters of big-stakes, large-mouth bass tournaments. Here Decker will team up with a half-blind, half-mad hermit with an appetite for road kill; dare to kiss his ex-wife while she's in bed with her new husband; and face deadly TV evangelists, dangerously seductive women, and a pistol-toting redneck with a pit bull on his arm. And here his own life becomes part of the stakes. For while the "double whammy" is the lure, first prize is for the most ingenious murder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Miami Herald reporter who struck a blow against corrupt entrepreneurs in *Tourist Season*, Hiaasen follows through with this acid satire, a real double whammy. Private detective R. J. Decker is hired to prove that TV host Dickie Lockhart cheats to win fortunes in Florida bass-fishing tournaments. The investigation makes Decker a prey to hired killers who have murdered other "snoops," but the detective also finds a strong if weird ally in a hermit who calls himself Skink. Along with two honest cops, Skink goes with Decker to the lake where a big tournament is under way and the four make a tremendous splash, to the dismay of the assembly. Hardest hit is Reverend Weeb, Lockhart's sponsor on the Outdoor Christian Network, whose generous supporters don't know that he's addicted to prostitutes, profanity and land-grabbing. The cast of bizarre characters and the suspenseful events confirm Hiaasen's reputation for creating singular villains and heroes. While he's

probably unpopular among some fellow citizens in his home state, he will certainly please readers who appreciate the Swiftian wit in his cautionary tales. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The "double whammy" is a special lure used in the competitive bass fishing underlying the plot of this thriller by Miami journalist Hiaasen (*The Tourist Season*). Someone is cheating at bass fishing competitions, and people are getting killed. Enter R.J. Decker, former photojournalist and ex-con. Decker teams up with Skink, an unbelievable character who lives in a forest shack, eats road-killed animals, and reads Dostoyevsky (and turns out to be the ex-governor of Florida). Decker's an unlikely hero, always a step behind. Other characters include the usual corrupt TV evangelists, rednecks, smart black policemen, and betrayingly beautiful women. The action is swift, and there are some very funny scenes. Louise A. Merriam, L.E. Phillips Memorial P.L., Eau Claire, Wis. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the second book that I've read by Carl Hiaasen, and I must admit the guy is nuts! Hysterical in every fashion, all of his characters have some crazy personalities. The way that Carl describes them though makes it incredibly easy to picture the hilarious situations these characters get themselves into. I seem to always cheer for the craziest underdog of them all, though I could understand his propensity to want to live away from everyone else, on his own away from society. I feel the same way at times. Through I'm a big fan of his writing and the way people are unfortunately, yet comically removed from the gene pool, I'm also noticing that many of his women do not have the best common sense and are often just sexual / crazies that are willing to lie, cheat, steal to get their way (at least that's how it's been for the two books that I have read). Otherwise I think that his writing and stories are a fun read and very captivating.

I learned a lot about bass fishing in this book. Mainly that it's the fastest growing outdoor sport in America. And the lures have funny names like Whopper Stoppers and Hula Poppers. And the prize money in fishing competitions can be so huge that Carl Hiaasen has no trouble convincing us that people will kill over fish. For me, a non-fishing person, spending a few hundred pages in the world of bass fishing was an exotic experience. There are great scenes at the start and finish of competitions, great scenes of watching cheaters in action and fascinating glimpses of greedy promoters and profit hungry sponsors behind the scenes. Fishing always struck me as a quiet sport,

but this book offers a steady stream of murders, abductions, seductions, real estate scams, pit bull attacks, car hijacking, shootings, beatings, break ins and explosions. In the midst of all this violence and carnality are lots of very funny scenarios and amusing dialog. There are unforgettable characters among both the good guys and the bad guys. I doubt I'll ever forget Skink, the lunatic swamp hermit who loves to eat road kill, and insists that his friends share his meals. The big black trooper who has no problem disabling multiple racist attackers is delightful. And I was charmed by the photographer turned private eye who adores his ex-wife and has chronic bad luck with the law. The Cuban homicide cop Al Garcia reappears in this book, rough around the edges as ever, but a staunch friend to the pure of heart. In the bad guy department, there's a wonderfully slimy TV evangelist and other unpleasant rich people, not to mention a whole host of cracker sleaze balls for hire. This is Carl Hiaasen at his bitter best.

I am still reading this as I write.... and will be back to reading it within two minutes of this review..... I Love Carl Hiaasen books.... the characters are like old friends the setting is the state I was born in. I lived in Florida for 25 years and ever town, gas station, location and site he writes about is a place I have been to at one time or another..... I Love these Super Exciting and adventurous stories from this author with a brilliant and captivating ability to pull me into the story and make me hate to put the book down..... I have fallen asleep many mornings between 3 and 4 a.m. with my Kindle in my hands.... I will read til I can no longer stay awake I can't get enough of any of Hiaasen novel..... each one is recent history to me..... and his love and passion for the Florida that was is infectious and his humor is outstanding his characters are vivid, alive and real in the mind's eye..... did I mention..... I Love reading Carl Hiaasen? D. R. Ragsdale aka.... Uncle Raggy

For someone used to newer Hiaasen it's great to go back and see where it started. Whammy is a lot slower and quite a bit more complex than the newer stuff, but the beats are all there.

Carl Hiaasen obviously does not approve of the overdevelopment that has taken place in south Florida and in this novel the dishonest developers and politicians in their pockets are the target of his barbs. The characters in the book are a bit far out but what else should one expect in south Florida.

Another great Hiaasen book, spoiled for me only by the large numbers of typos, some of which

appear to be artifacts of a sloppy Optical Character Recognition (OCR) process gone wrong: "dean" instead of "clean" "burns" instead of "bums" "dosed" instead of "closed" x2 "sunglasses" instead of "sunglasses" Others are just spelling: "camerman" instead of "cameraman" x2 "Spurting" or "Spurling" - one character has different names x2 "bungy" instead of "bungee" "Skin's" instead of "Skink's" "Realty" instead of "Really" "monofilamem" instead of "monofilament" "snuck" instead of "stuck" "dunking" instead of "thinking" There's more, but you get the picture.

R.J. Decker is a former newspaper photographer turned private investigator. His temper has gotten him in trouble in the past, and he's still in love with his ex-wife (who still loves him, but stays married to her new husband...because he has money? not sure why, but it doesn't matter). He's hired by a very wealthy man, Dennis Gault, to prove that one of the top ranked bass fishermen, Dickie Lockhart is a cheat. The last person Gault hired was killed, presumably by Lockhart. Of course, nothing is as it seems and Decker needs the help of some other characters including Miami detective Al Garcia who has appeared in previous books, Jim Tile, a state trooper who hasn't been treated all that well by the people he works with, and a crazy hermit named Skink (who is a former governor of Florida). Easy read, funny, and as a big Skink fan, it was nice to re-read his introduction.

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