



Hoot

Carl Hiaasen

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Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and—here's the odd part—wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail. The chase introduces him to potty-trained alligators, a fake-fart champion, some burrowing owls, a renegade eco-avenger, and several extremely poisonous snakes with unnaturally sparkling tails.

Roy has most definitely arrived in Carl Hiaasen's Florida.

Hoot Details

Date : Published December 27th 2005 by Yearling (first published 2002)

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Author : Carl Hiaasen

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From Reader Review Hoot for online ebook

Matthew says

About what you would expect from a cheesy, feel-good YA novel. I probably would have rated it higher if I was a teen (some YA translates well to adults, not really so much here). But, it wasn't bad and I can definitely see myself recommending it to my kids when they are teenagers.

Madi says

i love this book, great 4 envirnment crazy ppl like me!

Nina says

It's no wonder many like #Hoot and the reviews in Goodreads are mostly positive. Animal lovers surely will love this book.

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Hoot began when Roy Eberhardt saw a barefoot boy running fast past the bus stop. Roy was curious because the boy didn't go to any school. Through Beatrice, a tall girl who played soccer, Roy knew about the boy, who was called Mullet Fingers. He's an animal charmer who wanted to prank Mother's Paula pancake people out of town. Apparently the building site endangered the cute owls that lived underground. .

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It must be nice to be Roy, who had to move a lot due to Mr Eberhardt's job. Sure it's inconvenient to be the new kid many times but Roy had seen the world a lot. Mullet Fingers was astonishing and always came up with excellent ideas. It's sad that he was homeless but I guess he just wanted to be free doing what he wanted and believed in.

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I like the expressions Hiaasen used. That's how people speak in reality. Bahasa Inggrisnya nonformal, beda dengan yg biasanya ada di school textbook. Kalau penasaran, baca saja. #Chomp dan #Flush juga vocabnya kaya.

Mike French says

I love Carl Hiaasen's YA novels and this one was TREMENDOUS! Takes place on the Left Coast of FL and has a great cast of characters to love and to dislike. I am an old fart(68),but I still enjoy a well written YA book and HOOT is definitely one!

Marielle says

A barefoot boy called by "Mullet Fingers" does as much as he can to be in decline of the mother Paula Pancake house construction. He knows about some little owls that live there and want them to be safe, since the building will cover their houses. Roy a boy that notices Mullet Fingers running one day in the street, starts getting filled with curiosity all related to the boy. With great imagery, the author clearly describes the child's point of view throughout the whole tale. This story is filled with action describing what the barefoot boy does in the point of view of Roy, Roy parents, Dana Matherson (Roy's bully), Curly, Officer Delinko & other characters. Hiaasen uses great techniques one can clearly notice along the book. Word Choice rocks in Hoot! "Roy zipped through his homework" is one of the statements that Carl uses instead of just saying he was done with homework rapidly, which makes it sound boring. Also, he said " Roy dazzled with excitement & joy", instead of simply stating he was really happy. I also liked how he said " Mullet Fingers, dying of ferocity but strength" instead of just saying he was really angry and brave. I adore and admire this authors way of writing and way of persuading me to reading more. I recommend this book to all that care about nature and the environment. Way to go Carl Hiaasen, this book was exceptionally marvelous!

Casey says

Read as a read aloud to my son so rating is based primarily on the opinion of a six year old.

I read this with my oldest tiny person and it is now his favorite book ever. Although it breaks my heart a small amount that Hoot has usurped Matilda for the top spot, I have to admit, this was the perfect story my son.

Hoot is set in a small town in Florida and it about being the new kid, making new friends, addressing a school bully, environmental concerns, and how it only takes one person to stand up and change people's minds.

There is comedy, including minor potty humor (the MC's friend is very fond of making "fart-noises"), some glimpses into what would not be considered good home environments, and the struggle between doing what you are told is right and what feels right to you. It never gets weepy, but there are parts when I was reading that made me miss the excitement of being a kid and riding my bike to new places to explore. Hoot really was a wonderful book and at just shy of 300 pages this is the longest chapter book the boy and I have tackled so far.

His favorite characters:

Roy - Main character and new kid at Trace Middle School

Mullet Fingers - The shoeless running boy that provides much of the mystery/ intrigue of the book

Dana Matherson - The bully (<- mostly just because he liked to laugh at every time Dana tried to beat up Roy and couldn't)

His favorite parts:

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

Things, as a parent, that I wish were different:

Beatrice the Bear, who becomes friends with Roy eventually, is the only female child that has a role in the book. Roy's mother is wonderful, but the female principal, and the mothers of Dana Matherson and Mullet Fingers (as well as the step-mother to Beatrice) are all horrible. I would have like to have seen more positive female characters in the book, but I did like that Beatrice was not depicted as a possible girlfriend interest and she had her own diverse interests and emotions. Throughout the book Beatrice is depicted as intimidating and strong, but there is a scene toward the end in Roy's room that shows her vulnerable side as well which kept her from being a prop character.

Overall I really enjoyed reading this one with my little and I would recommend it to others as a read aloud or for a MG level read alone. It's a perfect summer read with kiddos on break to help inspire them to explore their own neighborhood.

... I just hope there isn't a Mother Paula's coming to your town.

Albert Riehle says

This book is extraordinarily okay. It pummels you with okayness. The characters? Okay. The plot? Okay. The humor? Okay. The writing? A-okay. Hiassen is masterful in the way he never goes astray, never veers into good, never dips into bad; it's a stunning, tour-de-force of okay. If you set out to write a book that was just okay enough to keep reading, but not so good that you actually started to like it, this would be it. It honestly couldn't have been more okay if it tried.

Would I recommend it? Meh. Would I warn you off of it? Meh.

Do you see the level of ambivalence this okay book inspires? It's okayosity is off the charts. I liked it a perfectly okay amount.

What else can I say? I'm honestly surprised I've said this much. If you're looking for a book that's is all kinds of okay, then this is the book for you. It won't disappoint you. It won't excite you. You'll barely know you're reading it and may not even notice once it's done.

It's okay.

Jorge says

Mullet fingers just escaped from his parents and know he is trying to save some owls that live in a mothers Paula pancake house terrain that is going to dig the owl's houses and obviously kill those owls. Till there you can see it's a dumb and boring stories story but when mullet fingers starts risking his liberty painting the cops cars windows in black and trespassing private property not going to school (which is illegal in Florida) and escaping from his parents you are obviously in suspense. Carl Hiaasen uses excellent word choice and excellent imagery. I can imagine perfectly how Dana is struggling poor Roy. The techniques Carl uses in this book are to have 2 settings and that in the end they unite and also she is having you with suspense so you keep reading it and also it has a bit of mystery. I think that the author's intention is to be careful of our actions because if you don't know what you're doing you're probably end hurting the environment. The

book contains lots of details and word choice just like rumble, thicket, trudging and much more. I think also that some words are hard and not really descriptive but I can understand the word with the context. I think that she never uses the technique of repetition. In depth I think that the book is a complete adventure with funny parts and sad parts but it's an excellent book.

Jennifer says

I give thanks for authors like Carl Hiaasen who write stories that strengthen our youth's conscience and awareness of environmental matters. Hoot was Mr. Hiaasen's children's book debut, and although it appears targeted for the middle-grade children's crowd, I as an adult thoroughly enjoyed it. I must note though that I read this with my eleven year old and his enthusiasm was pretty contagious. He is slowly but surely devouring each of Mr. Hiaasen's novels so I decided to jump on the bandwagon and see what it's all about.

The main plot of Hoot is an ecological thriller/mystery of sorts centering on endangered burrowing owls. The middle-school aged characters are great and I enjoyed seeing young perspectives about adults, rules/laws, and the environment in general. I can see why my son loves this author! Apparently this title has also been adapted to film, so I'm sure I'll be watching it soon...possibly even tonight if my son has his way LOL.

As with most of the books I enjoy, I can't help but research a bit on either the author or the subject matter. Reading just inspires me to learn more. After I read [HERE](#) about these endangered creatures, my appreciation soared for Mr. Hiaasen and his decision to increase awareness. Here's what I learned about burrowing owls and their struggle to survive:

"The burrowing owl is federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The greatest threat to burrowing owls is habitat destruction and degradation caused primarily by land development and ground squirrel/prairie dog control measures. Despite their protected status, burrowing owls are often displaced and their burrows destroyed during the development process."

Insert sad face. I mean, look at these little guys...

If you know any elementary or middle school-aged kids, recommend Mr. Hiaasen to them...or better yet, gift them one of his books for young readers! You will not only be encouraging literacy but you'll also be giving the gift of positive ecological and environmental perspective at the perfect age. Do it!

My favorite quote:

"Just because something is legal doesn't automatically make it right."

Carl Hiaasen's collection for young audiences include the following standalone novels as of May 2015:

Montzalee Wittmann says

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen is a coming of age story that I adored. It has everything a kid could relate to -bullies, not fitting in, wanting to help, a noble cause, friendship, and family. The best part was the cute owls and the way the author brought the wonderful characters to life! I understand it is a movie! I will have to see it now. It may have been a preteen book but I enjoyed every moment!

Bill Blume says

The following review is by my son and padawan Liam:

I give HOOT 4 and a half stars. I liked how there was a mysterious running boy called "Mullet Fingers." I liked how Mullet Fingers and Beatrice are related. I like how Roy tricked Dana into thinking there were cigarettes in a trailer and that he stepped in the mouse traps.

I disliked that the ending kind of left you hanging. I also didn't like that the story is called "Hoot" and you don't figure out the title until the very end.

I would definitely recommend this book to other kids.

Nick Geiser says

I found the book entertaining, but due to the genre it just wasn't an amazing book. I found it tolerable and one of the best realistic fiction books I have read, but it is still realistic fiction.

Gorfo says

I thought I was too old for Hoot's message but Carl Hiaasen proved me wrong. Hoot, with its wonderfully developed array of the most interesting characters I've seen since The Importance of Being Earnest, goes beyond the story of Roy Edberhart (if that's how you spell it), Mullet Fingers, and Beatrice Leep in their struggle against the building of a Mother Paula's Pancake house. Behind its lighthearted and often joking facade the book is a window into the rapid destruction of Florida wildlife in order to make room for civilization and pancake houses. This book is just a reminder that as Paper Towns spring up the animals are forced to flee or die.

Recommended for anyone who liked Paper Towns by John Green or The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. I don't think you can ever be too old for this book.

James says

This book shows care towards owls

Karene says

This book just kind of fell into my lap when a friend of mine gave it to me with a bunch of other books she was leaving behind as she was moving. All she told me was that it was cute, and as I do enjoy YA literature I thought I'd give it a try when I had a free evening. I was surprised to find it quite an engaging read. The plot was clever, the main characters believable, and I very much appreciated the message taught in the book...not so much the environmental message, which was fine, but the message that sometimes life presents us with alternatives which aren't clearly black or white and we have to dig down inside ourselves to figure out what to do when outside sources don't have all the answers. I appreciated the parents in this book who were supportive but allowed their son to make his own decisions. Some of the supporting characters were a little too "cardboard cutout" for me...the bumbling police officer, for one, and the construction site foreman were both too one-dimensional. But, as they were relatively minor characters it didn't cause a significant decrease in my enjoyment of the book. I recommend this as a light but enjoyable, entertaining read.
