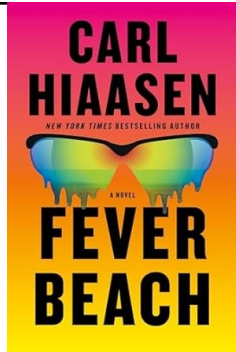




Discussion Guide



About the Book:

Fever Beach

Author: Carl Hiaasen

Knopf, May, 2025

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CarlHiaasen>

Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. *Fever Beach* is a “good versus evil” story, in which Twilly and Viva work to overcome a cast of villainous characters. When you finished the book, were you satisfied that the “evil” characters all got what they deserved?
3. Which elements of the book’s satirical humor appealed most or least to you? How does your reaction to its sense of humor impact your overall enjoyment of the story?
4. Do you agree with Twilly’s environmental stance? How do you feel about his vigilantism? What issue do you feel a similar passion about, and how far would you be willing to go to seek justice on this issue?
5. Do you think Viva is right or wrong to continue living at Figgo’s after she discovers his beliefs? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt it necessary to make a moral compromise in this way?
6. What was Figgo’s path toward right-wing extremism? How is his experience and perspective a part of contemporary conversations about extremism and radicalization?
7. To what extent do you think this novel reflects current reality? What does it say about our country?
8. What did you think about the deaths at the end of the novel?
9. Do any of the characters in the story show significant growth? Explain.
10. How does the satire characterize Florida? America?
11. Have you read other books by this author? How do they contrast/compare?
12. What do the MAMs have to say about the book? Whom do you agree with?

Listen on YouTube:

Novelist Carl Hiaasen pokes fun at Florida in new book (3:03)

Author Carl Hiaasen on his love for Florida (8:24)

Meet the Characters of *FEVER BEACH* (:22)

Carl Hiaasen Talks About *Fever Beach* (53:27)



NANCY: I found this novel difficult to read because it lifts up the corruption in American politics within a fictitious MAGA-like organization, with quite a few unlikable characters doing ugly things. Certainly the novel involved sarcastic humor throughout and a few characters trying to do right in the midst of so much wrong. In general, though, a very upsetting look at contemporary society. I keep asking myself, if this is who we are, how did we get to this place and how do we overcome this mindset into a better society?



ABIGAIL: I did like Twilly. I understand he appears in more of Hiassen's books. If only more people cared about the environment like him. I didn't agree with all of his tactics, but I did like his view of the world and attempts to make it better. I appreciate that the author incorporated this guy into the story and I enjoyed seeing how he kept doing things to mess with the corruption going on. He did make me laugh.



SALLIE: I felt for Figgo's mother, even though she was a piece of work herself. What a character. She made me want to cheer sometimes, and other times I wanted to lock her up. But like many parents whose kids go down the wrong path, they suffer, trying to figure out where they went wrong. She took matters into her own hands, didn't she? Again, I don't approve, but she made me laugh. She said she had three good kids, but she was weird herself.



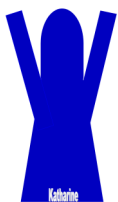
PRISCILLA: Ladies, ladies, ladies! What is becoming of our book club? What sort of trash was this? I did not like this book at all. First of all, I don't believe that Florida politicians are this bad. They have their faults, but the author goes way too far. Secondly, the moral majority would never condone the activities of the Stokers. Hiassen is a liberal and he's making the Republicans look way too bad. Let's get real. The Democrats are the immoral ones.



MOLLY: I certainly hope they are not as bad as this book makes them out to be, Priscilla. But with the things happening in politics today, and the current administration? Illicit sex, greed and dishonesty seem to be their driving force. And why are the Christians calling this morality?



JANE: Corruption and politics go hand and hand ladies, on both sides of the aisle. You just got to expect this sort of thing. Now, I think Hiassen is a master at the art of exaggeration. He's trying to make you laugh and create ridiculous characters doing ridiculous things to get you to criticize the far right. I think he goes too far, but it was quite a funny book.



KATHARINE: Oh my! This is so far removed from my farm upbringing in Minnesota. I must take a deep breath and let it all out. I'm not sure I want to read this sort of book, let alone have the college students read it, also. I hear he writes for youth. I wonder what kind of books those are. Maybe I need to look into those. I hope this is not who we are becoming, but it unfortunately does speak to what's happening today. God help us all.