

[PDF] The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return To A Ruinous Sport (Vintage)

Carl Hiaasen - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's

Author: Carl Hiaasen

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Hiaasen (*Skinny Dip*), an admittedly woeful golfer, recounts his clumsy resumption of the game after a 32-year layoff. Why did he take up golf so long after quitting at the age of 20? I'm one sick bastard, he writes. Hiaasen interweaves passages about his return to the game with diary entries covering more than a year and a half on the links. He mixes childhood memories of playing with his father, who died prematurely, with anecdotes, including the time he and a friend ejected an invasion of poisonous toads from his friend's patio with short irons. His analysis of his lessons, hapless rounds and gimmicky golf equipment is hilarious, and his vivid descriptions are vintage Hiaasen, such as golf balls that are designed to run like a scalded gerbil. Hiaasen also touches on topics he writes about in his novels and newspaper columns, lamenting the

overdevelopment of Florida and skewering crooked politicians and lobbyists prone to lavish golf junkets. He finishes his journey with a detailed round-by-round account of his pitiful play in a member-guest tournament on his home course (his discouragement is cheered, however, when his wife and young son joyfully take up the game). With the satirically skilled Hiaasen, who rarely breaks 90 on the links, this narrative is an enjoyable ride. *(May)*

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From "In the summer of 2005, I returned to golf after a much-needed layoff of thirty-two years." Any golfer knows that those words are a prescription for disaster. And any fiction reader knows that if it's Carl Hiaasen speaking, the disaster will be not just disastrous but also hysterically, sublimely, surreally funny. And so it is, as recounted in diary form by the fiftysomething Hiaasen, whose gimpy knees and loopy swing consistently undercut the score-lowering results promised by the high-tech gimcracks and expensive clubs he gamely employs in the ongoing search for that elusive breakthrough. What makes Hiaasen's 577-day diary of hopes denied and dreams deferred so appealing is its everyman aspect: average golfers have a lifetime of frustrations to match Hiaasen's telescoped experience, and if we don't have a cadre of famous kibitzers like writer Mike Lupica and golf broadcaster David Feherty to alternately ridicule and support our efforts, we do have our own inner demons, consistently overruling our attempts at positive thinking. Hiaasen, turning serious for a moment while watching his young son pounding away on the driving range, muses, "I believe this is how you're supposed to feel with a golf club in your hands: Full of heart and free of mind." Unfortunately, his painfully truthful account reveals all too clearly that "constricted of heart and tangled of mind" more accurately describes what most of us feel as we prepare to swing. --Bill Ott -- This text refers to the edition.

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