



Flush

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Bestselling novelist Carl Hiaasen is back with another hysterical mystery adventure for young readers, set in the Florida Keys.

Noah's dad has a little problem with anger control. He tried to stop the *Coral Queen* casino boat's illegal dumping . . . by sinking the boat. But his bold protest fizzles: within days the casino is back in business, and Noah's dad is behind bars and out of action.

Now Noah is determined to succeed where his father failed. But even though pumping raw sewage into the waters of the Florida Keys is both gross and against the law, turns out it's near impossible to catch the flusher—especially when he's already bamboozled the prosecutors, the local press, and even the Coast Guard.

But Noah's got a few allies. There's his little sister, Abbey, an unreformed childhood biter; Lice Peeking, a half-soused ex-mate of the *Coral Queen* who is willing to testify . . . for a price; and Shelly, a bighearted bartender with even bigger biceps.

Okay, so the odds aren't good. But Noah has an ace up his sleeve—a plan so crazy it just might stop the polluting, save the beaches, and prove to the world that it's the owner of the *Coral Queen*, and not his dad, who is full of . . . crud.

Flush Details

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From Reader Review Flush for online ebook

Carol Baldwin says

FLUSH: An Example of What Every Book Should Include

I can't help myself. Whenever I read a book I'm always analyzing how the author pulls it off. How does he or she weave together the different elements needed to produce an engaging book for young readers?

My recent read, FLUSH by Carl Hiaasen, is a great example of this type of book. It has:

A great beginning that hooks the reader

The deputy told me to empty my pockets: two quarters, a penny, a stick of bubble gum, and a roll of grip tape for my skateboard. It was pitiful.

"Go on inside. He's waiting for you," the deputy said.

My dad was sitting alone at a bare metal table. He looked pretty good, all things considered. He wasn't even handcuffed.

"Happy Father's Day," I said.

(I dare you not to want to read more after that!)

Memorable characters

Paine Underwood- who is jailed for trying to prevent a floating casino from dumping raw sewage into the Florida Keys.

Noah Underwood- his son who supports his dad's crusade--even when his father gives up on it himself. (his name really fits him!)

Abbey Underwood- Noah's tough younger sister who has a very mean bite.

Donna Underwood- who is tired of her husband Paine's crusades. She vacillates between understanding him and thinking he is a selfish jerk who she should divorce.

Antagonists that readers love to hate

Dusty Muleman- the greedy, scrupulous casino operator (his name fits him too).

Jasper Jr. Muleman- Dusty's bully son and Noah's #1 enemy.

Interesting Minor Characters

Shelley- a bartender with an attitude, guts, and her own axe to grind against Dusty.

Grandpa Bobby- a mistaken pirate with a wild past.

Conflict

You name it, this book has it. Man vs. nature; man vs. man; man vs. self; man vs. a machine. It's all here.

A great ending where the main character solves the problem

For that you'll have to read the book.

Happy Reading...and oh yes, don't forget to FLUSH!

Mike French says

Carl Hiaasen once again has written a tremendous book for the entire family! Grandparents, Parents, kids and grandkids will enjoy this book. Very enjoyable and entertaining for all!

August says

This was a pretty good book. It is about a rich person illegally hurting nature. Great book.

Valerie says

I thought this book had one of the most brilliant opening lines of any YA book. I read it aloud to #1 son, and he snatched the book from my hands and proceeded through Hoot as well.

Barbara says

3.5 stars

This is one of Carl Hiaasen's middle-grade books. Like the author's adult novels, it tells an amusing story while addressing the topic of environmentalism and conservation in south Florida.???

Eleven-year-old Noah Underwood's dad, Paine, is an environmentalist who's very protective of the Florida Keys - where the family lives. So when Paine learns that Dusty Muleman - crooked owner of the casino-boat Coral Queen - regularly (and illegally) dumps the ship's toilet waste into the ocean, Paine sinks the ship. This lands Paine in jail but doesn't do much to stop Dusty, who resurrects the boat and goes on with his business.

Unfortunately, Paine can't prove his charges against Dusty, since the shipowner flushes the waste at night, when no one is around. Moreover, Paine refuses to be bailed out of jail until something's done about the poop pollution, which causes financial problems for the Underwood family.....and aggravates Noah's mom. So Noah and his younger sister Abbey decide they'll expose Dusty's filthy deeds. ?

At his father's suggestion, Noah tries to enlist the help of Lice Peeking, who used to work on the Coral Queen. Lice, a skeezy guy who hates to bathe, knows about the illegal dumping - and agrees to help for a steep price. But Lice is an untrustworthy drinker who's scared of Dusty, and he doesn't come through.

Hence Abbey - in a true 'don't try this at home' maneuver - sneaks out of her bedroom window after midnight, video camera in hand. Abbey gets a good vantage point and films Dusty's unlawful dumping, but

the video is blurry and can't be used as evidence.

As Noah and Abbey try to hatch a better plan, they score an ally. Lice Peeking's girlfriend Shelly, a brassy blonde with a heart of gold, agrees to help take Dusty down. So Shelly takes a bartender job on the Coral Queen, to scope out the boat's layout - and the three conspirators come up with a genius plan to expose Dusty's wrongdoing. (I can't describe the plan because of spoilers, but it's a good one!)?

While all this going on, Noah is repeatedly harassed by Dusty's son Jasper Jr. and his cohort Bull - who knock Noah off his bike, hit him, spit on him, and so on. Noah and Abbey are also in the sights of Dusty's strongman Luno, who might even stoop to killing children. Luckily, a swashbuckling stranger appears out of nowhere to help the siblings. Who is that masked man? (Just joking.....he doesn't wear a mask.)?

In the end, the accomplices carry out their scheme, which is more dangerous than they anticipated.

The story is clever and fun, but also makes a serious point about preserving the ecosystem. I think many readers of all ages would enjoy this book.

You can follow my reviews at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot...>

Lars Guthrie says

You might come to 'Flush' with two preconceptions.

Carl Hiaasen writes adult thrillers with a satirical tenor, often featuring characters from the trailer trash end of the social spectrum. So it's likely that his children's books will retain a bit of that edge.

Those adult thrillers, and Hiaasen's books for younger readers, focus on environmentalism, so it's likely that 'Flush' centers on that kind of issue.

Your preconceptions would be proven true.

The tone of 'Flush' is sardonic. It features a bartender who saves the day named Shelly, who has a 'barbed-wire tattoo around one of her biceps,' wears 'stockings that look like they were made from a mullet net,' and actually lives in a trailer park. Not your run-of-the-mill children's book character.

It's all about a kid's battle to help his father stop a casino boat owner from dumping raw sewage in Florida's coastal waters. Sometimes the message is close to heavy-handed. The bad guys have zero complexity, no redeeming social value.

There is more going on in 'Flush,' however. Without making a big deal of it, Hiaasen makes his personable 14-year-old protagonist an accomplished naturalist. Noah knows the names of plants and animals that live where he does—in the Florida Keys. And I mean he really knows them, not just as names he can rattle off. Noah really looks at where he is when he's outdoors, and notices what he sees.

In our culture, where kids often suffer from what Richard Louv in his 'Last Child in the Woods' called 'nature-deficit disorder,' Noah makes a nice role model.

Although Noah is not afraid of risks, he's an eminently practical kind of guy, unlike his dad, who is a hothead. Noah gets that practicality from his mother. She married because she loved her impulsive husband,

but he goes a little far in his fight to keep the ocean clean. 'Flush' has a lovely subplot—Noah and his stubbornly righteous little sister, Abbey, working together to save their parents' marriage.

That subplot and Noah's eye for nature combine with colorful characters and a good dose of action and suspense to endear readers of 'Flush.' I haven't met a middle schooler who's read it who wasn't enthusiastic about the experience. Now I am, too. It's a sweet little chapter book.

Recommended for fourth graders on up.

Alex says

If this is his first into the kids genre then I understand it's flaws, I do not forgive them but I understand. If this is not his first kids book then he totally messed up on this one. His crassness is unnecessary, and his approach to things like murder and alcoholism was ham handed. His other two that I've read were better and if you are a kid and you have a super love for Hiaasen then I guess go ahead and read this, but don't make this your first.

A boy and his sister are trying to prove that a casino boat is dumping sewage into the bay. Their father is in jail because he sank the boat to stop them but they are up and running fast. Like all Hiaasen kids books, the boy is being beat up and has to stand up to his bully. This beer drinking tattooed woman helps them even though she thinks her boyfriend who is an alcoholic was murdered, she has a grudge against men and kinda says weird things to the boy about it.

This whole book had me squinting my eyes like why are you doing this?

For boys and girls who are third and fourth grade and want a realistic mystery set in Florida and is about poo.

Carmen Tryka says

If your father was put in jail because he tried to save the environment, how would you react? What if it was hard to prove that it was done for the appropriate reason? What if you were the only person in your family that believed him? A hard situation.

Carl Hiaasen gives us a story about a boy trying to prove his fathers right doing. Instead of going fishing or spending quality time, Noah Underwood spends Father's Day with his father Paine in the county jail. Paine is put in jail for sinking the gambling boat, the Coral Queen, because Dusty Muleman has been ordering his crew to dispose of the waste into the Florida waters. Ever since the Coral Queen opened, the beaches were constantly closed for the contamination. Paine tried to alert the Coast Guard about the pollution coming from the Coral Queen, but every time they checked out the gambling boat, Muleman knew so he disposed of the waste where it is supposed to go. Paine relies on Noah to help him prove that Muleman was dumping the sewage into the water, but he is stumped. He finds a way to prove the contamination through a legal way with the help of Shelly who works on the gambling boat.

Operation Royal Flush. After witnessing the dumping of the waste, Noah comes up with a plan. With the help of his sister, they get as much color dye their money can buy them. Thirty-four one ounce bottles of fushia dye for fifty-seven dollars and sixteen cents. It began. That night, him and his sister will borrow Rado's family boat as an escape vehicle. With the help of Shelly, Noah will board the gambling boat, hide in

the bathroom, and empty all the dye into the toilet. After someone needs to go to the bathroom really bad, Noah runs out. He notices that the security guards are following him so yells "geronimo," which is the sign for his sister Abbey to come get him out of the water. Well, after yelling "geronimo" and hitting the hard surface, his sister is having trouble with the boat, so Noah has to swim. He eventually hits a sea cow, but then hears the boat. Abbey saved him! They sleep on the boat over night. In the morning, they look at the horizon and see a boat. It is their father and a guy who has been following them around, their grandfather. Noah calls the Coast Guard to report the spilling of the sewage, but under his father's name. He is a hero.

Hiassen displays that environment is important. Noah interest in saving the water, and his fathers reputation, shows that anything can happen in a legal way if they use their heads, not like the way his father tried. Noah is a smart, passionate, caring seventh grader who deals with situations with his head, not with his actions. He cares for his family especially his dad. People in the world don't realize how important nature and the environment is to one another. If one realized that by working together, one can make a difference, then many would be happier and acknowledge nature.

This book is not like any other book. Carl Hiaasen is a great author who tends to write about nature and environment directed to the younger ages. Flush is a book that everyone will enjoy whether or not you love nature. So if you are stumped about what book you want to read next, pick up a copy of Flush, and begin reading. You will not be let down.

Reed says

This book really gives insight to readers on what is wrong with the real world. The characters show emotion and really tie everything together with each character having a certain role. There are character you will love and characters you will loathe. You love to hate Dusty and his son. You feel bad for the father and realize that he is perfectly sane.

John says

I needed a piece of light fluff to read after the last novel I tackled, which erred somewhat on the worthwhile'n'earnest side. In *Flush* I found exactly what I sought . . . with the added bonus of a worthwhile'n'earnest subtext to assuage my conscience.

On the Florida Keys, teenager Noah Underwood's dad has the bad/good habit of going ballistic when crass, greedy people destroy the environment. His latest escapade, scuttling a casino ship whose owner has, to save money, been pumping the craft's raw sewage straight into the water, has landed him in jail; even on release, he's hogbound by restrictions designed to stymie any efforts he might make to bring the criminal to justice. So it's up to Noah and his kid sister Abbey -- aided by some unlikely allies -- to take up the slack . . .

Quite a few years ago I read this novel's precursor, *Hoot*, and enjoyed it more than somewhat (although I see that for some forgotten reason I failed to make notes on it here); soon after, I picked up *Flush*, which has been lurking on my shelves ever since, waiting for its Right Moment. Well, the Right Moment arrived, and very welcome it was. As you'd expect from Hiaasen, the tale's a tremendous page-turner while often being laugh-out-loud funny.

Recommended to all except those who, on reading about the destruction of the environment by raw sewage, object not to the destruction but to the mention of the sewage.

Chloe O'neal says

Noah's dad tries to get back at Dusty, for putting the holding tank in the ocean, by sinking his casino ship, Coral Queen. He has to go to jail on fathers' day. Noah and Abbey try to prove that there dad is right by making up this crazy plan that includes sneaking into the Coral Queen. Read the book to find out what happens next.

The main characters in the book are Dad and Noah. Dad, Paine, he has some anger issues. When he gets something on his mind he will do whatever it takes to get them to stop. He has been in jail multiple times for this. Noah is a teenage boy who is a lot like his dad. He tries to prove that his dad is right. When he knows that he is right he goes through a plan to tell the coast guard it is true. The conflict of the story is when Dusty puts the septic tank in the ocean and nobody believes that he did. Then all kinds of problems start from there. The resolution of the story is when Noah and Abbey prove that he did put it in there. The main idea of the story is how Noah tries to prove his dad is right and never gives up. Some of the details include how he always believed his dad and how he made two plans to prove him right. My opinion of the book is that it is really good. I liked the detail in it. I would recommend this book to someone.

Caitlin L says

I recently finished, "Flush" by: Carl Hiaasen. It starts out kind of slow, but the more you read, the more you want to know! "Flush" is about a curious, determined boy, Noah Underwood, his tough, persistent sister Abbey, and their peculiar father who will stand up for anything that he thinks is right. Noah's dad gets put in jail for sinking skinflint Dusty Muleman's casino boat, The Coral Queen. Noah's dad didn't do this for no good reason at all, the truthful reason is that he thinks Dusty is flushing the sewage out into the ocean where children swim and where the sea life lives. It's a little disturbing, but true! The Coast Guard and the police don't believe it so they stick Mr. Underwood behind bars. The weird thing is, Noah's dad isn't sorry for what he did! When Noah's mom attempts to bail him out he refuses! Now Noah and Abbey must figure out how to bust Dusty, by themselves! I really enjoyed this book because of the small bit of humor, exciting mystery, and of course, the adventure. The characters and setting are well described, they seem to be popping right out of the pages (especially the sewage in the water, I kind of wish Hiaasen didn't describe it that well)! The plot is also wonderfully written, the story is almost always staying on track and not wandering off. I can partly connect to Noah, when he attempts to help his father get out of jail, his mom says, "No Noah, this is grown up stuff." That has happened to me countless times, when do I get to do "the grown up stuff"? I really loved this book and I hope you will too!

Angela says

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. It was a quick and easy read, and made me laugh out loud!

Lauren says

Flush is a very good book it shows what people could risk for animals and nature. The boy in this book has a

Dad that has been in jail many times when he was trying to protect wildlife. Watch him take a step while his dad is in jail and to prove that his dad is right.

Andrea says

After reading *Hoot*, I couldn't resist reading all of Carl Hiaassen's young adult fiction for myself. I blew through this book in two nights. Absolutely fantastic! Another tale of environmental activism by young people and how it changes the world around them. I want to read this to my son before he loses that "I can do ANYTHING!" feeling that only the young and unscarred possess.

The book starts with Noah visiting his father in jail. He's there because he sank a casino boat after finding out that, instead of properly disposing of the boat's wastewater, the owner was dumping the untreated sewage into the ocean, destroying the nesting areas on endangered turtles and befouling the beaches for weeks on end. The main character, Noah, and his sister, Abbey, believe in their father and, when it becomes clear that his crusade is endangering his marriage to their mother, the kids set off on a crusade of their own: to find proof that their father is right about the illegal dumping. Throw in some corrupt local officials, and a few other complications, and you get a story that is taut with intrigue all the way through. The kids find an ally in an unlikely place, and with her help, come up with an ingenious way to prove without a doubt that the boat is the source of the sewage.

I have yet to read *Scat* which is the latest of Hiaassen's books for kids, but his storytelling is so brilliant and engaging that I headed to Barnes and Noble yesterday to pick up some of his fiction for grownups.
