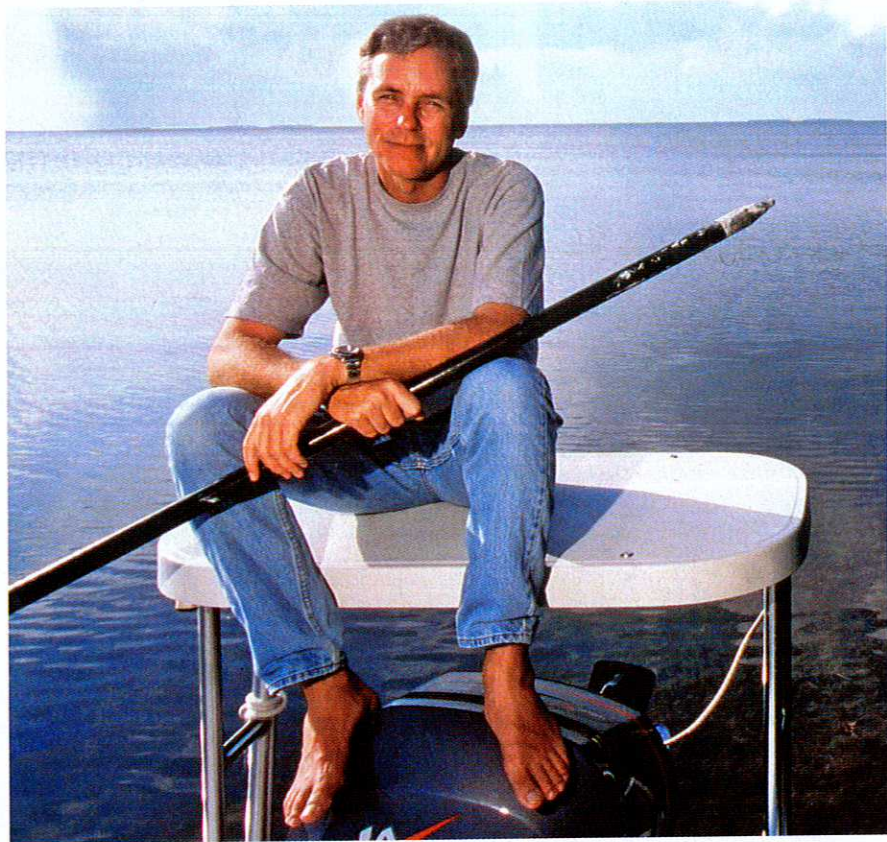


# The Satiric Voice of the Sunshine State

Newspaper columnist and best-selling author **CARL HIAASEN** has penned yet another hilarious Florida-based farce. When he's not busy writing, it's a good bet you can find him on the water. *By Jonathan Lesser*



**M** IAMI HERALD COLUMNIST CARL HIAASEN HAS LIVED OUTSIDE THE STATE OF FLORIDA for exactly two of his 53 years, and, thankfully for us, those two were enough. His home state has given him grist for 11 absurdly entertaining novels; his latest, *Nature Girl* (Knopf), is in stores now. Hiaasen grew up fishing, and he remains a passionate outdoorsman. He lives in Vero Beach and has a second home (and a fishing skiff) in the Keys.



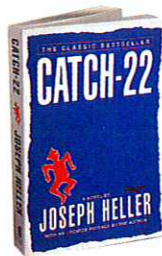
⚡ **MY ESCAPE**

I have a real affection for fly-fishing for game fish — tarpon, bonefish, and permit — which is brutalizing in its intensity, but it's just the sort of thing I need to clear my head. It's sight-fishing in shallow water for incredibly fast and elusive fish. It's incredibly challenging, and you have to be alert at all times. You can't think

about anything but the fish. Plus you're in a tremendously tranquil place, so there's a serenity and a solitude. For a writer there's something about being perpetually aggravated during recreation that I think is good for the creative process.

⚡ **MY BEST CATCH**

The best fish I ever caught was a 43-pound permit on fly, which would have been a world record in the line class except the rod broke when we were landing it, so



under the rules of the International Game Fish Association, it didn't count. That was down in Key West. It's a once-in-a-lifetime fish.

⚡ **MY FAVORITE BOOK**

*Catch-22* is such a brilliant satire. It profoundly changed the way I thought about what I wanted to do and what I wanted to write. Heller opened my eyes to the fact that you could be funny and deadly serious at the same time.

⚡ **MY LUNCH**

Every day I have a turkey sandwich with provolone. I like turkey and provolone, and I just don't see any reason to have anything else. I don't see the need for any additional stress in my life.

⚡ **MY ROLE MODEL**

Jimmy Breslin. He could make you cry one day and just bust a gut laughing the next day.

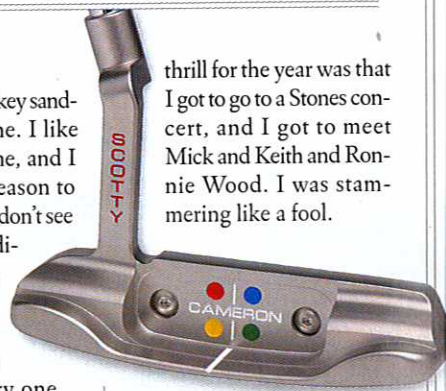
⚡ **MY CORNERSTONES**

I really learned to read on the *Miami Herald* and the *Fort Lauderdale News*. I was a sports nut as a kid, and I loved to read the sports pages to my dad. I always thought, What a great gig it would be to be able to go to a baseball game, interview the players, write about it, and get your name on the story.



⚡ **MY FAVORITE BAND**

If I've got to get in a car and take a long drive, I've got to have a Stones CD. You need "Gimme Shelter." You need "Sister Morphine." My big



thrill for the year was that I got to go to a Stones concert, and I got to meet Mick and Keith and Ronnie Wood. I was stammering like a fool.

⚡ **MY PUTTER**

After a 32-year layoff I've taken up golf again. My wife bought me a gorgeous Scotty Cameron putter. It's wasted on me, but it's a work of art.

⚡ **MY VACATION SPOT**

I've been going to Montana for a long time. Every time I'm there it's a completely energizing experience. I'll never forget the first time I landed in Missoula and looked at the mountains. As a kid from Florida, you just get blown away.



⚡ **MY MUST-HAVE**

I have a set of Ruger earmuffs for shotgun shooters that I wear when I write. I started doing this in my house years ago when they were doing renovations, and now I can't write without them. I can barely make out a check without the earmuffs.



⚡ **MY STOMPING GROUNDS**

The Everglades. At night they are so black and desolate, and mosquitoes are in your nose and your ears. You gotta dig it.