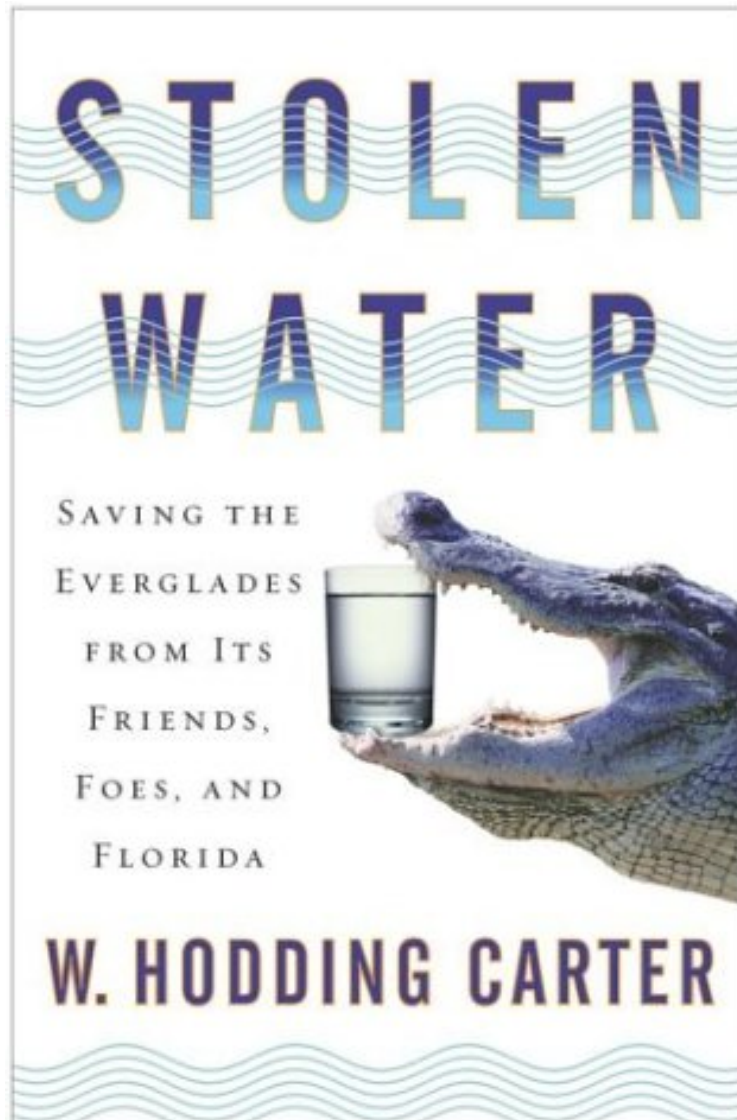


# Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from Its Friends, Foes, and Florida

W. Hodding Carter

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**W. Hodding Carter : Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from Its Friends, Foes, and Florida** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from Its Friends, Foes, and Florida:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Extremely interesting and educationalBy Toni's takesSometimes we forget how really stupid the people who run our state and federal governments are. This book will open your eyes to

how the Everglades has been ruined in the name of making things better. I just returned from Miami and from the air you can see how they have "fenced in" the Everglades. Also, the water in Florida has a distinct smell even when showering. I hope "they" start taking some steps to clean things up. Great Book.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lost in the sawgrassBy C. PittmanIt's ridiculously easy to get lost in the Everglades. At every bend, the mangroves look the same, the sawgrass cuts like a knife and clouds of vicious mosquitoes drain your veins.W. Hodding Carter knows this much first-hand. In a stunt that seems like a particularly boneheaded segment of David Letterman's "Stupid Human Tricks," Carter and a friend attempted to paddle a canoe across the Everglades without bothering to pack any food. They figured they'd forage as they traveled. After six days of exhaustion and near-starvation, Carter concluded that the Everglades seems pretty from a distance, but up close "it's a hellhole."Nevertheless, Carter writes in his new book *Stolen Water*, he found himself drawn to further exploration, both of the Glades itself and of recent efforts to restore the River of Grass.Carter's recounting of his misadventures in trying to get to the essence of the Everglades through a series of poorly planned boat trips is well-written and mildly amusing. But when Carter tries to explore the restoration effort he swamps the reader with mind-numbing jargon and technical details. The problem is, it's ridiculously easy to get lost in the details of Everglades restoration, an incredibly complex project expected to cost taxpayers billions of dollars over the next 20 years.For a better book on the Everglades, try Michael Grunwald's "The Swamp." And for a more comprehensive look at Florida's environmental woes, check out *Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss* (Florida History and Culture)4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Provides some facts about the friends foes of the areaBy Midwest Book ReviewHodding Carter loves the Everglades and *Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from Its Friends, Foes, and Florida* reflects this affection as much as it reflects arguments on both sides covering the management and utilization of the wilderness. From restoration plans for the Everglades to author Carter's own quest through the region to consider both its history and future, *Stolen Water* provides some hard-hitting facts about the real friends and foes of the area.

Citing Clinton's \$7.8 billion restoration plan for the Everglades, a survey of the plan's progress to date draws on the author's canoe journey through the region as well as interviews with environmentalists and politicians.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen the author became the "adoptive father" of a Florida manatee named Brutus, he took his family to meet the 2,000-pound marine mammal at its home in the warm springs of the Everglades. As his interest in the species increased, it led to an overwhelming concern for the ecology and the future prospects of the Everglades in general. Carter (*Westward Whoa*), a gifted teller of nature tales with a flair for the humorous and offbeat, decided to tour this vast network of connecting rivers via canoe. The journey includes encounters with environmentalists, naturalists, sugar farmers, politicians and swamp folk. Of course the flora, fauna and natural history of this great river of grass is scrutinized in detail; whether describing the sadness of an early morning death watch over the corpse of a recently killed manatee or detailing the struggles of hiking and hacking through a mangrove thicket with insects and myriad swamp creatures (including cottonmouths and gators) crawling amid the muck, Carter manages to see the comedic light in all things including these downright murky situations. While the author's environmentalist credentials and interests are apparent from the beginning, he is no simplistic knee-jerk reformer blind to the multiplicity of competing factors that make ecological issues so pesky. As in all too many environmentally sensitive areas, the Everglades has suffered from both too little and too much public attention. In this engaging read, the author details some of the competing interests of developers and conservationists, which have made for a political jumble of mixed good and venal intentions leading to some successful and also poor results. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistIn previous books, such as *A Viking Voyage* (2000), Carter adopted an amusing bumbler-abroad persona. The same self-deprecating attitude lightens Carter's tour of the contemporary Everglades. He read up on the natural and human history of the area and sutures excerpts from such regional classics as *The Everglades: River of Grass* (1947), by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, into the account of his adventures. They range from auditioning for a tacky mermaid show to searching for Brutus the manatee to camping in Everglades National Park, and he links this manic spectrum of activity through interviews with flacks, biologists, engineers, environmentalists, and airboat operators, who amiably guide him around. Everybody's bone of contention is the metaplan Congress enacted in 2000 to save the Everglades, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Traveling the ecosystem from the Kissimmee River southward, Carter learns to cope with mosquitoes and gators as his companions give their views of the plan. With humor leavening the science, Carter well evokes the languid vibrancy of South Florida's natural scenery. Gilbert TaylorCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[Carter] is a passionate grumbler. *Stolen Water* is his love song to the Everglades as well as a heartfelt rejoinder to the deal makers who brokered its restoration plan...[and] is richly peopled with an eclectic array of biologists, activists, Big Sugar executives, and government bureaucrats." -- Audubon (Editor's Choice)"Carter [is] a gifted teller of nature tales with a flair for the humorous and off beat....[An] engaging read." -- Publishers Weekly"Carter is pissed off and, at the same time, raucously funny -- the perfect combination for a subject so big and miasmal as the Everglades." --

Hampton Sides, author of *Ghost Soldiers* and *Americana*"Carter writes with breezy, story-telling ease, his voice veering from serious to comic as he blunders through tangles of mangroves on dead-end voyages and sizes up [all] the swampbusting characters." -- Sun Sentinel (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)