

Sorrow Floats

By Tim Sandlin

Maurey Pierce Talbot is too smart, too feisty, and too funny to be making such a mess of her twenty-two-year-old life. Despite denials - always clever, often hilarious - Maurey is rapidly becoming the town drunk. But on the May day she takes one drink too many and accidentally misplaces her baby (thereby giving her husband all the excuse he needs to boot her out), even Maurey has to admit she's hit bottom. So when two old reprobates, AA zealots both, turn up and offer her a ride in exchange for gas money, the legal cover of her still-valid driver's license, and an old horse trailer owned by her late and much-lamented dad (to haul the Coors they plan to sell illegally in the South), Maurey agrees. And so begins one of the oddest hegriras in American roadtrip history as this less-than-cordial threesome sets out to cover twenty-five hundred miles of good-ol'-boy '70s America. What Maurey finds as she crosses the country will turn a trip into a quest and change a girl into a woman.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

Sideways

By Rex Pickett

As best friends Miles and Jack leave Los Angeles for Santa Ynez wine country in preparation for Jack's impending nuptials, they embark on a raucous, weeklong road trip that allows Jack to contemplate his final days of freedom and gives Miles--who has divorced his wife, lost his money, and forgotten his passion for life--a chance to reevaluate his life.

Available at Wayne in Large Type and Fiction



The Flying Troutmans

By Miriam Toews

The Troutman world is falling apart-again. Mentally ill Min is bed-ridden and suffering from paranoid delusions; her 15-year-old son, Logan, is in trouble at school; and her 11-year-old daughter, Thebes, is trying and failing to hold it all together. Enter a reluctant and clueless Aunt Hattie, recently dumped by her boyfriend in the City of Light, and the stage is set for this latest book by Toews. After the suicidal Min is carried to the hospital, Hattie decides to take the kids on a road trip across the Canadian border into America to find the children's AWOL father. The odyssey is laced with moments of grief and dotted with the quirky places, people, and incidents one might expect to find on a circuitous journey through the hinterlands of the vast American West. Ultimately, the long road leads to the beginning of healing and the faith and strength to keep carrying on.

Available at Wayne Fiction



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Summer is the time for ... ROAD TRIPS!



**I never travel without my diary.
One should always have
something sensational to read
in the train.**

*~Oscar Wilde
The Importance of Being Earnest*

**The world is a book, and those
who do not travel, read only a
page.**

*Saint Augustine (354-430)
Roman religious figure*



Blue Highways

By William Least-Heat Moon

William Least Heat-Moon's journey into America began with little more than the need to put home behind him. At a turning point in his life, he packed up a van he called Ghost Dancing and escaped out of himself and into the country. The people and the places he discovered on his roundabout 13,000-mile trip down the back roads ("blue highways") and through small, forgotten towns are unexpected, sometimes mysterious, and full of the spark and wonder of ordinary life. Robert Penn Warren said, "He has a genius for finding people who have not even found themselves." The power of Heat-Moon's writing and his delight in the overlooked and the unexamined capture a sense of our national destiny, the true American experience.

Available at Preakness in Non-Fiction & Wayne on Audio-CD at 917.3 HEA

Breathing Lessons

By Anne Tyler

Maggie and Ira Moran have been married for twenty-eight years—and it shows: in their quarrels, in their routines, in their ability to tolerate with affection each other's eccentricities. Maggie, a kooky, lovable meddler and an irrepressible optimist, wants nothing more than to fix her son's broken marriage. Ira is infuriatingly practical, a man "who should have married Ann Landers." And what begins as a day trip to a funeral becomes an adventure in the unexpected. As Maggie and Ira navigate the riotous twists and turns, they intersect with an assorted cast of eccentrics—and rediscover the magic of the road called life and the joy of having somebody next to you to share the ride . . . bumps and all.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & on Audio-CD

Travels with Charley: in search of America

By John Steinbeck

To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light—these were John Steinbeck's goals as he set out, at the age of fifty-eight, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years. With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. And he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, on a particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and on the unexpected kindness of strangers that is also a very real part of our national identity.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & in Non-Fiction at 917.4 STE



Ride with Me, Mariah Montana

By Ivan Doig

Spurred by the 1989 centennial of Montana's statehood, moody widower Jick McCaskill, turning 65, criss-crosses the state in a Winnebago with his photographer daughter, strong-willed, feisty Mariah, and her ex-husband, Riley, a reporter. In this crowning volume of a trilogy, which includes English Creek and Dancing at the Rascal Fair, Doig again displays a masterly skill in depicting the American West which few writers match. Instead of patriotic hoopla, the canvas is dotted with failing ranches, oil pumps clanking away in farmed fields, Montanans tensely poised between an uncertain future and a frontier past. Jick, who narrates this road story with brash humor, faces two emotional crises: Mariah precipitously announces plans to remarry Riley; and Leona, Riley's mother, who once had an ill-fated fling with Jick's dead brother, joins the caravan. This entertaining ramble adroitly blends travelogue, family drama, history and newspaper lore.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

The Memory of Running

By Ron McLarty

Smithy Ide is a really nice guy. But he's also an overweight, friendless, womanless, hard-drinking, 43-year-old self-professed loser with a breast fetish and a dead-end job, given to stammering "I just don't know" in life's confusing moments. When Smithy's entire family dies, he embarks on a trans-continental bicycle trip to recover his sister's body and rediscover what it means to live. Along the way, he flashes back to his past and the hardships of his beloved sister's schizophrenia, while his dejection encourages strangers to share their life stories. The road redeems the innocent Smithy: he loses weight; rescues a child from a blizzard; rebuffs the advances of a nubile, "apple-breasted" co-cyclist after seeing a vision of his dead sister; and nurtures a telephone romance with a paraplegic family friend as he processes his rocky past.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction

Going Native

By Steven Wright

On a beautiful Friday in suburban Wakefield Estates, a June Cleaverish housewife is preparing for a nice barbecue. Hubby has had a hard day at the office, so no one is surprised when he excuses himself. But he never returns. Instead, he steals a car, assumes another identity, and embarks on a cross-country journey through the most surrealistic American landscape this side of William Burroughs. Wright portrays crackheads, hitchhiking psychos, heavy metal Satanists, and porn stars in brutal detail. Images of the Fifties and Sixties abound, contrasting sharply with today's dysfunctional era. The novel plays out like a 1990s version of *On the Road*, but Kerouac's life-affirming rebels have been replaced by characters who express an angry hunger for something that no longer seems to exist. Highly recommended, but not for the faint of heart.

Available at Wayne in Fiction