

Good Faith

By Jane Smiley

Successful small-town realtor Joey Stratford is divorced, at loose ends, and ready to pursue prosperity on a larger scale. New acquaintance Marcus Burns, a former IRS man lately arrived from New York, offers the chance of Joey's lifetime. The well-connected Marcus seems to know all the angles of developing and profiting massively from a fabulous local property, Salt Key Farm. Joey, at once dazzled by Marcus and distracted by an intoxicating affair with the sister of a high school sweetheart, proceeds with his investment, though he suspects that the Salt Key project may be very risky business. Marcus's schemes play out in a tragicomedy featuring a Dickensian mix of quirky characters chasing their versions of the American dream.

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Tax Inspector

By Peter Carey

The Catchprizes of suburban Sydney, Australia are a family in disarray. Their lives are centered around an auto dealership on the verge of collapse despite their fiddling with the books. No one but 16-year-old Benny really cares, and he is a psychotic living in a dingy cellar to avoid his father, a one-time child molester. Benny is determined to transform himself, via an expensive set of motivational tapes, a fancy new suit, and use of a depilatory, into the world's greatest car salesman and thus to save the business. His vision, however, is threatened by the arrival of tax inspector Maria Takis, so he sets out in his own warped way to induce her to drop the investigation. This is more than just Benny's story, however. It concerns an entire family coming apart at the seams, plagued by its own history and the frustration of unfulfilled dreams.

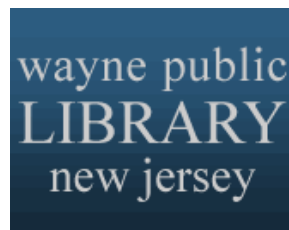
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Breathing Room

By Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Isabel Favor, America's favorite self-help guru, needs a little help herself. A kiss-and-tell interview with a bitter former employee has just hit the newspapers; the IRS has sent a bill for more than a million dollars in back taxes; her accountant has fled the country (with Isabel's money); and her longtime fiancé announces he has found happiness and fulfillment in the arms of another woman. With her whole world crashing down around her, Isabel heads for Tuscany to stay in a rustic farmhouse where she hopes to figure out how to put her life back together. On her first night in Italy, Isabel, still smarting from being rejected by her fiancé, gives into temptation and participates in a one-night stand with a mysterious, handsome Italian, only to run out on him. Arriving at her country farm-house, Isabel discovers that it's exactly the haven of tranquility she needs, although there is one drawback. Her landlord is the sexy American movie star Lorenzo Gage, who just happens to be the very man Isabel dumped a few days ago.

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April 15th — taxes due! Tax Evasion tales involving characters who owe the IRS



Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors... and miss.
- Robert A. Heinlein

**Death and taxes and childbirth!
There's never any convenient time for any of them.**
- Margaret Mitchell (author of "Gone with the Wind")

Born Free. . . . Taxed to Death
- Unknown

I'm proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is — I could be just as proud for half the money.
- Arthur Godfrey



Baby, Would I Lie?

By Donald Westlake

The Weekly Galaxy, a sleazy tabloid newspaper, is covering the murder case against popular Missouri country singer Ray Jones. So is pretty Sara Joslyn, a *Galaxy* escapee who now works for a trendy New York magazine called *Trend*. Ray is also being pursued for zillions in back taxes by the IRS and seems determined, despite his lawyers' best efforts, to screw up every-thing in sight, in court and without. Meanwhile, can *Trend* expose *Galaxy*'s hideous newsgathering methods and get their own scoop as well? Westlake's practiced hand soon has these elements spinning cheerfully. Sara is a delightfully feisty, smart heroine; Ray is suitably enigmatic; there are some spot-on takeoffs on typical country lyrics; and the windup is both utterly surprising and entirely logical.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction
and Book-on-Cassette at Preakness*

Red Death

By Walter Mosley

Walter Mosley, author of *Devil in a Blue Dress*, has a unique narrative voice that reappears in the appealing person of Easy Rawlins, an astute and tough war veteran living in early 1950s Los Angeles. In deep trouble with the IRS for nonpayment of taxes, Easy half-heartedly agrees to spy on a suspected Jewish Communist for an avid FBI agent in return for leverage with the tax man. As before, Mosley's inclusion of life in Watts, contemporary social attitudes, and colloquial speech contribute to the excellence and authenticity of plot and character portrayal.

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Echo Burning

By Lee Child

Jack Reacher, an ex-military cop is picked up while hitchhiking by a beautiful woman named Carmen Greer, in the parched desert of west Texas. This act plunges him into a maelstrom of deceit, cruelty, and murder. Sloop, Carmen's abusive husband, is due to be released from prison after serving time for tax evasion, and she tries to persuade Reacher to kill him. He refuses but is concerned enough about her well-being to hire out as a ranch hand at the Greers' remote ranch, where he finds a strange, bigoted family hostile to Carmen and her young daughter. Within days of his return, Sloop is shot dead and Carmen arrested. To defend her, Reacher hires a newly minted lawyer, who, is female, gay, and vegetarian. Together they unravel the mystery, leading to an explosive, nail-biting climax during a chase through a thunderstorm.

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Madame Cleo's Girls

By Lucianne Goldberg

The story centers on Madame Cleo, a world-famous brothel keeper who sells her life story in order to placate the French government's lust for unpaid taxes. Enter Peter Shea, a once-great international journalist who becomes Madame's hired pen; his magazine editor, Fedalia Null, hopelessly in love with Peter; Lord Mosby, a media mogul with a penchant for red silk bras and underpants; and Cleo's girls. The drawn-out, not-so-surprise ending echoes the horrors of the Holocaust as well as the traditional girl-gets-boy scenario. Characters are sympathetically drawn, even if two dimensional, and the plot is paced well for a fast read.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



The Quiet Girl

By Peter Høeg

Kaspar Krone is a world-renowned circus clown, and a man in some deep trouble. Drowning in gambling debt and wanted for tax evasion, Krone is drafted into the service of a mysterious order of nuns who promise him reprieve in return for his help safeguarding a group of children with mystical abilities--abilities that Krone also shares. When one of the children goes missing, Krone sets off to find the young girl and bring her back, making a shocking series of discoveries along the way.

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Roman Dusk: a Novel of the Count Saint-Germain

By Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

In the unsettled time when Imperial Rome totters on the brink of collapse, the vampire Ragooczy Germainus Sanct' Franciscus—the Count Saint-Germain—finds himself targeted by a corrupt Roman official and accused of bribery, tax evasion, and treason. The storm that hovers over the vampire grows darker when he is accused of corrupting Ignatia, a young virgin. Her brother, a zealous covert to the new religion of Christianity, threatens to purify Saint-Germain with fire. And fire can destroy even the undead.

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