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**Off the Shelf:**

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System  
March 1, 2009  
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New FREE Library Service: Wowbrary!
Find Out About The Library's Newest Items!

The Prince William Public Library System is proud to offer a new service: Wowbrary! This new, free e-mail alert service showcases the newest titles purchased by the Library System each week. Find out about the latest bestsellers, DVDs, music CDs, and audiobooks all from the comfort of your home or office! Whenever you spot something of interest, just click on the "borrow" button to place a request for the title right away.

Every Wednesday, you will receive an e-mail with the Library System's latest acquisitions. Wowbrary is totally free and does not require a library card for sign-up. To place a title on request, you will need your library card barcode number. Library cards are also free. . . just stop by your local library to get your new card!

Library System Director, Richard W. Murphy, notes, "Every day, there is more bad economic news and the prospect of reductions in service, so the Library System is pleased to offer this great NEW service to our citizens. The Wowbrary Alerts are easy to set up and very convenient. We hope everyone takes advantage of this wonderful opportunity to make their use of the library even more fulfilling!"

RSS feeds are also available for free, if you prefer that method, and can customize what subjects you would like to monitor. Simply visit the Wowbrary link below to sign up.

You can start and stop Wowbrary at any time. As an added bonus, if you're interested in what other folks think about a title you might like to read, listen to, or watch, simply click "reviews" to view what Amazon.com reviewers think! And, if you would like to purchase the item for your own collection, simply click the "buy" button. Thanks to the generosity of Amazon and Wowbrary, the Prince William Public Library System receives 3% of the cost of any items purchased. . .at no cost to you! Funds raised through Wowbrary will be used to purchase all types of materials for our branches and neighborhood libraries!

To learn more about Wowbrary, just visit our Web page and click on "Wowbrary New Item Alerts" or visit <http://www.wowbrary.org/index.aspx> to sign up today!

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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Hollywood Tales**

If you love everything about Hollywood and the lifestyle of celebrities, and you're sad now that the Oscars have been awarded, never fear! The Library can help satisfy your desire for Hollywood tales. Several actors and Hollywood personalities have ventured into the world of fiction writing. *Murder at the Academy Awards*, the first book in a new series by Joan Rivers and Jerrilyn Farmer, was released just in time for the Academy Awards broadcast. This new series finds Maxine "Max" Taylor interviewing celebrities on Oscar night. When a young starlet suddenly collapses and dies on the red carpet, Max wonders whether the young actress, who was recently released from an exclusive rehab center, died of a drug overdose or was poisoned. Richard Belzer, known for his role as Detective Munch on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, has written his first novel, *I am not a cop!* The main character, also named Richard Belzer, stars as a cop on a popular television show. When his good friend mysteriously disappears, Belz's investigation

takes him into the dangerous world of diamond smuggling. Other actors who have published novels include Heather Thomas (*Trophies*), Courtney Thorne-Smith (*Outside in*), and Blair Underwood (*Casanegra* and *In the night of the heat*). Stephen J. Cannell has been working in the entertainment industry since the 1960s. In addition to writing and producing for television series such as *The Rockford Files*, *The A-Team*, and *21 Jump Street*, he has also become a successful novelist since his first novel, *The Plan*, was published in 1995. After several stand-alone novels, Cannell began his series featuring LAPD detective Shane Scully. The recently released *On the Grind* finds Scully accused of misconduct and forced to resign from the LAPD.

An author doesn't have to be a celebrity to write about Hollywood. Denise Hamilton's *The last embrace* is set in Hollywood a few years after World War II. Former OSS spy, Lily Kessler, is searching for her fiancé's sister who mysteriously disappeared after moving to California to become an actress. Hamilton's novel is inspired by the unsolved disappearance of actress Jean Spangler in 1949. For other stories of the rich and famous, try Jane Smiley's *Ten days in the hills*, *Celebutantes* by Amanda Goldberg and Ruthanna Khalighi Hopper, and Harley Jane Kozak's mysteries featuring Wollie Shelley (*Dating dead men*, *Dating is murder*, *Dead ex*, and the forthcoming *A date you can't refuse*).

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