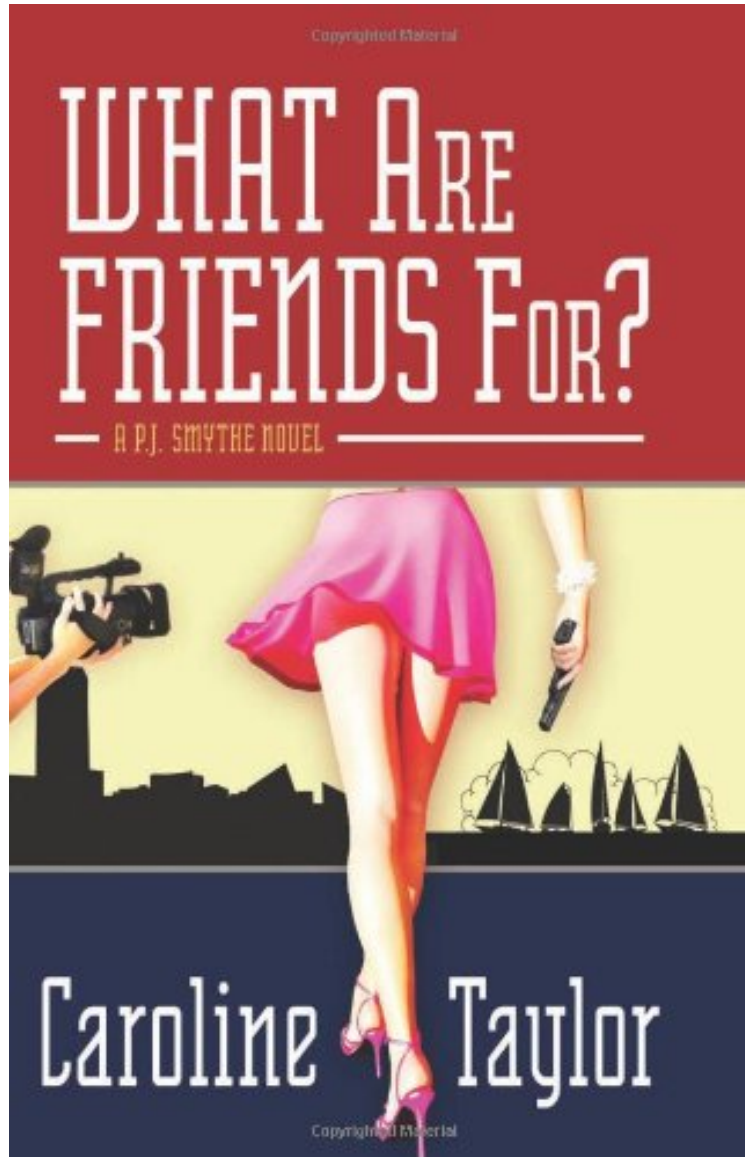


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## What Are Friends For? (P. J. Smythe Novel)

*Caroline Taylor*

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**Caroline Taylor : What Are Friends For? (P. J. Smythe Novel)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Are Friends For? (P. J. Smythe Novel):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More P.J. PleaseBy Scott D. SanbornMove over Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch. Here comes reluctant, but persistent, rookie private-eye, Persephone Justinalia "P.J." Smythe. In this neo-noir thriller, P.J.'s first case is a tangle that involves Washington politicians; eco-lobbyists and activists; her ex-

boyfriend, who's also an ex-drug dealer; and her scummy ex-husband. P.J., who works as a skip-tracer for her uncle's loan business, agrees to pose as a "hard-boiled" private investigator in her best friend's documentary film, but what begins as a lark soon turns deadly serious. Author Caroline Taylor proves adept at scripting engaging dialogue, and her novel provides interesting details about the ins and outs of skip tracing and eco-politics. Set in Annapolis, Maryland, Taylor's appealing descriptions of the town, environs, and cuisine are sure to entice those who have never experienced its charms. One can only hope that this will be the first in a series of P.J. Smythe novels. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What are friends for? By P.T. Jennings I adored this fiesty, wise-cracking, surely gum-chewing tomboy (which is NOT a bad word!) created by Caroline Taylor. P-J Smythe's naivete is very endearing as is her mastery of Bal'mer slang! Shades of Mickey Spillane or Damon Runyon. I also liked the fact the action is situated in Annapolis instead of a more well known place like Washington or Baltimore and the detail of that city and all the Maryland lore puts the reader right there! I can't wait to read the next adventure in the life of P-J, the unlikely P-I! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed this but however I bought it because I typed ... By Clara Underwood I enjoyed this but however I bought it because I typed in 5 stars chick mysteries. The two I bought were just printed by Five Stars!

2003. Rescuing her boyfriend from the long arm of the law seems like such a good idea -- until P. J. Smythe discovers he's been cheating on her. Then the judgment part of her brain shuts down, and she's the one who lands in jail. Fortunately, P.J.'s best friend Alicia comes to the rescue. 2010. Now it's payback time, and the only thing Alicia wants is for P.J. to play the starring role in a documentary she is filming. When P.J.'s first "client," environmentalist Vivian Remington, winds up dead of an overdose, P.J.'s past comes back to haunt her. A fast-paced, light-hearted spoof of the classic hard-boiled whodunit, *What Are Friends For?* explores the lengths to which Annapolis skip tracer P.J. Smythe must go to dodge a murder charge...

From Publishers Weekly In Taylor's cute if uneven debut, Persephone Justinalia "P.J." Smythe, a skip tracer for her uncle's loan business in Annapolis, Md., agrees to participate in best friend Alicia Todd Ritchie's documentary about the PI business. In her new role, P.J. accepts a job from Vivian Remington of the Wetlands Protectors Alliance to prove that Florida state senator Marguerite Sutherland stole a fur coat made of ocelot (an endangered species) that Vivian needs to return to the Feds. When someone murders Vivian with a heroin overdose, P.J. becomes a suspect. Meanwhile, P.J. must also deal with her ex-husband, Bobby Crane; Gareth Swenson, a former college classmate with a druggie past; and heartthrob lawyer Neal Patterson, who has a secret. Despite the convoluted plot contrivances of this hard-boiled PI chick-lit satire, readers will want to see more of ditzy P.J. (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.