



Paycheck

By Philip K. Dick

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PAYCHECK, originally written as a short story by Philip K. Dick and first published in 1953, centres on an electrician who wakes up to discover his employer has erased his memory of the past two years -- as a security measure. When he tries to collect his paycheck, he finds he has previously signed a release replacing the money with a bag of random objects. Previous film adaptations of Dick's short stories have included the box office smash hits MINORITY REPORT, TOTAL RECALL and BLADE RUNNER, released shortly after Dick died in 1982.

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Paycheck By Philip K. Dick Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5048776 in Books
- Published on: 2004-10-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.01" h x .83" w x 4.37" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The moral and the atmosphere of the recent Paramount Pictures film *Paycheck* differ significantly from those in the original short story performed here—a fact obscured by the movie-poster packaging and one that might confuse listeners. Jennings, a mechanic, signs on at Retherick Construction, agreeing to be paid richly on the condition that his memory will be wiped clean of everything he did after he completes his two years of service. When he awakes, his memory erased, he discovers that he had declined the money in favor of seven seemingly random items which he must use to avoid the Special Police, who are investigating Retherick Construction. Narrator Dullea does a fine job of evoking the story's tension as well as Jennings's puzzlement over his situation. However, he lends the story's one female character a saccharine, whispery voice that detracts from the narration. Although this audio adaptation may please fans of the movie who are interested in seeing how the original story has been altered for the silver screen, those looking for an introduction to the author's works would do better to pick up the collection on which this audio is based, *Paycheck: And Other Classic Stories*.

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About the Author

Philip K. Dick (1928-1982) was born in Chicago, but lived in California for most of his life. He went to college at Berkeley for a year, ran a record store and had his own classical-music show on a local radio station. He published his first short story, 'Beyond Lies the Wub', in 1952. Among his many fine novels are *The Man in the High Castle*; *Time Out of Joint*; *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* and *Flow My Tears, The Policeman Said*. Several of his stories and novels have been made into major Hollywood movies.

From [AudioFile](#)

Walking away from a job with a handful of trinkets and no memory of where he has been or what he has been doing for the past two years creates a mystery that mechanic Jennings is determined to solve. Since the Special Police are also very interested in knowing the answers to this same mystery, Jennings is forced to run for his life. Keir Dullea catches Jennings's frustration and fear as he seeks a safe place to be. And as he begins to turn the tables on his ex-employer, his growing sense of control is palpable. Dullea endows the main characters with distinct voices and personalities in a presentation that has many of the attributes of an Old-Time Radio play. J.E.M. © AudioFile 2004, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

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