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Two Good Reads for the Beach

VACATIONS are supposed to be what hard-working Washingtonians take to kick back, but Washington Times political columnist John McCaslin found his latest professional project beachside. *Weed Man: The Remarkable Journey of Jimmy Divine* got its start when McCaslin was staying at his Bahamas vacation house and discovered that a neighbor, Jimmy Moree, had spent 11 years as one of the Caribbean's biggest drug smugglers.

Harbour Island – a quarter-mile wide and home to about 1,500 people – is famous for its pink-sand beaches and has for years been the vacation spot of choice for McCaslin and his brother, who own a small, 200-year old Colonial house there. About two years ago, McCaslin struck up a conversation with the island's baker/ minister/ real-estate agent, who introduced him to Moree, a.k.a. Jimmy Divine.

The stories McCaslin heard from Divine sounded too good to be true – his seat at Prince Charles and Diana's wedding, the time he tried to poison a neighbor with a deadly barracuda, his drug-smuggling exploits across the Caribbean and Latin America, his generosity toward the poor farmers and fisherman in his hometown on the Bahamas' Long Island, and his run-ins with the Drug Enforcement Administration. It's good beach reading.

John McCaslin