

## Books

## Literary Feast, Matlin, 'Evan Hansen'

BY OLIVE COGDILL  
Correspondent

The Broward County Library Foundation's annual Literary Feast has grown since its first event in 1984 to include free public panel discussions; author discussions at three venues for high schoolers; dinners for donors and authors; and the LitLunch!, a currently sold-out event on Feb. 9. Proceeds from the Literary Feast underwrite the foundation's literacy programs. The author dinners kick off at a cocktail party March 2 at Bahia Mar in Fort Lauderdale. For more information on any of the Literary Feast events visit [bplfoundation.org/literary-feast](http://bplfoundation.org/literary-feast).

Free panel discussions with the authors occur from 6 to 8 p.m. March 1. Seats fill up quickly so reservations are a must. Here's the schedule:

"Fiction in Fort Lauderdale" with moderator Gail Bulfin at Barnes & Noble, 2051 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, 954-561-3732. Authors are: Ronald H. Balson, "The Girl from Berlin"; Pam Jenoff, "The Lost Girls of Paris"; Lydia Millet, "Fight No More"; Beatriz Williams, "The Summer Wives."

"Mystery in Plantation" with moderator Oline Cogdill at Barnes & Noble, 591 S. University Drive, Plantation, 954-723-0489. Authors are: James O. Born, "Ambush"; Peter Hellman, "In Vino Duplicitas: The Rise and Fall of a Wine Forger Extraordinaire"; Shari Lapena, "An Unwanted Guest"; Lori Rader-Day, "Under a Dark Sky"; James Swain, "The King Tides."

"Panel in the Pines" with moderator Mim Harrison at Barnes & Noble at Pembroke Crossings, 11820 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, 954-441-0444. Au-

thors are: Dave Cullen, "Parkland"; Beck Dorey-Stein, "From the Corner of the Oval"; Ben Fritz, "The Big Picture: The Fight for the Future of Movies"; Senator George LeMieux, "Florida Made: The 25 Most Important Figures Who Shaped the State"; Daniel Stone, "The Food Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats."

#### Playwright heads Jewish Book Festival

The Diane & Barry Wilen Jewish Book Festival starts again with a theater tie-in. For tickets and information call 954-434-0499, ext. 336; visit [www.dpjcc.org/cultural-alerts](http://www.dpjcc.org/cultural-alerts). Playwright and TV writer Steven Levenson, who won the 2017 Tony Award for best book of a musical for "Dear Evan Hansen," discusses his work at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 in the Orlove Auditorium at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center, 5850 S. Pine Island Road, Davie.

Levenson co-wrote the novel "Dear Evan Hansen," which is based on the Broadway musical. The coming-of-age story plays at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts March 26 to April 7. Levenson's event will be moderated by Kelley Shanley, president/CEO of the Broward Center, and includes a performance by Broward Center's Youth Ensemble The Spotlights. Ticket-holders for this program will have a chance to win two tickets to the opening night performance at the Broward Center or show souvenirs. Admission is \$30 for one ticket and one book; \$40 for two tickets and one book.

Alyson Richman will discuss her novel "The Secret of Clouds," an emotional story about the connection between a mother,



CAROLYN COLE/  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Levenson

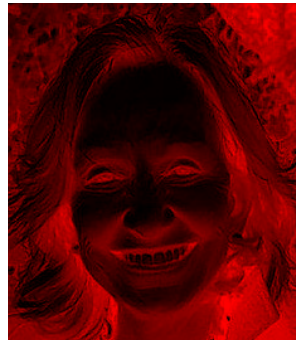
a teacher and a child, at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 21 at a private residence. Address will be given out at time of ticket purchase. Tickets are \$36 and include author presentation and a light lunch. Books will be available for purchase at the event. An international bestselling author, Richman is best known for "The Lost Wife" and "The Velvet Hours."

And fashionistas, get ready. Designer Isaac Mizrahi — and judge on the Lifetime network show "Project Runway" — will speak at 7 p.m. March 12 in the Orlove Auditorium. By then we should know who won the latest "Project Runway All Stars."

#### French author in Boca

Controversial French author and activist Bernard-Henri Lévy will discuss his work at 2 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Tickets are \$20; visit [www.fauvents.com](http://www.fauvents.com) or call 561-297-6124. FAU and the Palm Beach Book Festival are co-presenting Lévy's presentation.

Lévy is the author of more than 30 books including "The Genius of Judaism," "American Vertigo," "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" and his most recent, "The Empire and the Five Kings: America's Abdication and the Fate of the World." His



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Goodwin

opinions, political activism and publications have stirred several controversies over the years. Lévy is co-founder of the anti-racist group SOS Racisme and has served on diplomatic missions for the French government.

#### Kearns Goodwin kicks off Boca arts fest

For the fifth time, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will kick off the annual Festival of the Arts Boca beginning at 7 p.m. Feb. 28. She will discuss her latest book, "Leadership in Turbulent Times." The 13th annual festival will be Feb. 28 to March 10 at the Mizner Park Amphitheater and Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center in Boca Raton. It features music, film, dance, concerts and authors. Tickets range from \$15 to \$150 per person and are available at [festivalboca.org](http://festivalboca.org) or call 866-571-ARTS (866-571-2787).

The Authors and Ideas program features constitutional scholar and author Jeffrey Rosen, who will speak about the Constitution in the 21st century; a panel discussion, "Global Public Health Today and Tomorrow," featuring Dr. Agnes Binagawaho and Tom Bollyky; "PoemJazz" with former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, who will

read his poetry while accompanied by a small jazz ensemble; and Pulitzer Prize winning writer David Sanger who will talk about his latest book, "The Perfect Weapon: War, Sabotage and Fear in the Cyber Age."

#### Obsessed with art

Obsessions are a favorite theme of B.A. Shapiro — art, music, gems and more all play into her novels. In "The Collector's Apprentice," it's art. Set in 1922, Paulien Mertens lands in Paris — broke, disowned and completely alone at 19 years old. She's suspected of stealing millions in a sophisticated con game. She changes her name and tries to recover her father's art collection and prove her innocence. Shapiro will discuss "The Collector's Apprentice" at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 at Murder on the Beach, 273 Pineapple Grove Way, Delray Beach, 561-279-7790, [murderonthebeach.com](http://murderonthebeach.com).

#### Marlee Matlin at speakers series

Academy Award-winning actress, author and activist Marlee Matlin continues the Broward College's annual Speaker Series with a presentation on Feb. 6. Matlin will discuss "Nobody's Perfect: Achieving Inclusion, Diversity and Access," a topic close to her heart. Deaf since she was 18 months old, Matlin had a successful Hollywood career and has dedicated herself to raising awareness for many humanitarian causes, including diversity and LGBT rights. She is a staunch advocate for children and a champion for those struggling against domestic abuse and addiction.

The series will be held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Amaturo Theatre, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets range from \$60 to \$80 and

can be purchased at [www.browardcollegespeakerseries.com](http://www.browardcollegespeakerseries.com). Each discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. The series will continue with sports analyst and broadcaster Terry Bradshaw on March 11 and award-winning actor and bestselling author Hill Harper on April 24.

#### Romance, mystery writers

Author Jane K. Cleland's award-winning mystery series about antiques dealer Josie Prescott combines suspense with well-developed characters while giving a master class about old things. So it's appropriate that she will discuss "Mastering Suspense, Structure & Plots" in her talk with the Florida Romance Writers from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 9 at Tigertail Recreational Center, 580 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. Pay under meetings tab at [frwriters.org](http://frwriters.org). For more information email Rossie Cortes at [rossie@iq-mc.com](mailto:rossie@iq-mc.com).

Writers need to hone their craft whether working on a novel or an article. Daphne Nikolopoulos will discuss "Writing for Magazines and Websites" beginning at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16 at Embassy Suites, 661 NW 53rd St., Boca Raton. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members. To reserve visit [mwafloida.org](http://mwafloida.org) or email [ray@rayflynt.com](mailto:ray@rayflynt.com). In addition to being a writing instructor, Nikolopoulos is editor in chief of Palm Beach Illustrated magazine and editorial director of Palm Beach Media Group. She also writes historical mysteries under the pseudonym D.J. Niko.

Items for the March Local Books Column should be submitted Feb. 20. Email [olinecog@aol.com](mailto:olinecog@aol.com).

## REVIEW

## Inspector Rutledge digs into secrets hidden by war

BY OLIVE H. COGDILL  
Sun Sentinel Correspondent

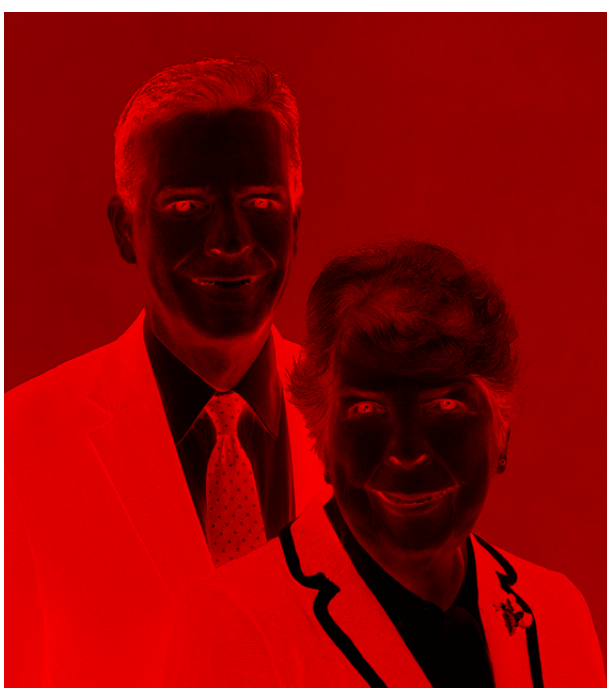
A major theme of Charles Todd's emotionally involved and exquisitely plotted series about Scotland Yard Inspector Ian Rutledge is how war affects each person differently. Taking place in the years immediately after World War I, the series shows how Ian still fights that war every day, its effect on him, and how each day spent as a detective is another battle won.

The secret that Ian cannot admit is that he suffers from shell shock — which today is recognized and treated. But in the years around World War I, shell shock, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, was considered shameful and those who experienced it were labeled cowards no matter how highly decorated or experienced they were.

"The Black Ascot" begins in 1910 before the war when wealthy Alan Barrington was accused of the murder of Blanche Fletcher-Munro and the attempted murder of her husband, Harold. It was believed that Alan tampered with the Munro car because Harold had caused the bankruptcy of Blanche's first husband, Mark Thorne, who was Alan's best friend. Before he could be convicted, Alan escaped from custody.

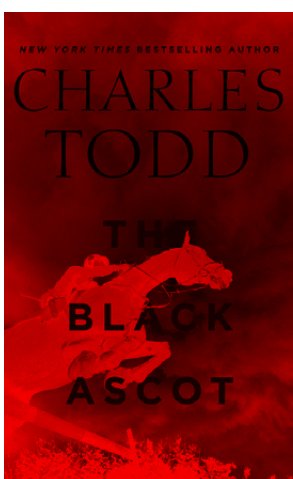
It's now 1921 and Rutledge hears a rumor that Alan may have returned to England. A decade ago, this was a high-profile case, but it took a back seat when WWI erupted. Rutledge is told to pursue the case but to be discreet because Scotland Yard doesn't want a storm of bad publicity.

The case leads Rutledge to other sufferers of shell shock and a close look at



MORROW

The exquisitely plotted "The Black Ascot," by mother and son writing team Charles Todd, is set during World War I.



#### 'The Black Ascot'

by Charles Todd. Morrow, 352 pages, \$26.99

revenge, hate and secrets hidden by a war.

As usual, Todd's meticulous research into post-war England is superlative in "The Black Ascot," the 21st novel about Rutledge. Once again, Rutledge

proves himself to be an honorable man, compassionate and strong.

Charles Todd — a mother and son writing team — again explores the emotional wreckage war can leave, even when the war is fought between individuals, not nations.

#### Meet the author

Charles Todd will discuss "The Black Ascot" at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at Murder on the Beach 273 Pineapple Grove Way, Delray Beach, 561-279-7790, [murderonthebeach.com](http://murderonthebeach.com); and 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, 305-442-4408.

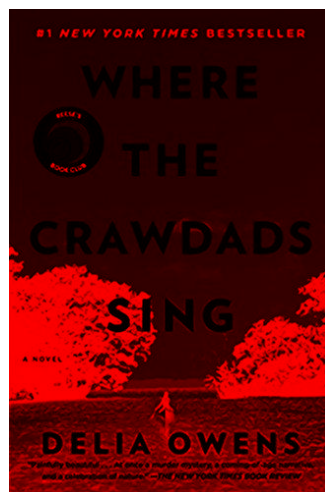
Todd also will appear at Sleuthfest, the writers' conference, on March 14-17 at Embassy Suites in Boca Raton. Info: [Sleuthfest.com](http://Sleuthfest.com).

Olive H. Cogdill can be reached at [olinecog@aol.com](mailto:olinecog@aol.com).

## NATIONAL BEST-SELLERS

#### HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens (Putnam, \$27) Last Week: 2



2. "Liar Liar: A Harriet Blue Novel" by James Patterson and Candice Fox (Little, Brown, \$28) Last week: 1

3. "Crucible: A Sigma Force Novel" by James Rollins (Morrow, \$28.99) Last week: —

4. "Turning Point: A Novel" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte, \$28.99) Last week: 3

5. "The Reckoning: A Novel" by John Grisham (Doubleday, \$29.95) Last week: 4

6. "The Golden Tresses of the Dead: A Flavia de Luce Novel" by Alan Bradley (Delacorte, \$26) Last week: —

7. "Fire & Blood: 300 Years Before A Game of Thrones, Dragons Ruled Westeros (A Song of Ice and Fire: A Targaryen History)" by George R.R. Martin (Bantam, \$35) Last week: 6

8. "Every Breath" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central, \$28) Last week: 5

9. "Long Road to Mercy: An Atlee Pine Thriller" by David Baldacci (Grand Central, \$29) Last week: 7

10. "An Anonymous Girl: A Novel" by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen (St. Martin's, \$27.99) Last week: 8

#### HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. "Becoming" by Michelle Obama (Crown, \$32.50) Last week: 1



2. "Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are So You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be" by Rachel Hollis (Nelson, \$22.99) Last week: 2

3. "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered" by Lysa TerKeurst (Nelson, \$24.99) Last week: 3

4. "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover (Random House, \$28) Last week: 4

5. "The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington" by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch (Flatiron, \$29.99) Last week: 9

6. "Homebody: A Guide to Creating Spaces You Never Want to Leave" by Joanna Gaines (Harper Design, \$40) Last week: 5

7. "The Truths We Hold: An American Journey" by Kamala Harris (Penguin, \$30) Last week: —

8. "Everyday Millionaires: How Ordinary People Built Extraordinary Wealth — and How You Can Too" by Chris Hogan (Ramsey, \$24.99) Last week: —

9. "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" by Jordan B. Peterson (Random House Canada, \$25.95) Last week: —

10. "The Point of It All: A Lifetime of Great Loves and Endeavors" by Charles Krauthammer (Crown Forum, \$28) Last week: 10

For the week ended Jan. 26, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

— Publishers Weekly