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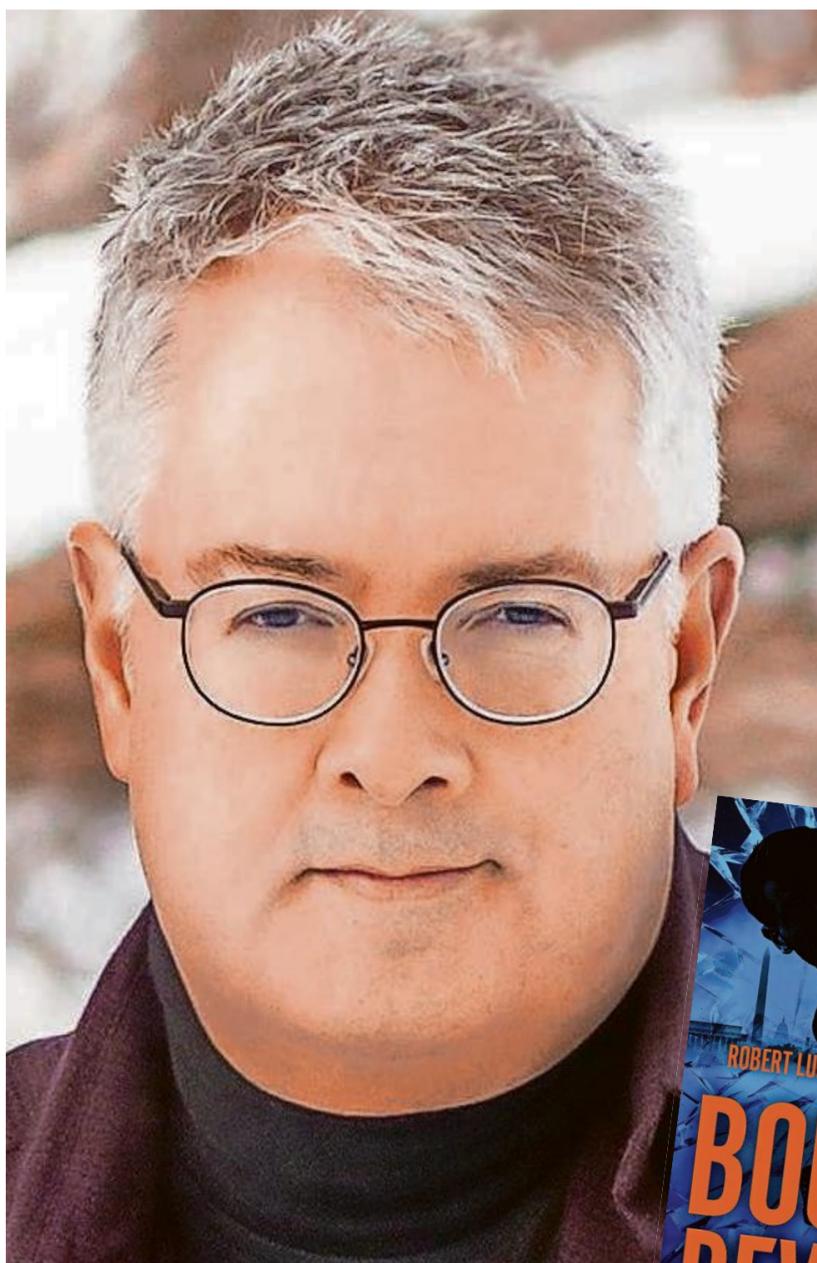
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NEAPOLITAN + HOME/GARDEN & CLASSIFIED

‘Bourne’ to write

Spy thriller author Brian Freeman to speak in Naples



Brian Freeman, author of the best-sellers “The Bourne Vendetta” and “The Bourne Escape,” and the upcoming “The Bourne Revenge,” will speak in the Nick Linn Series for the Friends of the Library of Collier County on Monday, Feb. 23, in Naples. PROVIDED BY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF COLLIER COUNTY

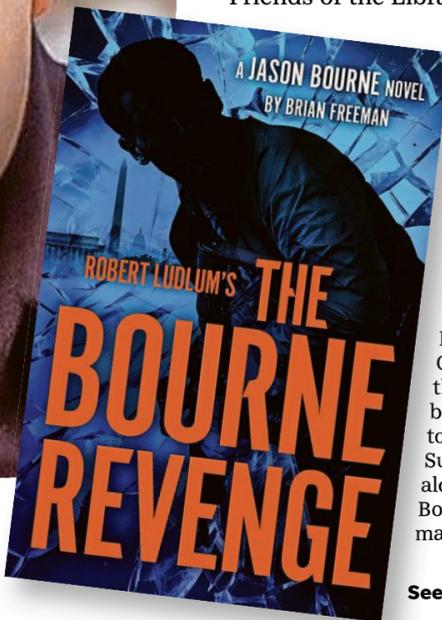
Vicky Bowles Special to the Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

When a teenager named Brian Freeman read a new spy thriller called “The Bourne Identity” back in 1980, he couldn’t have imagined that, 40 years later, his name would be right there on the covers of new Bourne novels.

Today, Freeman has been the licensed author of eight books in the Bourne series since 2020, carrying on the legacy of the late Robert Ludlum, who originated the popular amnesiac secret agent named Jason Bourne.

“If you’d told me back then that four decades later, books would be coming out with my name and Ludlum’s name on the cover, I’d have said you were crazy,” Freeman has said. “But here we are. That book changed my life in ways I could never imagine.”

Freeman will be in Naples on Monday, Feb. 23, speaking in the Nick Linn Lecture Series for the Friends of the Library of Collier County.



Freeman has penned dozens of novels

The series, which is sold out, continues March 9 with thriller author Michael Koryta, who also writes under the pen name Scott Carson, and concludes March 23 with Michael Connelly, creator of the Harry Bosch and Lincoln Lawyer novels.

Over the decades, the nonprofit Friends of the Library of Collier County has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the 10 branches of the Collier library system to pay for e-books, the Children’s Summer Reading Program, the genealogy research databases, the Mail-a-Book program and many other library mainstays.

See FREEMAN, Page 4D

Detached garage and shop design trends to watch

Jessica Craig
Associated Designs

Detached garages and shop buildings are entering a new era in 2026.

Once considered purely utilitarian structures, these accessory buildings are now being designed as intentional, high-value extensions of the home. Demand continues to grow for designs that support flexibility, long-term usability and architectural cohesion, reflecting how homeowners live, work and invest in their properties.

From multi-purpose layouts and energy-efficient construction to smart technology integration and future-ready design, detached garages and shops are no longer afterthoughts. Instead, they are carefully planned spaces that enhance daily life while adding lasting value.

Here are the most important detached garage and shop trends to watch in 2026.

Trend No. 1: Multi-purpose garage and shop layouts

One of the most influential trends shaping detached garages in 2026 is multi-functionality. Homeowners increasingly want accessory buildings that serve more than one purpose, both now and in the future.

Modern detached garages are frequently designed to accommodate:

- Vehicle storage combined with a workshop or tool area
- Hobby or maker spaces for wood-working, metalworking or crafts
- Home gyms or fitness rooms
- Creative studios for art, photography or music
- Seasonal storage alongside active work zones

Plans with open interiors, generous clearances and thoughtful circulation

See GARAGES, Page 10D



Modern detached garages are frequently designed to accommodate hobby or maker spaces for wood-working, metalworking or crafts. GETTY IMAGES

Freeman

Continued from Page 1D

Brian Freeman's writing career covers more than just the Bourne landscape — he's penned dozens of award-winning novels, mostly psychological thrillers, that have sold around the world and been translated into 23 languages.

Among his five books published in just the past 18 months, Kirkus Reviews wrote that the stand-alone novel "Photograph," a chilling psychological thriller released in October 2025, "unloads one surprise after another."

'The Bourne Revenge' is his latest book

"Break Every Rule" is a recent stand-alone set in Florida and the Bahamas about a man with a secret past trying to rescue his abducted wife and daughter. One review called it "the type of novel that will be difficult to put down, and you'll need a minute to catch your breath."

Freeman often produces two Bourne novels a year. The latest is "The Bourne Revenge," just published in January, which brings Jason Bourne up against a massive Chinese spy ring that has operated in the United States for years.

Last July saw the publication of "The Bourne Escape," in which the hero struggles with the death of a lover and another onset of amnesia. "The Bourne Vendetta," which came out in January 2025, has Bourne trying to recover a hacked database known as the Files, whose many secrets are creating chaos in espionage operations worldwide.

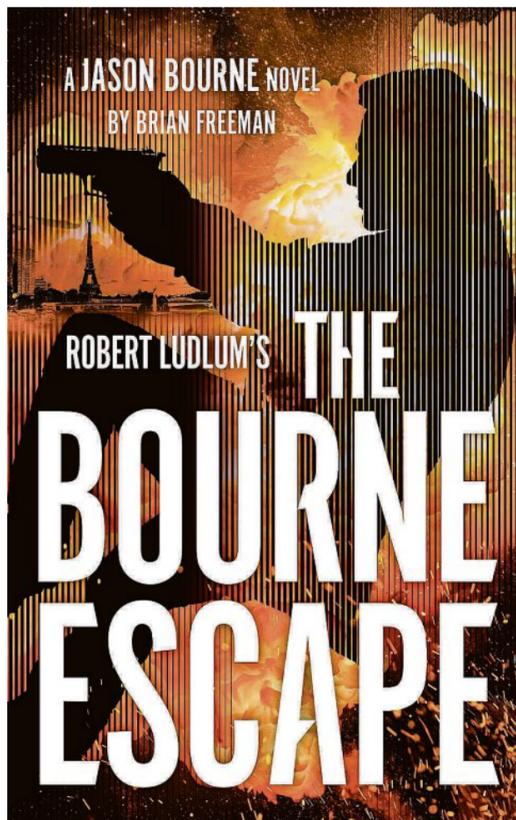
Freeman's website is <https://bfreeman-books.com/>

In the midst of his nonstop creative output, Freeman answered some questions for the Naples Daily News.

Naples Daily News: Of the eight Jason Bourne novels you've written since 2019, do you have a favorite?

Brian Freeman: Picking a favorite novel is like picking a favorite child — it's very hard to do! I've loved watching Bourne grow and change as a character from my first, "The Bourne Evolution," all the way through my newest, "The Bourne Revenge." The more books I write, the more I know readers will have their own personal favorites. But for me, the latest is always the one that's close to my heart. "The Bourne Revenge" forces Bourne to confront his memory loss in a very personal way, so I love this story. It's also a great place for new readers to meet Bourne.

NDN: Do you travel to many of the Bourne locales to get an in-person feel for them?



Last July saw the publication of "The Bourne Escape," in which the hero struggles with the death of a lover and another onset of amnesia. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY OF COLLIER COUNTY

BF: Bourne is quite a globetrotter. You never know where he'll show up next! But I've been writing two Bourne books a year recently, so it gets a little tricky to jet off to Estonia or Iceland or Germany to do research — much as I might want to. Instead, I often use locales I've visited in the past, so at least I have a good sense of the flavor of the area. Also, ever since COVID cut off travel for a couple of years, I've done in-depth research on my settings, even if I can't get there in person. That way, I can still make the reader feel as if they've been dropped down into the middle of every scene.

NDN: Every year you also publish one or two non-Bourne novels, including your longtime Jonathan Stride series. How do you find the time and the imagination for these while writing multiple Bourne novels every year?

What to know

About the Friends of the Library of Collier County:

Tickets are no longer available for the 2026 Nick Linn Lecture Series. Other events are being held, including the Nonfiction Author Series and the Author Spotlight Series. To learn more or to join the Friends of the Library, starting at \$50 for an individual membership, go to <https://collier-friends.org>. Or contact Marlene Haywood, Operations and Events Manager, at mhaywood@collier-friends.org or 239-262-8135.

BF: Yes, publishers have been keeping me busy! "The Bourne Revenge" is my eighth Jason Bourne novel, and I've published two of my own stand-alones, "Break Every Rule" and "Photograph," in the past 18 months. I also just turned in a new Jonathan Stride novel, which will be released later in 2026. But I actually thrive on that. I love the diversity of stories I can tell and the different characters I can bring to life. From the adrenaline of a Bourne novel, I can go to the gritty cold police work of Stride or the emotional, psychological twists of a book like "Photograph." That variety is what keeps me energized!

NDN: Readers often ask you in fan forums if there are plans to film any Jonathan Stride novels. Any news on those, or about others of your books?

BF: It's been such a tough few years in Hollywood. First they dealt with the actor and writer strikes, and then the next year, they suffered the terrible L.A. fires. That's slowed down a lot of film/TV deals. But I have a great film agent who's pitching a variety of projects. We're looking at film opportunities for my books "Break Every Rule" and "Photograph," and we'd love to find the right streaming home for "The Deep, Deep Snow" and "The Ursulina." I've also worked with a couple of screenwriter friends to do a pilot script for Stride, and we're out there shopping that, too. So watch this space!

NDN: The Friends group is devoted to supporting public libraries, so we like to ask authors: Do you have any special memories of libraries that you could share?

BF: I've done hundreds of library events over the past 20-plus years, and I always love seeing the central role that libraries play in the life of communities — from cities to small towns. But I admit, the library experience I most remember was when I was about 10 or 11 years old. A friend and I got out of school, and we decided to take a bus to the local library. We hung out there with the books for several hours, and then I called my parents to come pick me up. Oops — I'd forgotten to tell them where I was. They were frantic and on the verge of calling the FBI! So kids — go enjoy your local library, but be sure to let your parents know first!




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