



thisweek

Readings & signings on LI

Monday

Journalist **Katherine Boo**

discusses "Behind the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity" (Random House), winner of the National Book Award. At 7 p.m., Adelphi University, Ruth S. Harley University Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City; 516-877-4555 students.adelphi.edu



"Fox and Friends" host and Massapequa resident **Brian Kilmeade** signs copies of

"George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution" (Sentinel). At 7 p.m., Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main St., Setauket, 631-751-3730, tvhs.org



Tuesday

Washington Post writer **Wil Haygood** discusses "The Butler: Witness to History" (Atria), basis for the film "Lee Daniels' The Butler." At 7:30 p.m., Mack Student Center Theater, Hofstra University North Campus, Hempstead; 516-463-5669

Wednesday

Anne Fadiman speaks about

"At Large and At Small: Familiar Essays" (FSG). At 7 p.m., Hofstra University, Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, first floor, 1000 Hempstead Tpke., Hempstead; 516-463-5410, hofstra.edu



Sunday

Malachy McCourt discusses his book

"Danny Boy: The Legend of the Beloved Irish Ballad" (Running Press). At 2 p.m., Quogue Library, 90 Quogue St., Quogue; 631-653-4224, quoguelibrary.org



reviews

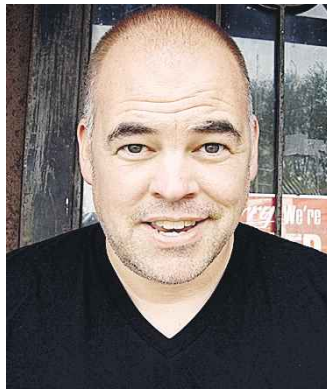
In his head he's Richard Gere

THE GOOD LUCK OF RIGHT NOW, by Matthew Quick. Harper, 284 pp., \$25.99.

BY MARION WINIK
Special to Newsday

Matthew Quick, the author of "The Silver Linings Playbook" and several YA novels, has written another book for adults, "The Good Luck of Right Now." Fortunately it is already optioned by DreamWorks, and you can wait for the movie — because the last thing you should ever do is read this deeply wacky book.

Written as a series of letters to Richard Gere after the protagonist's mother dies and he finds one of Gere's "Free Tibet" fundraising letters in her drawer, this book will certainly have a key role for that actor when it gets to the screen. At first, while his mother is still alive, Bartholomew decides to actually become Richard Gere "and give Bartholomew some well-deserved time off, if that



Author Matthew Quick

makes any sense to you, Mr. Gere. Bartholomew had been working overtime as his mother's son for almost four decades. Bartholomew had been emotionally skinned alive, beheaded, and crucified upside down, just like his apostle namesake, according to various legends, only metaphorically — and in the modern world of today and right now."

After the impersonation phase wraps up, the actor continues to appear to Bartholomew, who apparently has



ALICIA BESSETTE

something wrong with him that has kept him home with Mom all his life, though he is too smart to be low-IQ and too empathetic to be autistic. The visiting shade of Gere says things like this: "Richard Gere knows everything about your life, Bartholomew, because Richard Gere lives at the heart of your mind, deep within, at the center of your consciousness."

In addition to this unique brand of spirituality, weird Christianity is a key feature of

the book. For reasons that are supposed to be a mystery but you will figure out immediately, an alcoholic priest named Father McNamee moves in with him right after his mother's death. He leads Bartholomew and two new friends, a brother and sister who are "special" like he is, on a road trip to Canada to see the preserved heart of a martyred saint. The brother's specialness involves using the F-word so much that it makes his dialogue unreadable. As for the sister, Bartholomew puts it this way: "I am sorry you had to eat your pet rabbits and were abducted by aliens."

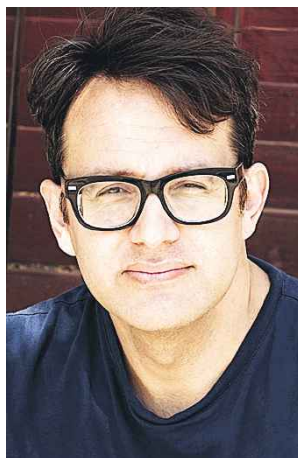
So what, after all, is the Good Luck of Right Now? According to Bartholomew's mother, it's the fact that "whenever something bad happens to us, something good happens — often to someone else." No kidding! Well, look, in this case, Quick's characters suffer from domestic abuse, home invasion and gang rape — and you get to read a silly book about it. Or better yet, wait for the movie.

Nazis vs. serial killer: Strange but true

A SERIAL KILLER IN NAZI BERLIN: The Chilling True Story of the S-Bahn Murderer, by Scott Andrew Selby. Berkeley, 294 pp., \$26.95.

BY HANK COX
Washington Post Book World Service

It seems almost comical to read about Nazis trying to nab a serial killer in wartime Berlin when they were murdering people by the millions, but it did happen, and it is the subject of Scott Andrew Selby's new book. From December 1939 through July 1941, a nondescript character named Paul Ogorzow went on a spree of ascending violence against women — beginning with minor harassment and graduating to rape and murder. He stalked women heading home from work late at night on the S-Bahn, part of the



Scott Andrew Selby, author of "A Serial Killer in Nazi Berlin"

Berlin metro train system. Most of his victims were married women whose husbands were away, serving in the military.

By this time Britain was

conducting bombing raids on Berlin, so at night the city was blacked out, including the commuter trains, making it easier for Ogorzow to stalk his victims. Also, the victimization of women whose husbands were fighting for the Fatherland was a story the Nazis did not want told, so propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels squelched news reports of the crimes, making it difficult to alert women to the danger. The police were a long time realizing that a serial killer was at work and even longer tracking him down.

The hero of this story — if you're ready for a Nazi hero — was police Commissioner Wilhelm Ludtke, who doggedly pursued his quarry under intense pressure from the Nazi bigwigs, who made his job more difficult. The cops eventually got their man, who lost his head on the guillotine. It

should come as no surprise to learn that Adolf Hitler was a great fan of the guillotine. Ogorzow's trip from trial to blade took less than a day. The Nazis did not bother with search warrants or apprise suspects of their rights.

This is a fascinating story, but the author apparently assumes that his readers not only know nothing about World War II but also have trouble reaching simple conclusions. Thus we are told that Heinrich Himmler was "a very powerful Nazi official" and that the British preferred to bomb at night because "it was very dangerous for the Allies to fly bombing sorties while the sun shined," when the pilots "ran a high risk of being shot down." Who knew?

Not surprisingly, Ludtke, officially a member of the SS, ended up working for the CIA after the war.