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News from the Orange County Library System

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Orange County Library System Welcomes Award-Winning YA Author Jeff Zentner

*Author of **The Serpent King** and **Goodbye Days** will conduct a writing workshop for teens at the Edgewater Branch and a book discussion at the South Creek Branch*

Jeff Zentner, musician and author of the award-winning young adult novel *The Serpent King*, will conduct a writing workshop for teens and a book discussion and signing at Orange County Library System branches on March 7. The events are part of the library system's ongoing Sunshine State Author Series.

Zentner is an accomplished guitarist and singer-songwriter from Nashville who has released several solo albums and recorded with Iggy Pop, Debbie Harry and Nick Cave, among others. He transitioned from musician to author in 2016 with the release of *The Serpent King*, followed by

Goodbye Days in 2017. His latest book, *Rayne & Delilah's Midnite Matinee*, is scheduled for release in spring 2019.

As part of the Sunshine State Authors Series, Zentner will host a writing workshop for teens, ages 11–18, on Wednesday, March 7, 3–4 p.m. at the Edgewater Branch Library, 5049 Edgewater Drive. He will also discuss and sign copies of *The Serpent King* on Wednesday, March 7, 7–8 p.m. at the South Creek Branch library, 1702 Deerfield Blvd. To register, visit www.ocls.info/sunshineseries.

The intersection between being a musician and an author “led me to want to create for young adults. It also helped me understand that I was an artist and got a lot of satisfaction from telling my own stories. Writing songs gave me an appreciation for words and making each one count, and for the musical rhythms of language,” Zentner told library staff in a recent interview.

The Serpent King, which tells the story of a teen who battles with his identity as the son of a controversial Pentecostal snake-handling minister, is a recipient of the William C. Morris Award for best young adult debut book and is included on the 2017–2018 Florida Teens Read list. The Sunshine State Author Series brings top-notch writers of children’s and young adult literature to Orange County for public readings, writing workshops and visits with students to spark interest in reading. The events are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

The Orange County Library System’s Sunshine State Author Series continues in April with Sarah Weeks, author of *Save Me a Seat*, *Pie* and *So B. It*.

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