

Zoom Book Club

Meetings on second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm

Request Zoom meeting link from ahouston@porthope.ca

March 9 Any Mystery by Charles Todd

April 13 Memoir month

Read one of the following: Educated by Tara Westover, The glass castle by Jeanette Walls, Born a crime by Trevor Noah, On writing by Stephen King, Becoming by Michelle Obama, Inheritance by Dani Shapiro, No time like the future by Michael J. Fox or Extraordinary Canadians by Peter Mansbridge.

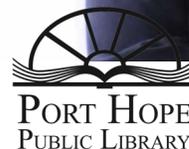
May 11

June 8

Zoom Book Club

March 9 2021

**Celebrating Mystery Author
Charles Todd**



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Charles and Caroline Todd are a writing team who live on the east coast of the United States. They are the *New York Times* Best Selling authors of the Inspector Ian Rutledge Series and the Bess Crawford series. Their works have received the Mary Higgins Clark, Agatha, and Barry awards along with nominations for the Anthony, Edgar, and Dagger awards. They also happen to be mother and son, and they have always found it easier to work a few states apart because that happens to be how they began their collaboration. Caroline has a BA in English Literature and History, and a Masters in International Relations. Charles has a BA in Communication Studies with an emphasis on Business Management, and a culinary arts degree that means he can boil more than water. Charles and Caroline grew up with the rich storytelling heritage of the south. Both spent many evenings on the porch listening to their father and grandfather reminisce. A maternal grandmother told marvelous ghost stories. This tradition allows them to write with passion about events before their own time. And an uncle/great-uncle who served as a flyer in WWI aroused an early interest in the Great War. —charlestodd.com

When did you first become interested in mystery fiction?

Caroline Todd: I suppose it began as children, for both of us. Sherlock Holmes, [Edgar Allan Poe's] "The Gold Bug," Treasure Island, all the classics -- they were read to us, and shaped our own reading later. It's that touch of excitement in a story that attracted us. Even Peter Rabbit, in the right tone of voice, becomes a mystery, and Mother Goose is rife with murder.

Charles Todd: I can't remember not having a library card. Or my parents not reading to me. Or not finding stacks of books on every imaginable subject all over the house. And I liked the puzzle of a mystery -- I liked figuring out why it worked.

What was your original concept of Ian Rutledge, and how did he evolve? Why build a series around a shell-shocked former military officer?

We were thinking about the kind of character we'd really like to read about ourselves. And the most intriguing concept was someone who had worked as a policeman, then gone off to war and returned to pick up the threads of his job. How does killing affect a man who hunts killers? What strengths or weaknesses came of out the trenches? How had war changed him psychologically? Has he learned skills beyond those he'd possessed in 1914? Is he more empathetic, or more callous? And how can we in 1995 relate to the hardships and trauma of 1919? What is there about this man that makes him universally human and at the same time a part of his own period? How do you make the past and the present overlap in modern terms? As we answered such questions, he took shape and he is still growing. Very few people came out of the Great War unscathed. We couldn't make Rutledge different from his contemporaries. If he hadn't shared their suffering, he couldn't live and work among them effectively. —januarymagazine.com/profiles/ctodd.html