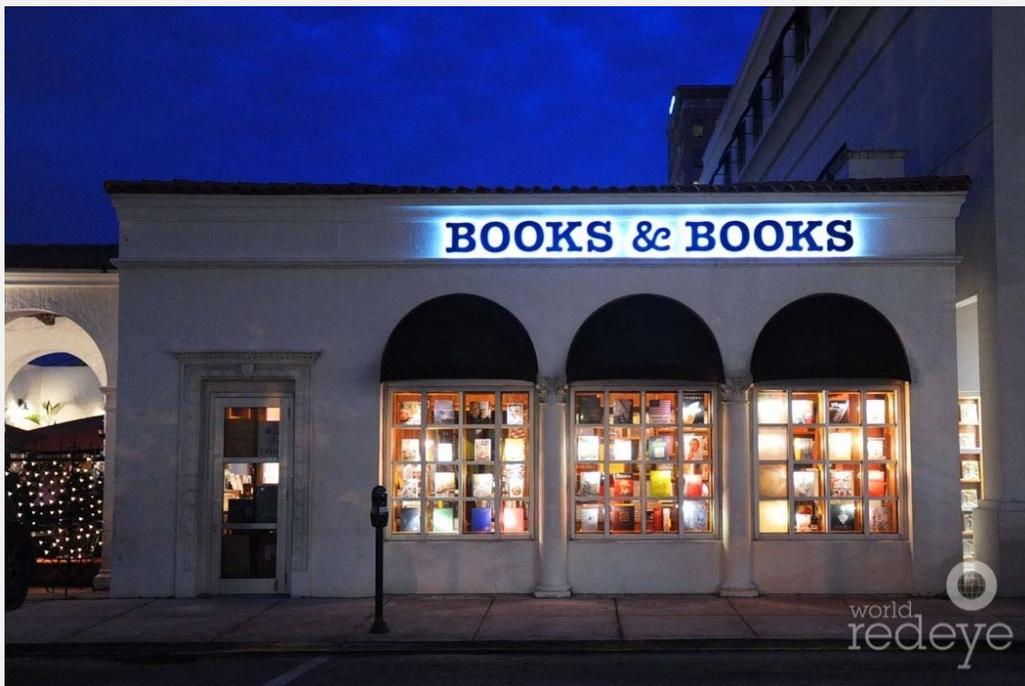


Q&A: Lea Black Debuts *Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel*

Photography by Alejandro Chavarria on April 23rd, 2015 in Editorial, Lifestyle



Coral Gables, FL – April 21, 2015 – When she’s not starring in Bravo’s hit series “The Real Housewives of Miami,” working on her various health and beauty lines, or jetting around town planning her annual charity ball what can we find Miami socialite Lea Black doing? Writing all about it. Black is now giving fans an inside look into the world of lavish gala planning and sharing her personal experiences, with a little twist in her latest fictional read, *Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel*. The novel tells the story of Leigh Anatole White, a Miami socialite who’s known for hosting her extravagant party of them all, her annual Charity Ball. The captivating and light story takes you on Leigh’s journey through everything that goes into planning the star-studded gala and how she pulls out all the stops to ensure it doesn’t disappoint. Black’s novel is a perfect glimpse of the sometimes very scandalous world of “Miami’s rich and shameless.”

Before Lea Black met with fans at Books & Books Coral Gables to sign copies of her latest read, we seized the opportunity to catch up with the woman of the hour to hear all about *Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel*, where we can find her hanging out around town and if we can expect another book in the future.



Roy & Lea Black

WRE: Tell us what inspired you to write your latest novel, *Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel*?

LB: My love of writing – it's a guilty pleasure. I wanted to showcase Miami and some of the characters here, so I decided it would be fun to share them with the readers through this novel.



WRE: How closely does *Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel* parallel your own experience in hosting the annual charity ball and your life in general?

LB: It is of course embellished, dramatized and fiction. But the pressure of having to deliver and everything that can go wrong usually does. I share fictional versions of these experiences in the book.

WRE: In a city known for its never-ending parties, tell us what is it like hosting your annual Charity Ball, one of Miami's most extravagant parties each year?

LB: It's necessary because there are so many that have so little. It's also heart wrenching to hear and see the sad stories. But when it's gala time it's all consuming for Jason and myself about four and a half months of the year. Then it's regrouping, catching up and doing things to set in motion another fundraiser. Then come all the paybacks, ha ha!



Lea Black

WRE: *What are some of the main ingredients that go into putting on such a lavish, successful event/ball here in Miami?*

LB: A lot of begging, ha ha! Making sure people know how appreciated they are and being truly grateful for their contributions and commitments. Pulling in a lot of favors, paying them back, and coming from a place of wanting every dollar to count, every guest to be treated like royalty, and every kid to have the best chance at a life of contributing to the world and a life they love to live.

WRE: *We read that this will be the last year you host your annual charity ball, is this true?*

LB: There are lots of rumors. It's been twenty years so maybe it's time – but on the other hand I don't see anyone rushing in to keep it going. The kids need the money and the help, and I'm a sucker for the underdog. So, we will see.



WRE: *What are some of your favorite spots to hangout around Miami?*

LB: My favorite restaurant is a hidden gem, Tokyo Blue in Downtown Miami. Their selection is amazing, sushi, ceviche, Thai, it is always fresh and my favorite dish is the lobster ceviche. For a healthy sit down lunch I like The Globe in Coral Gables, for a quick lunch bite I like Go Go Fresh on Alton Road, Miami Beach. For a fun, busy scene I like The Fontainebleau or Soho Beach House but my ultimate spot is my home.

WRE: *What are you hoping readers will take away from Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel?*

LB: I am hoping readers will find it an amusing, juicy, scandalous story – a perfect opportunity to escape and “lose” themselves in a book that is full of crazy and outrageous, fun characters. In the end, every character gets what they deserve, so I guess the underlying message is “poetic justice.” But really it is just a fun read!



WRE: *Can we expect more novels from you in the future?*

LB: Yes! I created these characters with the intention of them growing into a three novel story, this first book is the introduction of them. The spin off, of one of the most fascinating characters, is already in the works. Her world will unfold as a hilarious expose of “be careful what you ask for”.





Lea Black

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Lea Black, Author of Red Carpets & White Lies: A Novel



Lea Black & Patricia Delinois



Lea Black



Lea Black, Dianne & Alan Collins



Lea Black & Tara Solomon



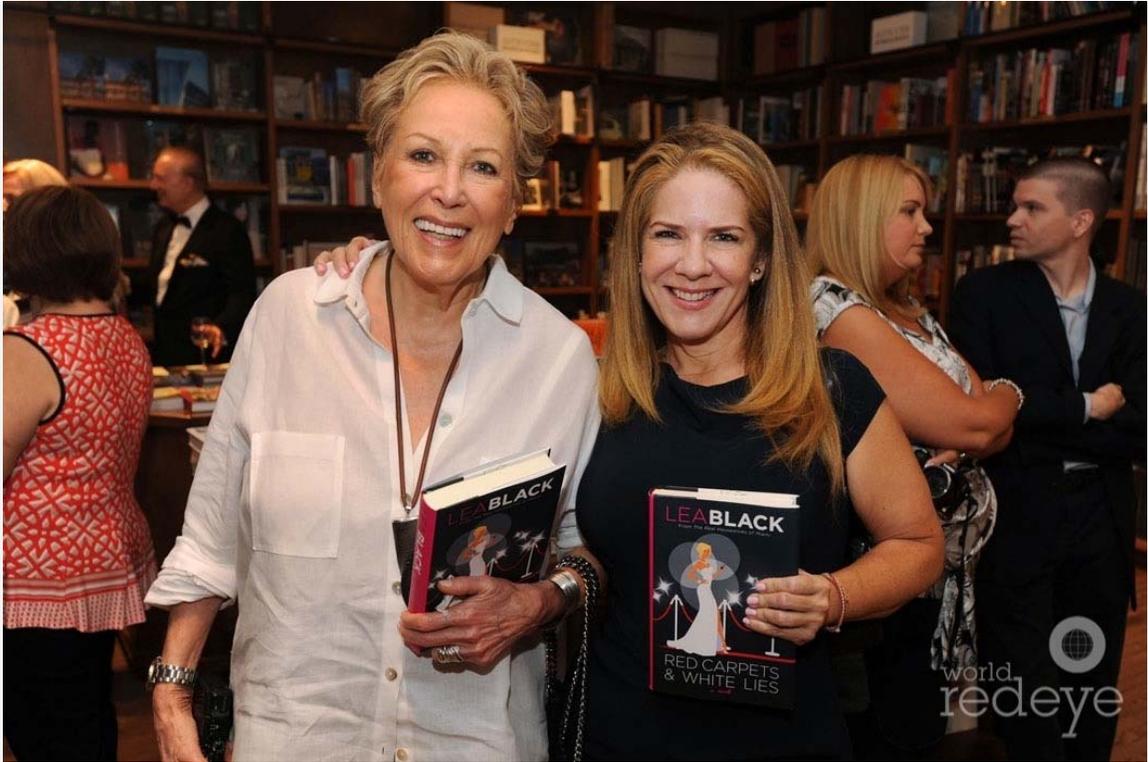
James Davis & Lea Black



Roy & Lea Black



Alan & Dianne Collins, & Roy Black



Iran Issa Khan & Gigi Beltran



Dianne Collins, Shaun Mattivi, Penelope Pierce, James Davis, & Tara Solomon



Sharen Macivor & Patricia Delinois



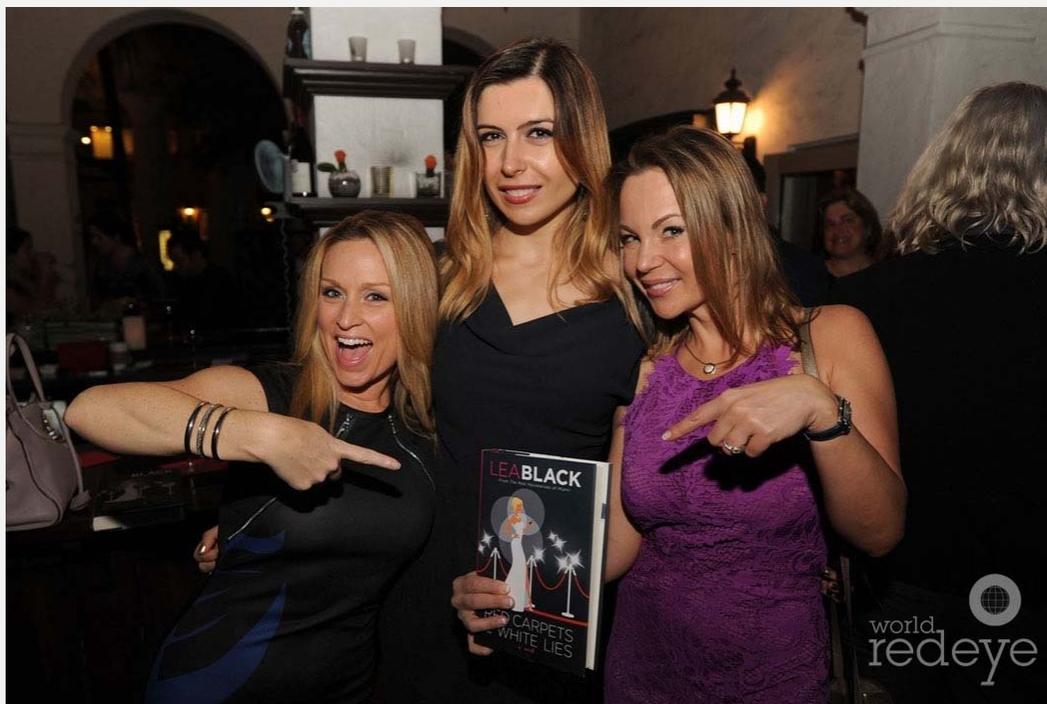
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