

BOOK REVIEWS - JUNE 2019.

Madeleine by Kate McCann. (*Published by Corgi – update 2018*).

All proceeds from this book, which was first published in 2012, five years after her disappearance, are donated to 'Madeleine's Fund: Leaving No Stone Unturned'. Madeleine McCann was abducted in the Algarve, Portugal on 3rd May 2007, just before her fourth birthday. Twelve years later and the author, Madeleine's mother Kate, continues to update this memoir. She still lives with hope and the belief that her beautiful daughter is alive and well and that she will be found one day. The reason for writing this memoir was to give an account of the truth and the ordeal faced by the McCann family which did more to hinder their search efforts than help them. For over three years there was nobody searching or investigating this small child's disappearance! There was a total lack of police investigation, not to mention suspicion of Kate and her husband Gerry. As parents they must have been devastated. The press, although sympathetic in the beginning, soon turned against them and all kinds of sensational headlines and untrue stories appeared. Through it all Kate and Gerry worked on, with the help of the fund and kind donations, in the search for their daughter. A moving account of an unsolved crime and the continuing search and awareness campaigns to ensure the public are kept aware that Madeleine is still missing. Compelling Reading.

Gone Daddy Gone by Cheryl Bradshaw - book 7. (*Published by Pixie, April 2017*).

Cheryl Bradshaw, is an American best-selling author with more than two dozen novels published to date. This is the 7th book in her Sloane Munro series, a private investigator with OCD challenges. Very close to home, Sloane finds herself investigating the murder of her boyfriend's daughter, Shelby. This can be a stand alone book but, I found it a little frustrating as I hadn't read the previous 6 novels and therefore would recommend, if like me, you like to know the family history that you read the previous books. This however did not deter from the storyline as Sloane starts to discover Shelby's secret life. Cade, her boyfriend and Shelby's father, also the police chief, is shot and Sloane suspects this is someone out for revenge. Sloane sets out to discover who he is, along with the significance of the playing card he leaves behind him, as it becomes obvious he is targeting friends and family close to Cade and Sloane. Surprising ending. Good Read.

Note: The first short-story vending machines have been installed in the UK! At London's Canary Wharf. The machines dispense one, three and five minute free short stories. They are printed on eco-friendly paper and include stories from sci-fi to romance. What a great idea to encourage people to read.