



MAY NEWS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

EXPLORING OUR EBOOK COLLECTION

Library volunteer Pat Miller has navigated the library's eBook collection to help give members some recommendations.

For crime fiction fans she suggests the following Australian authors – Garry Disher, Sulari Gentill, Colin Cotterill, Cath Ferla, Ron Elliott, Barry Maitland, Shane Maloney, Steve Hawke and Alan Carter (whose *Marlborough Man* was the well-deserving recipient of the 2019 NZ Naigo Marsh Award for best crime novel).

Pat says fans of true crime may be interested to read *Trace*, by Rachael Brown, which is the book behind the award-winning ABC podcast.

For some lighter crime humour, she suggests James Holding's detective Hal Johnson who tracks down overdue library books (only in America!)

If you need help downloading eBooks, please contact the library Monday to Friday between 11am and 3pm on 9650 3100.

BOOK REVIEW

Business manager Sue Westwood recommends *The Cleaner* by Elisabeth Herrmann.

First published in Germany in 2011, but translated into English by Bradley Schmidt in 2016, the striking cover of blood washing down a sink attracted me to this book in the first instance. This is an absorbing page turner, and perfect for our times, as it transported to contemporary Berlin and Malmö (Sweden), but also to Berlin in the 1980's before the wall came down.

Raised in the Yuri Gagarin orphanage, Judith Kepler is a specialist crime scene cleaner. Perhaps her institutionalised past, enables her to be dispassionate and very good at her job, until she discovers documents about her past at a murder scene she's required to clean up. This sets her on a trail to discover the identity of her real parents. Her inexperience at sleuthing attracts the attention from former members of the Stasi, CIA and other spy agencies.

This book is absorbing, cleverly written and has that wonderfully addictive lure of a page-turner. Judith manages to leave a trail of destruction that only she is skilled enough to clean up. Double agents, twists, and rabbit holes, this is a great holiday read full of secrets and revelations.



ASK A LIBRARIAN LIVE CHAT

Our website will soon include an 'Ask a Librarian' feature, which will enable members and the general public to have a 'live chat' with one of our librarians. This feature will be accessible via the home page of our website and will operate during library hours. Information will also be available out of hours for people asking a Frequently Asked Question. We will notify members when the 'Ask a Librarian' feature is activated. Of course we are happy for members to continue to contact us via email on library@melbourneathenaeum.org.au or by calling 9650 3100.

OUR GREAT BIG BOOK CLUB

Our inaugural Great Big Book Club saw more than 30 library members come together on Monday via Zoom to speak and hear about what books they've been reading in isolation. Librarian (and host) Fiona Malcolm said it was a terrific exchange of 'snapshot book reviews', and these forums were a great way of opening people's minds to other authors and books. Depending on how long isolation lasts for, the library will consider another Great Big Book Club – either via Zoom or in the library. Thank you to our members who participated.