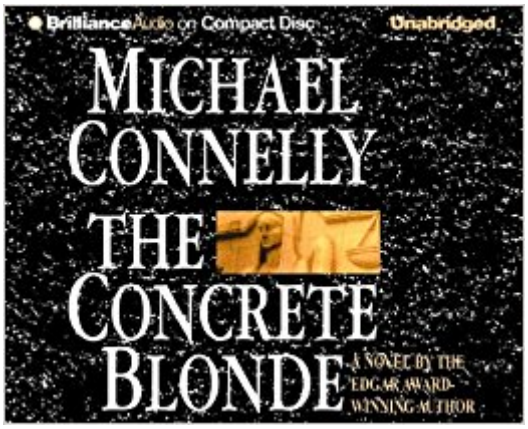
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The Concrete Blonde (Harry Bosch)



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Synopsis

The Dollmaker was the name of the serial killer who had stalked Los Angeles ruthlessly, leaving grisly calling cards on the faces of his victims. Now, with a single faultless shot, Harry Bosch thinks he has ended the city's nightmare.But the dead man's widow is suing Harry and the LAPD for killing the wrong manÃ¢â ¬â •an accusation that rings terrifyingly true when a new victim is discovered with the Dollmaker's macabre signature.So, for the second time, Harry must hunt down a death-dealer who is very much alive, before he strikes again. It's a blood-tracked quest that will take Harry from the hard edges of the L.A. night to the last place he ever wanted to goÃ¢â ¬â •the darkness of his own heart.

Book Information

Series: Harry Bosch (Book 3)

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

In this fiendishly plotted combination of courtroom drama and police procedural, Connelly's LAPD detective Hieronymous "Harry" Bosch, introduced in the Edgar-winning The Black Echo , is up against the law as well as his superiors. The widow of Norman Church, a serial killer identified as the Dollmaker, whom Bosch shot to death four years earlier, is suing Bosch on the grounds that he violated her husband's civil rights. Strong but not conclusive evidence linked Church to the serial murders and the case was closed, although Bosch was demoted for not following proper procedures. Here, just before the trial targeting Bosch as a reckless cowboy who shot the wrong man gets underway, the body of perhaps another Dollmaker victim is unearthed from the concrete floor of a burnt-out pool hall. Is the real Dollmaker still alive, or is a copycat killer on the loose?

Connelly deftly parcels out clues and possibilities while juggling subtle and detailed courtroom scenes with no-nonsense police investigations that turn up new evidence about the original case. A Pulitzer Prize-winning crime reporter for the Los Angeles Times , he adroitly laces the plot with twists and turns based on details drawn from Bosch’s previous adventures. The results of this care show on every page, all to the reader’s benefit. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Homicide detective Harry Bosch is fighting for his professional reputation in civil court. He is charged with killing an allegedly innocent man known as "The Dollmaker." The Dollmaker, however, was a serial murderer who strangled his victims and made them up to look like dolls. Suddenly, a new murder comes to light, with all the trappings of the Dollmaker’s style. Bosch has to clear his name and find the copycat killer before he strikes again. Slick plot twists, fast action, and fine suspense mark this excellent thriller and courtroom drama. Characterizations by reader Dick Hill are imaginative and authentic, and the recording benefits from subtle special effects that lend realism. This is a good, solid story that translates exceedingly well to audio. Strongly recommended for all mystery and suspense collections.Susan B. Lamphier, Somerville P.L., Mass.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Damn that Michael Connelly. I stayed up reading until 2:30 in the morning because I wanted to finish ’The Concrete Blonde’. In Harry Bosch’s third adventure in the series, the detective is standing trial for his actions in killing a serial killer four years earlier. When the police receive a note from the supposedly dead killer, it throws Bosch’s world into utter chaos. He’s certain that the Dollmaker was the guilty party, but how do they explain the new note with directions to the discovery of another victim buried in concrete?The story takes place in 1994 Los Angeles when the 1991 Rodney King beating by police and the ensuing 1992 riots are still fresh in the city’s minds. Police conduct is being held under a constant microscope. It was a time when plenty of people smoked and driving while drunk didn’t seem to be that big a deal. Bosch has been a loner most of his life but, in this story, finds himself in an intimate relationship with a woman whose husband was murdered in the previous Harry Bosch mystery entitled ’The Black Ice’. Struggling with multiple murder suspects, the porno industry, a complex romantic relationship, police politics and a gripping court room drama delivers a hard-to-put-down novel. Also, Mr. Connelly’s cynical presentation of the legal system would’ve made Charles Dickens proud. There were times when I thought some of the situations wouldn’t have been so stressful in the story if everyone back then had cell phones like we do today.It is not necessary to have read the two previous works entitled ’The Black Echo’ and ’The

Black Ice' but would help you in getting a better understanding of what makes Harry Bosch tick. The ex-reporter turned author does an excellent job of keeping the reader guessing and on the edge of their seats until the very end. Being a recent reader of the Harry Bosch series, I can see why Mr. Connelly's protagonist is so popular.

Michael Connelly's done it again! I love his writing style and the way he has really created a three-dimensional person in Harry Bosch, as his back-story and psychology are revealed bit-by-bit in each book. I accidently read The Last Coyote before this one, going a little out of order and the story in that one, which focuses on Harry's mother's death, ended up being a great thing to already know when reading this one (although he gives you just enough back story within Concrete Blonde to understand the implications).Concrete Blonde starts with Harry in a professionally sticky situation (as usual, it seems!) but diligently doing his duty to keep Los Angeles safe from murderers in spite of everything. The basic plotline is that the case of a serial killer Harry caught/killed years ago is rearing its ugly head in a couple of ways calling the first investigation into question and putting Harry's good name on the line. It's a page-turner just like all of the Harry Bosch books I've read and I find myself considering calling in sick to work to finish it, but will save the last 30 pages or so for bedtime tonight. :)

I thought this was a great followup to The Black Ice. Connelly spent a lot more time in this novel exploring HarryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s feelings about the situations that have defined the past few years of his life, and I liked the change of pace. Much of this novel was spent in a court room setting, where HarryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s actions as a cop (and as a person) were deconstructed in a way that allowed the reader to gain a greater understanding of his motivations. His backstory, which has been briefly mentioned in prior installments, was brought closer to the surface this time around, and it added a great deal to HarryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s overall characterization.On top of that, the plot was wonderfully twisted. There were some classic red herrings, a lot of hardboiled detective work, and several tense life-or-death scenes that kept the pace going strong in a book that could have easily fallen into a slow, plodding track, given all that ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“courtroomÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• stuff I mentioned. Connelly kept the suspense on high throughout, giving you just enough information to make you want to keep reading at all times but never dumping too many revelations at once.The wealth of characters in the Harry Bosch world werenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t forgotten either. Connelly developed many, many characters in this book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • from HarryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s friend and former partner Edgar to the frequently loathed Irving ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • and it kept the

supporting cast rich, interesting, and relatable.Overall, I really enjoyed this installment (if that wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t apparent) and look forward to continuing the series in the near future.

Michael Connelly is a talented writer. His characters come to life and you feel as though you are along in the story with them. Good mysteries. This is the third Bosch book I have read. I liked it more than the second book. I plan to read more. The only thing I don't like is that the main character, Harry Bosch, is always lighting cigarettes - don't know how that enhances the story - I guess he is trying to show how flawed Harry is. If you can get past that, you will love the story.

I am addicted to good writing, and this is good. I have one problem with crime dramas, I figure it out before the end. Michael Connelly makes it damn near impossible to figure it out. Not with someone never in the book, til the climax, but by excellent craftsmanship. The clue is right there, you have all the same information as the hero, but it's a surprise and this one was good. Well structured great stories and excellent characters. I read that you cannot put down.

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