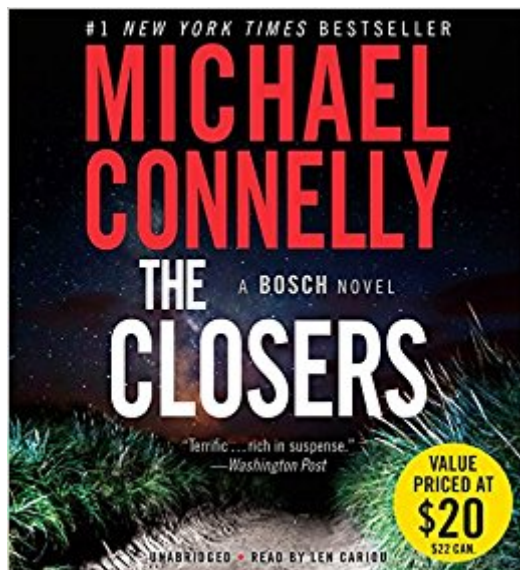


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The Closers (A Harry Bosch Novel)



Synopsis

He walked away from the job three years ago. But Harry Bosch cannot resist the call to join the elite Open/Unsolved Unit. His mission: solve murders whose investigations were flawed, stalled, or abandoned to L.A.'s tides of crime. With some people openly rooting for his failure, Harry catches the case of a teenager dragged off to her death on Oat Mountain, and traces the DNA on the murder weapon to a small-time criminal. But something bigger and darker beckons, and Harry must battle to fit all the pieces together. Shaking cages and rattling ghosts, he will push the rules to the limit--and expose the kind of truth that shatters lives, ends careers, and keeps the dead whispering in the night...

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Customer Reviews

"A city that forgets its murder victims is a city lost. This is where we don't forget," Detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch is told by his new boss, as he ends a three-year retirement and rejoins the Los Angeles Police Department at the start of *The Closers*, the 11th installment of Michael Connelly's Edgar-winning series. Having long ago demonstrated his knack for cracking previously unsolved homicides, Bosch is assigned to the newly re-branded Open-Unsolved Unit (aka "cold case" squad), and charged with resolving the 17-year-old abduction and slaying of a mixed-race teenager. Rebecca Verloren, 16, was discovered missing from her Chatsworth home on a July morning in 1988. Her corpse and the gun that ended her life were later found on a hill behind the house. An autopsy revealed that she'd recently undergone an abortion, and a piece of skin

tissue--presumably the killer's--was found trapped inside the murder weapon. Only now, though, has DNA science matched that tissue to Roland Mackey, a dyslexic 35-year-old tow-truck operator with no obvious connection to the deceased. It's up to Bosch, once more partnered with Kizmin Rider, to determine whether Mackey offed Becky Verloren, or was at least an accessory to that tragedy. But the more Bosch and Rider dig into this dusty crime, trying in part to determine whether racial animosity might have been involved, the more pain and resistance they encounter. Becky's white mother maintains the teen's old bedroom as a shrine, while her shattered father, an African-American chef, has vanished into LA's homeless community. Of the two original investigators on the case, one has since committed suicide, and Bosch suspects that the other--now a police commander--is helping to keep the lid tight on some old departmental secrets, perhaps linked to our hero's nemesis, Deputy Chief Irvin S. Irving. Understandably rusty after three years sans shield, Bosch makes his share of personal and professional mistakes here--including one that supplies *The Closers* with a lethal, plot-turning climax. But the greater problem is that Connelly exhausts so much time and effort following his protagonist through the tedium of modern police procedures, that he neglects what readers have liked more about this series in the past: its persistently deft exploration of Bosch's lonely, haunted soul (which remains mostly out of sight in this tale), and the author's frequent flights of lyrical prose (also not much in evidence). Would-be novelists wanting an example of a solidly constructed cop tale need look no further than *The Closers*. But readers hoping to learn why Connelly is so well-respected in this genre should turn, instead, to previous Bosch titles such as *The Concrete Blonde*, *Angel's Flight*, or *City of Bones*. --J. Kingston Pierce --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. LAPD detective Harry Bosch, hero of last year's *The Narrows* and other Connelly thrillers, is back on the force after a two-year retirement. Assigned to the Open Unsolved (cold cases) unit and teamed with former partner Kiz Rider, Harry's first case back involves the killing of a high school girl 17 years before, reopened because of a DNA match to blood found on the murder gun. That premise could be a formula for a routine outing, but not with Connelly. Nor does the author rely on violent action to propel his story; there's next to none. In Connelly/Bosch's world, character, context and procedure are what count, and once again the author proves a master at all. The blood on the gun belongs to a local lowlife white supremacist, Roland Mackey; the victim had a black father and a white mother. But the blood indicates only that Mackey had possession of the gun, so how to pin him to the crime? Connelly meticulously leads the reader along with Bosch and Rider as they explore the links to Mackey and along the way connect the initial investigation of the

crime to a police conspiracy. Most striking of all, in developments that give this novel astonishing moral force, the pair explore the "ripples" of the long ago crime, how it has destroyed the young girl's family—leaving the mother trapped in the past and plunging the father into a nightmare of homelessness and drink—and how it drives Rider, and especially Bosch, into deeper understanding of their own purposes in life. Connelly comes as close as anyone to being today's Dostoyevsky of crime literature, and this is one of his finest novels to date, a likely candidate not only for book award nominations but for major bestsellerdom. Agent, Phillip Spitzer. Major ad/promo; 11-city author tour.(May 16) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A 17 year old murder is brought back to life for the Open-Unsolved unit of the LAPD. Harry Bosch, who had been in retirement, was back on the job in a probationary way. A beautiful, biracial teenager was murdered in 1988, and there had been many slip ups made during the initial inquiry. His nemesis, Irvin Irving, had a part in the dropped and messed up original investigation, but not because of who killed the victim, but because racial problems were rife during that time and he did not want this to be a racially motivated murder. The possibility that the girl was killed by Aryan wannabes was a strong possibility, but Bosch and his partner Kizmin Rider, sorted through the possibilities. A chance phone call during the investigation of yet another murder, cleared up the old suspects and brought to light one that was nowhere near anyone's radar. The ending held a very satisfying tone.

Harry Bosch has come out of retirement and is back on the job. He lands a slot in the Open Unsolved Unit of the LAPD and is working again with his former partner Kiz Rider. They are assigned an old case involving the murder of a teen girl some seventeen years before. Harry and Kiz consult the old "murder book" and get to work quickly. They interview the murdered girl's parents, now divorced, and see the girl's bedroom that has been kept exactly the same since her death. But there's something not quite right with the bed, something that nags at Bosch, so you know it will become more important later in the book. In reviewing the murder book Harry notices that the original case was pressured by higher police authorities to move in a different direction. Harry and Riz believe this kind of "high jingo" was responsible for the case being closed without a final resolution. Topping this off is the reappearance

of Deputy Chief Irvin Irving who puts unnecessary pressure on Bosch to keep his nose clean and not screw things up. Kiz and Harry find a likely suspect for the murder rap but don't have enough hard evidence for arrest and subsequent prosecution. So they watch and wait while trying to find more witnesses and check out more leads. Meanwhile we learn of all the necessary work that detectives perform when trying to find the killer in a long forgotten homicide. The reader may lose interest early in the book but it pays to stick with it until the pace picks up in the final one-third and author Connelly springs his final surprise.

I chose this rating because Michael Connelly really had me going with all the side layers of this tale. He's so good at making me think he truly understands human nature - everything rings true. I did not suspect the murderer. It is a page turner. I didn't have to suffer through the pain of each brutal murder as they happened, but I did suffer the emotional side effects of the victims. Bosch is a favorite of my mine and my husband's on the series. I think I admire Jerry more in the visual series, not seeing him as a gossip, but rather as an extremely ethical officer. (had to say this) Keep up the great writing, Mr. Connelly, I really do learn how difficult it is for the police force to protect us. Thank you for your insights and your writing skills to keep my attention on a subject I didn't think I would ever be able to handle. (from Joan)

I really enjoy the Harry Bosch series and the character in general. I share a few traits with the fictional Mr. Bosch and I also like the show on TV. I generally like the grittier stories about big city crime that weave in the day to day challenges that cops have with their own bosses, budget constraints and co-workers let alone trying to solve crimes and have a personal life away from the job. I am also typically surprised by the culprit in most of the Bosch books so that makes for entertainment as well.

We've read the first ten in the "Bosch" series and this might be our favorite so far. Connelly chose to return to a third-person voice and this reader appreciated that. It made the story move along more smoothly for us, at least. The plot in this one is another beaut, and the writing quality was even better than the in the prior few. Great read!

Solving murder cases is Harry's mission in life. It takes a little time to set up the plot but sometimes if you pay attention to remember like tidbits from earlier in the story that you remember later and it isn't always a complete surprise. Mike Connelly is a gifted story teller who can give hints and you have to be sharp enough to catch them. Great read!!!

Connelly's easy reading, fast moving style is hard to put down. He displays an in depth knowledge of criminal investigation, the city of Los Angeles, and of the LAPD in particular. The Closers, a cold case mystery with a lot of action and suspense, is Connelly's best yet of the Harry Bosch series of novels. Although Connelly plants many clues in the story, the perpetrator of the crime is not revealed until the very end. It is only then that the reader realizes that it should have been evident all along. The characters are true to life - real people moving in realistic ways. Harry Bosch is hard-boiled, but has natural frailties; thorough, but makes mistakes; and smart, but not an egghead. Kizmin Rider, Harry's partner and sidekick, is a smart, politically savvy cop, who serves as a sounding board for Harry. The reader immediately dislikes corrupt, pompous Deputy Chief Irving, who is an obstacle and an underlying threat to Harry throughout the story. Major suspect Roland Mackey and "The Chatsworth Eights" are despicable, skinhead Nazi supremacists. The 3-D, rounded characters drive the suspenseful plot, which never misses a beat until the exciting finish. Typically Connelly, the story is filled with conflict, tension and punch.

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