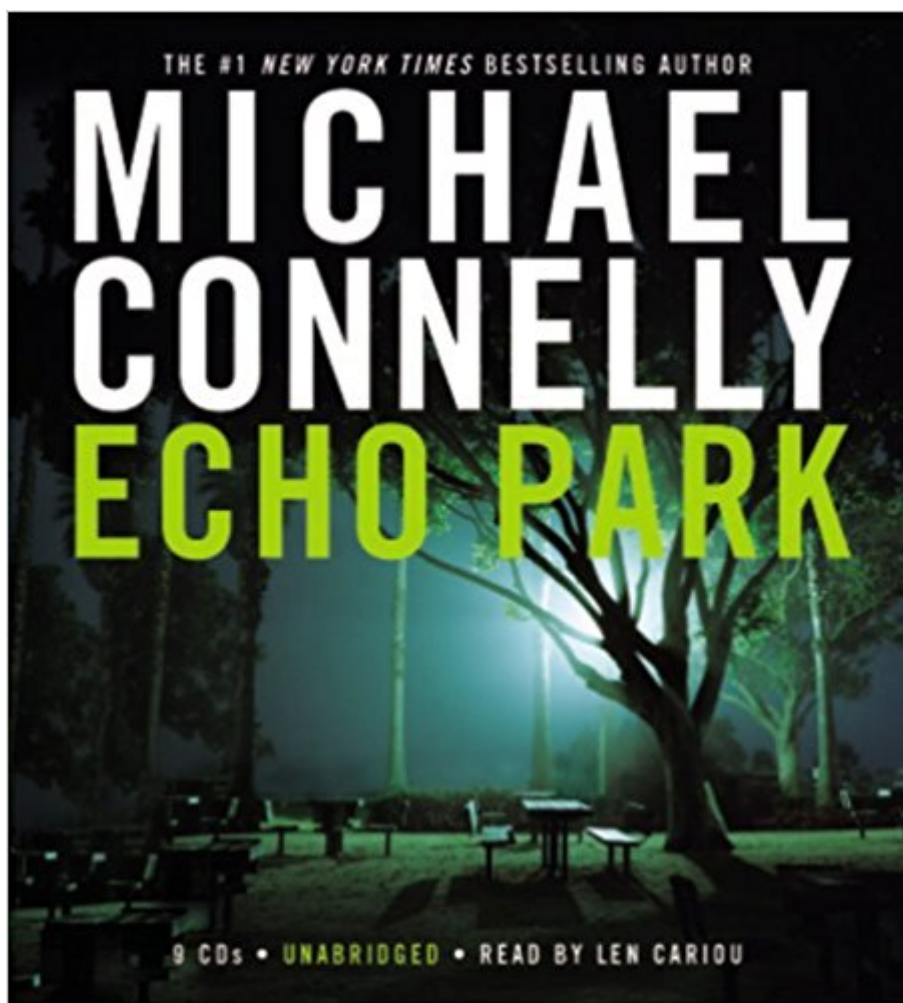


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## Echo Park (A Harry Bosch Novel)



## Synopsis

In 1995, Marie Gesto disappeared after walking out of a supermarket in Hollywood. Harry Bosch worked the case but couldn't crack it, and the 22-year-old woman never turned up, dead or alive. Now Bosch is in the Open-Unsolved Unit, where he still keeps the Gesto file on his desk, when he gets a call from the DA. A man accused of two heinous killings is willing to come clean about several other murders, including the killing of Marie Gesto. Bosch must now take Raynard Waits's confession and get close to the man he has sought - and hated - for eleven years. But when Bosch learns that he and his partner missed a clue back in 1995 that could have led them to Gesto's killer - and that would have stopped nine murders that followed - he begins to crack. Michael Connelly's suspenseful new novel pits the detective People magazine calls "one of the most complex crime fighters around" against one of the most sadistic killers he has ever confronted. It confirms that Michael Connelly "is the best writer of suspense fiction working today" (Richmond Times-Dispatch).

## Book Information

Series: A Harry Bosch Novel

Audio CD

Publisher: Little, Brown & Company; Abridged edition (October 14, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600245250

ISBN-13: 978-1600245251

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 867 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,678,646 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( C \) > Connelly, Michael](#) #2599 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Kidnapping](#) #2719 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)

## Customer Reviews

Bestseller Connelly's compelling 12th Harry Bosch novel (after 2005's *The Closers*) offers some new wrinkles on a familiar theme—the aging detective haunted by the one who got away. In Bosch's case, the elusive quarry is the man who abducted a 22-year-old equestrian, Marie Gesto, in 1993. Having returned to active duty as a member of the LAPD Open-Unsolved Unit, Bosch repeatedly pulls the file to see if he can discover something new and give some small solace to the

victim's parents. When a chance police stop of a suspicious vehicle nets serial killer Raynard Waits, who's carrying body parts in his van, Bosch assesses the murderer's claim that he was responsible for killing Gesto, too. The weary and cynical detective soon suspects that Waits is trying to barter information for a reduced sentence of life imprisonment. Political motivations connected with the upcoming DA election also cloud the investigation. Smooth prose and plausible characters—even the secondary figures—elevate this several notches above the standard cop vs. serial-killer thriller. Author tour. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Harry Bosch has been around since the Edgar Award-winning *The Black Echo* (1992), and critics agree that neither he nor the police-procedural series has lost of any of their original luster. Instead, they're both getting better with age. As in previous installments, both character and plot drive *Echo Park*: Harry's passion for the case and his guilt at having not found the killer before more murders occurred create a flawed, convincing hero. Michael Connelly's sharp eye for Los Angeles, from Sunset Boulevard to Beachwood Canyon and *Echo Park*, also kept critics turning the pages. Overall, *Echo Park* "is a richly imagined and finely crafted piece that grabs the reader on Page One and locks him but a half-step behind Bosch on every page that follows" (Denver Post). Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

Harry Bosch is working in the Open-Unsolved Unit of the LAPD and occasionally reviews the thirteen year old case of Marie Gesto, one that he just can't let go. The case gets another close look when a guy named Raynard Waits agrees to take the rap for Marie's murder along with a host of other crimes. Waits agrees to lead a group of police officers and forensic experts to Marie's burial site in a high wooded area on the outskirts of Los Angeles. There is a long and tense scene at the center of the book that involves this expedition and how various things go wrong in the process. There are two women in Bosch's life, three if you count his daughter Maddie who is currently living in Hong Kong. Bosch's partner is a black woman detective named Kiz Rider. She and Bosch have a strong suspicion that Waits is not really Marie Gesto's killer but they have no other likely candidates at the moment. Bosch is also carrying on a romantic relationship with FBI agent Rachel Walling who works out of the Los Angeles office. Walling is an expert profiler and Bosch takes advantage of her talents to help solve the case. I thought it was interesting that Walling could take up so much of her professional FBI time to help Harry with a local police case.

After Marie's body is found the case becomes much more complicated. Without giving away the plot, Connelly takes the reader through an exciting but twisted story that involves corruption in the LAPD, the District Attorney's office, and the undue influence of wealthy businessmen who have "skin in the game."

Harry & Kiz get a strange call which leads to an even stranger meeting and proposal and prophet on a really strange convoluted which smells fishy. Harry just cannot wrap his mind around this offer, feeling in his mind that the wrong guy is taking a fall for a murder he didn't commit. It all falls together, but not really.

This was my first Michael Connelly book that I have read and really enjoyed it. Read in a day or so. I have watched the TV series which led me to Connelly's books. Excellent plot and characterization. Not crazy about too much violence in books and TV though difficult to surpass in mysteries and thrillers genre. But I did enjoy this book and now will continue the Bosch series as well as others. I enjoyed the Lincoln Lawyer so will pursue that series too. Do recommend this book!

The introduction to this novel alone is worth five stars. In its pages, we learn (via a fascinating flashback) of a missing woman from 1993, Marie Gesto - presumed dead - as the case has been transferred to Hollywood Homicide Division. Harry Bosch's division. We learn where she was last seen. In a towering Hollywood hi-rise apartment building. We learn that a multitude of culprits had access to the missing person's garage and car. But most importantly, we learn that Harry Bosch is human. In these books, he is real. He cares as much about missing persons he looks for as do their loved ones. That is good news for the victim, their family and of course, the reader. But bad news for the killers. Onto the book itself ...Michael Connelly does not just write mysteries. He creates complex tomes of compelling narrative, mixed in with several missing persons. He creates killers so evil and offensive the reader can smell them a mile off. And of course the good guys are so human (with the associated flaws and weaknesses) that you can't help but like them and relate. And then there's Harry himself. The epitome of official detective-dom, as I said before he would rather die than let some killer go free. Humour does not play much of a role in any 'Michael Connelly book. It does not belong there. It is not appropriate. Opening a Harry Bosch novel is like stepping into a closed case from any English-speaking police force on the planet and following the procedure from start to finish. ECHO PARK is brilliant. It wraps threads from cases long buried in the past into the present day and links them all magnificently. Rest assured you will be blown away by the plot as you

progress through the book and be stunned and yet completely satisfied by the solution of yet another fantastic Harry Bosch novel. A world class story from one of the world's elite. BFN Greggorio!

I haven't read Bosch in order, and shortly into this book I realized it was similar to one of the seasons of Bosch on Prime Video, but it really didn't matter. This book is very different from what you may have watched, it comes away satisfying even after you've watched it, too.

Once again Connelly has crafted a story that compelled me to keep reading. Harry is such a dogged investigator. He doesn't find answers immediately, but he keeps on digging. In this case, it took years, but he got his man.

Harry Bosch takes every case very seriously, he is a pro. "Letting it get to you makes you a better person because detachment makes you a psychopath. To put your affairs in order you must be involved." Yet, according to Oscar Wilde, "each man hurts the thing he loves". Can you love and not be a psychopath? Life, in fact, is a jigsaw puzzle, and there is no rest until all the pieces are in place. Why weren't the pieces in place the first time around? Or the second? Or the third? Because sometimes it's all just too incredible, we can't accept it, and sometimes we feel so involved we need to weasel out, cover our tracks, blame the other. So you have guilt and you have vindictiveness. The blame game is a kind of puzzle, with human emotions as the pieces, and the picture never completely falls into place.

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