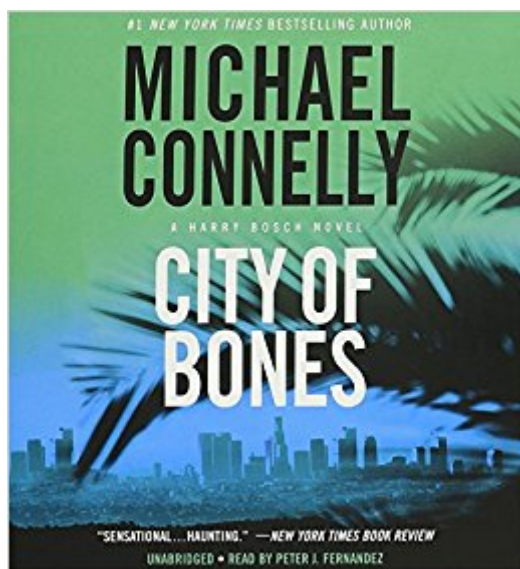


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# City Of Bones (A Harry Bosch Novel)



## Synopsis

On New Year's Day, a dog finds a bone in the Hollywood Hills--and unearths a murder committed more than twenty years earlier. It's a cold case, but for Detective Harry Bosch, it stirs up memories of his childhood as an orphan. He can't let it go. As the investigation takes Bosch deeper into the past, a beautiful rookie cop brings him alive in the present. No official warning can break them apart--or prepare Bosch for the explosions when the case takes a few hard turns. Suddenly all of L.A. is in an uproar, and Bosch, fighting to keep control, is driven to the brink of an unimaginable decision.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since his first appearance in 1992's Edgar-winning *The Black Echo*, Detective Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch has joined Dennis Lehane's Patrick and Angie, George Pelecanos's Derek Strange, and Greg Rucka's Atticus Kodiak in the pantheon of new-school hard-boiled detectives. Rather than giving Bosch a clever gimmick (like Jeffery Deaver's Lincoln Rhyme, who is a quadriplegic), Michael Connelly embraces the noir archetype: Bosch, an L.A. homicide detective, is a chain-smoking loner who refuses to play by his superiors' rules. Although he has quit smoking, Harry's still the same tightlipped outsider, taking each crime as a personal affront as he tries to cleanse his beloved city of the darkness he sees engulfing it. In *City of Bones*, Connelly's eighth Bosch title, Bosch and his well-dressed partner, Jerry Edgar, are working to identify a child's skeleton, buried for 20 years in

the forest off Hollywood's Wonderland Drive, and to bring the killer to belated justice. For Bosch this is more than just another homicide, as the mystery child, beaten and abandoned, comes to represent much of what he sees as evil in his city. Add in a tragic love affair with a fellow cop, complications from overzealous media, and the growing feeling that he's fighting a losing battle about which no one cares, and the usually stoic Bosch is pushed to his limits. This isn't the strongest plot Connelly has concocted for Bosch, but it leads to an ending the whole series has been building toward. The conclusion may not shock longtime fans, but it will leave them wondering where the series will go from here. --Benjamin Reese --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Harry Bosch is at the top of his form which is great news for Connelly fans who might have been wondering how much life the dour, haunted LAPD veteran had left in him. His latest adventure is as dark and angst-ridden as any of Bosch's past outings, but it also crackles with energy especially in the details of police procedure and internal politics that animate virtually every page. What other crime writer could make such dramatic use of the fact that the front door of a house trailer swings out rather than in, creating problems for a two-man team of detectives? Who else would create to such credible narrative effect an egotistic celebrity coroner who jeopardizes an investigation because she lets a TV camera crew from Court TV follow her around, or an overage female rookie cop so in love with danger that she commits an unthinkable act? When the bones of an abused 12-year-old boy who disappeared in 1980 turn up in the woods above Hollywood (near a street named Wonderland, where former governor Jerry Brown used to live), the case stirs up Bosch's memories of his own troubled childhood. Also, as his captain so aptly points out, Harry is the LAPD's prime "shit magnet," an investigator who attracts muck and trouble wherever he goes. So it's no great surprise when the investigation takes a couple of nasty turns, right up through the last chapter. Connelly is such a careful, quiet writer that he can slow down the story to sketch in some relatively minor characters a retired doctor, a couple who lived through their foster children without missing a beat. (One-day laydown Apr. 16)Forecast: Connelly doesn't need much help in hitting the charts, but Little, Brown is going all out anyway, with a massive television, radio and print ad campaign, transit ads in New York and a 10-city author tour. Expect blockbuster sales and blockbuster satisfaction. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In preparation for reading Micheal Connelly's latest Harry Bosch book THE CROSSING - #16 in the

series - I took the opportunity to read this book (#8) which I had missed several years ago. I am glad I did because it reminded me of some of his past with LAPD but also reminded me that Harry Bosch, the detective, really hasn't changed much over the years. This time, Bosch gets involved in investigating some bones found in a shallow grave. The victim is a young boy, killed about 25 years ago, who appears to have been subject to extensive physical abuse. The discovery gets a lot of press attention and it soon becomes clear that there is a serious information leak from police or other sources connected to the case which has tragic results. This is classic Bosch as he finds things that others would overlook. It is also classic Bosch because he doesn't follow normal procedures in his key investigations and is in constant conflict with his superiors, especially when they think they have found a suspect. I was glad that I read this book as it highlighted the talent of America's top crime thriller author who is still at the top of his game in his latest book in the series.

Harry Bosch is still a cop but he's approaching that point in his career, with over twenty-five years of service, when he can be retired by administrative action. He and his partner, Jerry Edgar, catch a very old case involving the murder of a ten year old boy over twenty years ago. Harry is also involved on a personal level with a younger police officer named Julia Brasher. They have to be extra careful not to advertise their affair or it will be all over the squad room before you could say Jack Sprat. Such a liaison would be a career killer for both police officers. This book shows how Bosch and Edgar perform a slow and methodical search of what evidence remains and those clues which can be unearthed, so to speak. The plot moves along the rim of a giant circle and eventually reaches a point where Bosch, Edgar and higher police authorities are satisfied that justice has been served. It's a good read but, all things considered, it's more of a detailed police procedural on a cold case rather than an action-filled detective mystery.

Connelly's Detective Bosch is such an interesting character and these stories take us through cases that he works on and solves, many of them cold cases that appear to be impossible to solve. He's like a pit bull once on a case, and this particular story is about one of those cold cases where a dog digs up a bone that belongs to a little boy that has been murdered.. He pursues clues doggedly until the entire story becomes clear as is the identity of the killer. There's always a sexual connection that is intense but not necessarily long lasting. This isn't his best story but they are all good as you find yourself getting fond of Bosch, abrasive, experienced and effective. He disdains the politics of the LA police department and tries to do his job in spite of his superiors who admire him begrudgingly

since they have long forgotten how to work in the field.

Connelly has become a favorite author of mine. That being said this book had two noticeable discrepancies and here they are: the story revolves around bones found of a boy 10-13 age and are 20 years old. To identify him they match up some pictures to the bones, talk to a sister who gives some leading remembrances and pretty much decide from circumstantial evidence who he is. As the 911 attack was mentioned, we know that this story is current enough to get DNA from family members. Never done. Also Bosch and his partner watch the father on one day, chase the boy's friend who is a felon on the next day where Bosches girlfriend (a cop) is killed - a funeral is done - and on the third day, they interview the father!!! Comeon! Not possible. I hope his other stories are more believable. I paid \$10 for this one!

A murder dating back to the early 80's. Bones found on a lonely hillside, barely covered, nothing to indicate who he was except for a backpack. The skeleton indicates that the victim had been brutalized his entire life, broken or fractured bones healed or healing since he was a toddler. Was the abuser the killer? How did this 12 year old boy end up at this spot? A woman, called in a tip that the remains may have been those of her brother who had disappeared in 1980. Bosch and his partner are working the Unsolved cases and they get this one. Since the victim was a child, this is particularly heinous crime. After investigating people who had lived in the neighborhood in 1980, or who had any knowledge of children in the area during that time, Harry narrowed down the suspects to one person who bashed in the skull of the victim, and the motive may have been simply out of jealousy or desire for something the victim had. Did the suspect finally get what he "deserved?" City of bones, a name given to the Los Angeles area mainly because of the LaBrea tar pits that gave up bones of prehistoric animals and victims of murders over 9,000 years ago that gradually worked their way back to the surface.

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