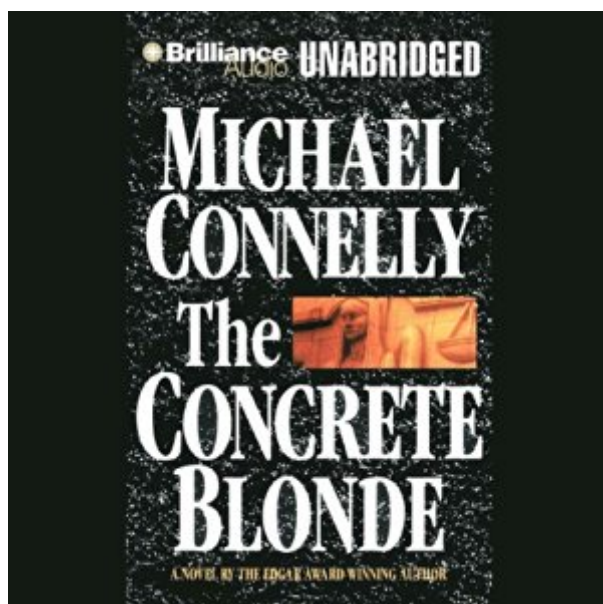


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The Concrete Blonde: Harry Bosch Series, Book 3



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 man • 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 go • the darkness of his own heart.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read a lot of mysteries: just about the entire "Travis McGee" series by John D. MacDonald; all of the "Fletch" novels (including the two "Son of" books) by Gregory McDonald; every Raymond Chandler piece of fiction; most of Dashiell Hammett; some Ed McBain; many Carl Hiassen books; a few Agatha Christies. Michael Connelly ranks up there with all of those distinguished writers. He has a fluid, detailed writing style that conveys the scene without bogging down in such intricacies that the reader gets lost. The dialogue is snappy and hard-boiled but will probably age well (unlike, say, some of Chandler's). "The Concrete Blonde" is the third novel starring LAPD detective Harry Bosch. (The order goes "The Black Echo," "The Black Ice," "The Concrete Blonde," "The Last Coyote," "Trunk Music," and "Angel's Flight." The new novel coming out in early 2001 involves Bosch as well,

but it's not clear if Bosch is the main character or a secondary character.) I've read the first three and the last ("AF"), and, while they are all good, "The Concrete Blonde" is the best thus far. Earlier in his career, an incident that is described or alluded to in virtually every novel, Bosch gained some notoriety and fame for taking down a serial killer known as "The Dollmaker." He was so called because he would use makeup and polish to paint up his victims. The killer sent bad poems to Bosch, taunting him with descriptions of the victims. Eventually, Bosch tracked down the killer and shot him to death when the man reached toward his pillow . . . for a hairpiece, as it turned out.

The Concrete Blonde by Michael Connelly provides the best of both worlds: a murder mystery that takes place within a courtroom drama. The Concrete Blonde opens with Los Angeles Police Department homicide detective Harry Bosch on trial for murder. When Bosch shot Norman Church, he believed he was killing the Dollmaker, a serial killer responsible for the rape and brutal murder of eleven prostitutes in Los Angeles. The Dollmaker's widow believes otherwise, and she sues Bosch in civil court for wrongful death. Just as the trial is underway, another victim is discovered and this one was murdered after the death of Church. This 12th victim was encased in concrete and is dubbed the Concrete Blonde. The Concrete Blonde casts a shadow on the trial and gives ammunition to the aggressive and scheming prosecuting attorney, Honey "Money" Chandler. Is it possible that Bosch killed the wrong man? Maybe there's a copycat killer. Also, Chandler and the press have information that is being leaked from within the LAPD. Whatever the case, the investigation is ongoing and the judge won't delay the trial to give Bosch time to solve the new murder. Connelly is one of the best mystery writers out there today, and his plots and characters reflect a realism that developed in his years of being a police reporter for the Los Angeles Times. The Concrete Blonde was written after the LA Riots and Rodney King, and shows the darker side of this city of contrasts. When Bosch tells his lawyer in the courtroom that he seeks the truth, he is lectured "And you're going to sit there and talk to me about truth? When was the last time you saw a truthful police report? When was the last time that you put down the unadulterated truth in a search warrant application? ...

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