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# The Closers (Harry Bosch)



## **Synopsis**

The death of a teenage girl almost two decades ago comes back to haunt all of L.A.-and detective Harry Bosch-in this spellbinding new thriller from New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly. In Los Angeles in 1988, a 16-year-old girl who had disappeared from her home was later found dead with a single gunshot wound to the chest. The death appeared at first to be a suicide, and although detectives on the case found clues that pointed toward murder, no one was ever charged. Detective Harry Bosch, newly returned to the LAPD with the job of closing unsolved cases, gets the report of a new DNA match that makes the case very much alive again. A white supremacist with close ties to the LAPD becomes a suspect-but Bosch and his partner Kizmin Rider can't take a step without threatening higher-ups in the department.

## **Book Information**

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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.

Connelly's bruised but unbeaten crime buster, Harry Bosch, is back in harness at the Los Angeles Police Department after a two-book retirement (*Lost Light*, *The Narrows*) during which he sought justice as a private eye. Luckily, reader Cariou has returned with him. Cariou's deep, dry and slightly mournful delivery proved a perfect match for Bosch's moody first-person PI narration. With Connelly reverting to the third-person format he prefers for his hero's police procedural cases, Cariou opts for a more objective, faster-paced, just-the-facts-ma'am approach to the descriptive passages, smoothly slipping back into Bosch-voice for the book's abundant dialogue sequences. Finding the right nuances for that voice is a tougher job this go-round, since Harry is in a state of constant emotional flux. He's happy to be back on the force, working with his former partner Kiz Rider and, for the first time, for men he respects, but he's not sure he can adjust to the new, streamlined LAPD.

Cariou effectively enacts a large, carefully crafted cast of suspects, victims and cops, maneuvering easily past ethnic and sexist vocal land mines. Judiciously placed blues and jazz riffs add the finishing touches to this solid audio production. Bonus features include Connelly explaining Bosch's return to the LAPD, plus his reading of a chapter from his next novel, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, featuring Bosch's half-brother. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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 . 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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