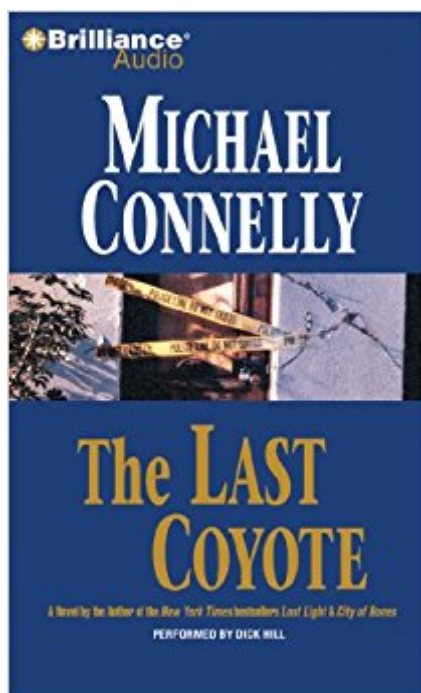


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# The Last Coyote (Harry Bosch Series)



## Synopsis

Harry attacked his commanding officer and is suspended indefinitely, pending a psychiatric evaluation. At first he resists the LAPD shrink, but finally recognizes that something is troubling him and has for a long time. In 1961, when Harry was twelve, his mother, a prostitute, was brutally murdered with no one ever accused of the crime. With the spare time a suspension brings, Harry opens up the thirty-year-old file on the case and is irresistibly drawn into a past he has always avoided. It's clear that the case was fumbled and the smell of a cover-up is unmistakable. Someone powerful was able to divert justice and Harry vows to uncover the truth. As he relentlessly follows the broken pieces of the case, the stirred interest causes new murders and pushes Harry to the edge of his job... and his life.

## Book Information

Series: Harry Bosch Series (Book 4)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Abridged edition (August 28, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1441856617

ISBN-13: 978-1441856616

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 2,009 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #457,135 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

[Authors, A-Z > \( C \) > Connelly, Michael](#) #520 in [Books > Books on CD > Mystery & Thrillers](#)

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## Customer Reviews

In his fourth outing, LAPD Homicide Detective Harry Bosch (The Concrete Blonde, et al.) confronts deep family, police and political secrets as he probes an unsolved murder of decades earlier. Smart, tough, laconic and, under all that, compassionate, Harry lives by a code according to which "Everybody counts or nobody counts... whether [the victim is] a prostitute or the mayor's wife." He begins this case in a departmental shrink's office, after having been suspended for attacking his commanding officer; his girlfriend has left him, and he's living in a house that's been condemned after an earthquake. In the enforced freedom from his job, he reopens the 30-year-old unsolved murder of an L.A. call girl?his mother. Skirting illegality along the way to the resolution, he unearths

a lot of buried secrets and pain?not least to his own 11-year-old self. Nobody here is pure (a couple of people are truly nasty), but all the characters are believable, as are even the quirkiest plot turns. Edgar-winner Connelly smoothly mixes Harry's detecting forays with his therapy sessions to dramatize how, sometimes, the biggest mystery is the self. BOMC alternate. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After being put on involuntary stress leave for attacking his boss, LAPD detective Hieronymous "Harry" Bosch tackles the 30-plus-year-old murder case of a Hollywood prostitute?his mother. Bummed out by the failure of his latest romance as well, Harry faces a deeper, psychological crisis: his life's "mission" may end if he solves the case. Harry continues, nonetheless, soon discovering that the police and politically powerful others purposely glossed over his mother's murder. With prose that cuts to the quick, a masterfully interwoven plot, and gripping suspense, Connelly renders a fitting sequel to *The Black Echo* (LJ 1/92). Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It begins with Harry Bosch, newly reassigned to Homicide Division of the LAPD, getting a call from his lieutenant in the middle of the night. A body has been found on the Mulholland overlook. It is a man who had been shot execution-style with two bullets to the back of the head. The body was found next to his car which had its trunk left open. On the floor of the trunk, indentations in the carpet showed that something very heavy and square had been positioned there, but whatever it was is now gone. Bosch and his new partner, Ignacio Ferras, are assigned to the case, but very soon the FBI shows up. It develops that the heavy thing which had been carried in the car's trunk was a lead "pig" which contained radioactive cesium. The murdered man was a medical physicist who worked with several hospitals that handled radioactive medical material. The investigation reveals that, at the last hospital he visited, he took the hospital's entire supply of the material. He left a note in the safe explaining what he had done. Prior to his visit to the hospital, the victim had been sent an email with an attached picture of his wife, naked and tied up on their bed at home. The sender of the email told him that she was being held hostage and would be tortured, raped, and killed if he did not deliver the radioactive cesium to a designated location. He did as he was told but then he was shot and killed and the cesium taken. The police found his wife exactly as depicted in the photograph but otherwise unharmed. The tug-of-war over the case begins almost immediately. To Harry, it is a murder case, one he is determined to solve. To the FBI and the rest of the federal government, it is a potential terrorist case. The amount of cesium involved could do untold damage

to the city and its population. One of the FBI agents on the case is Bosch's former lover, Rachel Walling, which just complicates matters further. The usual bureaucratic territorial struggles that seem to occur in every Bosch mystery ensue. Cooperation between the agencies and the LAPD is meager. Often the right hand doesn't know what the left is doing. Harry, though, doggedly sticks to his murder case on the theory that if they find the murderer, they'll find the cesium. And, anyway, he isn't entirely convinced on the terror angle. He thinks there might be another motive for the murder. I found *The Overlook* to be atypical Connelly in that the telling of it seemed a bit disjointed. I read afterward that the story had been serialized in a magazine originally, so perhaps that accounts for my impression that it just wasn't quite as smooth as the usual Connelly mystery. On the whole, though, it was a good story, a good read. Even second-rate Connelly is better than most mystery writers can offer.

As a middle aged, third generation Angelino, who is a private investigator, once worked at a newspaper, was married to a cop and worked with several retired cops & FBI there are several things I like about this series. I love that this man knows, understands and good and bad, loves our city and really LA is more than the city itself, it is an area, a very large area. I don't find this is often the case with most fiction books I have read that take place here. He is pretty accurate with police procedure, investigation, newspapers, the history of LA, how police are, the politics and how it feels to investigate. In this book little things thrown in like the huge bonus the contractor received for getting the 10 open ahead of schedule and the octopus in San Pedro killing itself are true and give a feeling of authenticity. Although there were things that did not make sense and I questioned I can't help but love Bosch. I am reading this series in order and I am waiting to see if he brings up less known things about LAPD and expands the areas he works in.

Nowadays, with my mind like a sieve, if I don't review a book as soon as I've read it, I might as well not bother. Having just finished this book, I will have to say that I enjoyed it. Some people didn't like it because it was short, but this is exactly why I did like it. If you take away all the padding that Connelly and most other authors put in their novels, most of them would be this short. So, for me, this was refreshing for him not to have so much non-essential crap. One of the reasons I like this author is his ability to come up with plot twists that I never saw coming. I really hate to figure things out, and enjoy being surprised. I've read all his books in sequence, and this is the only one in which I figured it out. There were still a couple of surprises, but I knew who was responsible for the doctor's death early on. This wasn't Connelly's best, but it was still entertaining, and I'm glad I

ignored some of the one or two-star reviews, and read it anyway.

I like Police procedural novels and Michael Connelly really has an excellent way of portraying Bosch. I first started watching the Series Bosch and became hooked on his story. I see that in the series he has amalgamated elements from different Bosch Novels into one season. The Last Coyote is the fourth in the series of Bosch books and it's great to see his development as a person in dealing with his own personal demons.

to the series as well:Connolly sets his Harry Bosch / LAPD books in a Los Angeles that is fairly rooted in place (with routes to locales being described with particularity of Freeway Number and side street hopeful traffic avoidance that only fellow dwellers of the City of the Angels normally impose on each other in daily converse. This the Fourth Book in this series which has gone on to many more successful Bosch books after this one. This is a series that gives some value to starting at the beginning with the first book in the series and reading them in order. Harry's character is at essence what each of these books explores. Thus, it is a series that has wider appeal than some mystery genre books. Over many years and during many twists in his professional status, we as an informed audience get to watch Harry evolve- and yet stay unchanged. This is a dichotomy Connolly manages to keep intriguing some fifteen years +/- after he introduced us to Harry. Whether one dips into the Lastt Coyote

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