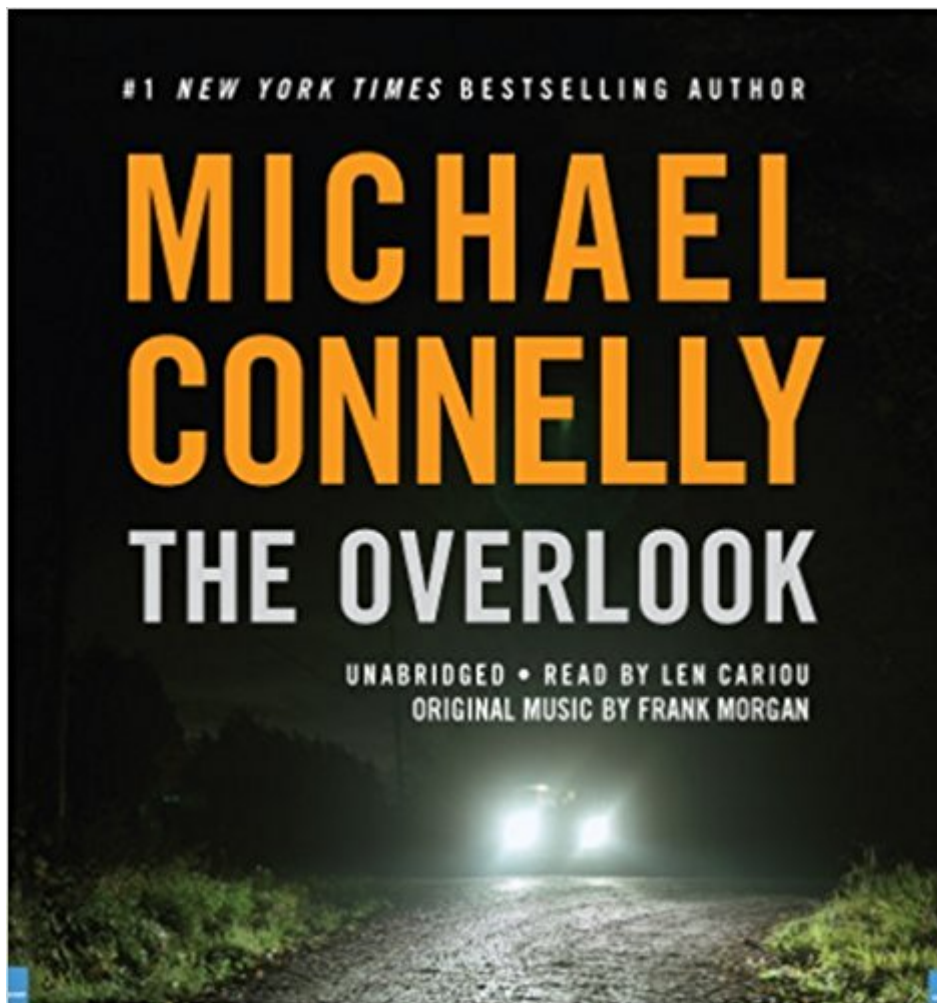


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# The Overlook: A Novel (Harry Bosch)



## Synopsis

Near Mulholland Drive, Dr. Stanley Kent is found shot twice in the back of the head. It's the case LAPD detective Harry Bosch has been waiting for, his first since being recruited to the Homicide Special Squad. When he discovers that Kent had access to dangerous radioactive substances, what begins as a routine investigation becomes something darker, more deadly, and frighteningly urgent. Bosch is soon in conflict with not only his superiors but the FBI, which thinks the case is too important for just a cop. Complicating his job even more is the presence of Agent Rachel Walling, his onetime lover. Now guarding one slim advantage, Bosch relentlessly follows his own instincts, hoping they are still sharp enough to find the truth--and a killer who can annihilate an entire city.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Reviewers were somewhat abrupt about perennial bestseller Connelly's 13th Harry Bosch novel: a quick read, almost half the length of Connelly's previous novels, said one; a tasty hors d'oeuvre quipped another. How smart and fortunate for listeners that Hachette Audio has turned to veteran Connelly reader Len Cariou for some added weight. Cariou catches all the strength and sadness behind Bosch's minimal dialogue and is also perfect as Harry's LAPD colleagues, female and male. He is especially good at bringing to frightening life the real villains: the federal investigators, headed by a former Bosch lover, FBI agent Rachel Walling. The Feds are trying to take over the case of a body found on an overlook near Mulholland Drive—•a doctor who turns out to have had access to radioactive materials stored at hospitals throughout L.A. All

praise to Hachette for getting Cariou to help us through it. The production boasts original music by Frank Morgan. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Michael Connelly originally published *The Overlook* as a serialized novella in the *New York Times Magazine*; the 16 sections contained 3,000 words each. Although expanded to novel form, *The Overlook* weighs in as a good, if slim (and perhaps, as a few critics claim, slight), addition to the Harry Bosch series. For the most part, the novel succeeds in maintaining Connelly's trademark fast-paced action, plot twists, suspense, and spare, humorous writing-all over the course of 12 hours. Some reviewers cited tired characters, dull romance, a bizarre time frame, and plotting missteps, but for followers of Harry Bosch, *The Overlook* is a worthy addition. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

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 Last Coyote

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