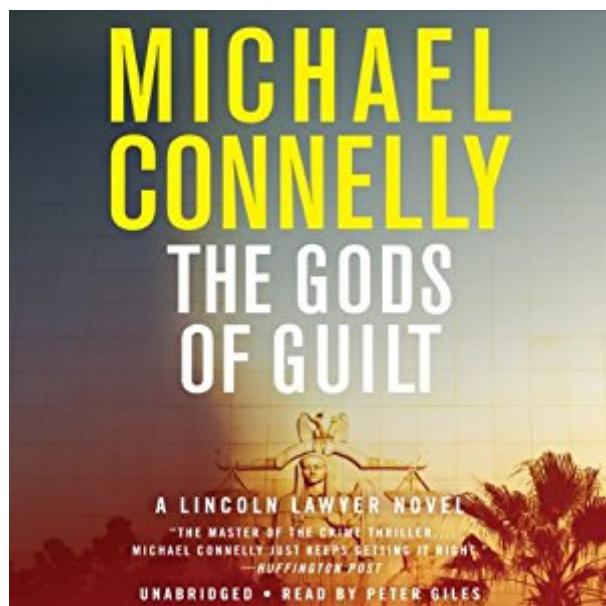


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# The Gods Of Guilt



## **Synopsis**

Defense attorney Mickey Haller returns with a haunting case in the gripping new thriller from number-one New York Times best-selling author Michael Connelly. Mickey Haller gets the text, "Call me ASAP - 187," and the California penal code for murder immediately gets his attention. Murder cases have the highest stakes and the biggest paydays, and they always mean Haller has to be at the top of his game. When Mickey learns that the victim was his own former client, a prostitute he thought he had rescued and put on the straight and narrow path, he knows he is on the hook for this one. He soon finds out that she was back in LA and back in the life. Far from saving her, Mickey may have been the one who put her in danger. Haunted by the ghosts of his past, Mickey must work tirelessly and bring all his skill to bear on a case that could mean his ultimate redemption or proof of his ultimate guilt. The Gods of Guilt shows once again why "Michael Connelly excels, easily surpassing John Grisham in the building of courtroom suspense" (Los Angeles Times).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Criminal defence attorney Mickey Haller is back doing what he does best - running his small legal practice from the back of his Lincoln Town Car. He is still recovering from a time when switched sides to be a successful prosecutor, and he nearly became Los Angeles County District Attorney before disaster struck when a defence case went badly wrong and impacted his career and his relationship with his daughter and first wife. Mickey is always on the lookout for cases with the highest stakes and biggest paybacks and the top of the line are murder cases. One day Andre La

Cosse, an internet "pimp" who designs and manages websites for call girls, asks Mickey to defend him on a murder charge. This case is different because the victim, Gloria Dayton, was a former client, a prostitute Mickey thought he had rescued and put on a straight and narrow path - but unknown to him she was back on the game. It is also different because just before Gloria's death she had told Andre he should contact Haller if he ever needed legal assistance. Andre also has the means to pay for his defence - in gold bullion! What starts off as a straightforward case of providing a good defence for a guilty person quickly changes when Mickey realises that Andre may not be guilty. The case quickly brings back the ghosts of Mickey's past which can have a serious impact on his professional and personal future. As this case develops it will encompass a potentially corrupt DEA agent, a shady Investigator for the District Attorney, a cartel thug and a disbarred lawyer, all with their own personal interests in Mickey's future. To top all of this off Mickey is being watched and followed and he doesn't know who it is.

The title of Connelly's latest Mickey Haller novel refers primarily to the jury. Paraphrasing can't do justice to how Connelly explains it, but you'll like it. As it begins, we are brought up to speed on the nightmare that has become Haller's life. The failed campaign. The drunk driver case. The estrangement from his daughter. Add these to Haller's regular issues, and yikes! There are some Guilt Gods at work here as well, perhaps!! Then, Haller has a murder case dropped in his lap, and off we go. We find out shortly that the victim played heavily in Mickey's past. And it involves characters on both sides that Haller has had run-ins with. Some people think making Harry Bosch a half-brother to Haller was a bit too convenient. Actually, Connelly's genius in this move is to create two sides of the same coin. If you are a faithful reader of both series, you already know this. If you're new, you'll get it. Both Haller and Bosch understand the cost of doing business as they do, on all fronts. He also gives Harry a fairly significant cameo. A big difference in the two series is that Haller's stories require a much heavier dose of process, usually in the form of courtroom events. Connelly excels at creating these moments, resulting in excitement, character development and, occasionally, actual knowledge! I'm sure there are a lot of "legal thriller" writers creating more complex and perhaps more accurate courtroom stuff, but Connelly has the right blend. Connelly shows he's not afraid to wink at himself, with an amusing reference to the hit film of *The Lincoln Lawyer*, and the effect of its' popularity on the way Mickey rolls. The case goes forward in typical Connelly style....fast-paced and informative.

I read all the Mickey Haller novels one after the other in a very short time, curious about the author

after watching The Lincoln Lawyer. They were all very nice reads and I had great expectations for this one. I even started reading the Harry Bosch novels while waiting for it, but I really like the legal drama genre. The Gods of Guilt wasn't a disappointment in itself. The story is solid, there's a constant build up of tension and some "aha" moments, and for those who enjoy the genre, has interesting legal-drama moments too. However, during the whole book I had this feeling that Connelly wrote it with a sequel for The Lincoln Lawyer film in mind, and I never had the same feeling on the previous three books, even though the movie was based on the first one, and those were the actual sequels to it. I was constantly being drawn away from the story and thinking about the real world events that led to choices in the story, and that's not something I want when I read a cheap paperback novel for entertainment. This is not The Gulag Archipelago. The Gods of Guilt is a decent read and was well worth the wait, but Connelly is definitely changed. UPDATE Apparently I missed the acknowledgements section, where Connelly thanks the producers of the Lincoln Lawyer for their suggestions on this book. I guess my feeling that this was intended as the sequel to the movie was right. Just a few points to illustrate what I'm talking about. SPOILERS- The book brings back characters from the first book, that weren't in the other three books. Earl, the driver; Gloria, the prostitute who's always in trouble and snitches on the drug dealer; Lankford, the detective who investigates Frank/Raul Levin's murder; Valenzuela, the bail bondsman, etc.

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