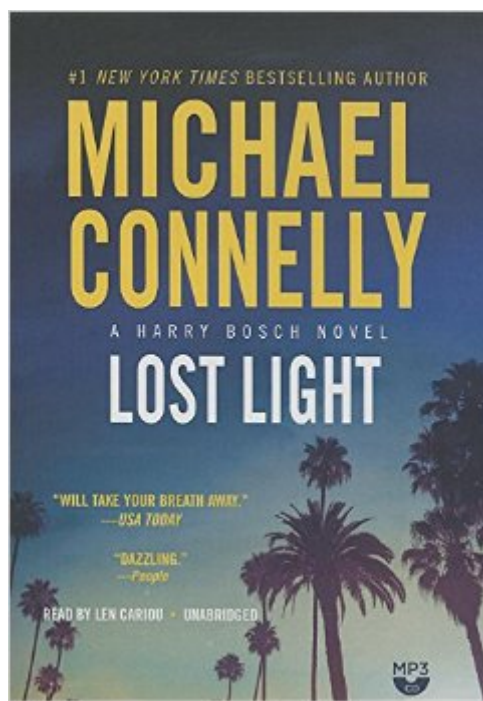


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Lost Light (Harry Bosch)



Synopsis

Fed up with the hypocrisy of the LAPD, Harry Bosch has resigned and is forced to find a new way of life. But the life of a retiree doesn't suit him. He has always devoted himself to justice and he is still drawn toward protecting, or avenging, those whom the law has failed. When he left the LAPD Bosch took a file with him, the case of a film production assistant murdered four years earlier during a two-million-dollar robbery on a movie set. The LAPD, now operating under post 9/11 rules think the stolen money was used to finance a terrorist training camp. Thoughts of the original murder victim are lost in the federal zeal, and when it seems the killer will be set free to aid the feds terrorist hunt, Bosch quickly finds himself in conflict with both his old colleagues and the FBI. He cannot rest until he finds the killer. With or without a badge. Michael Connelly received the Maltese Falcon Award from the Maltese Falcon Society of Japan for "Lost Light," which was judged the best private eye novel published in Japan in the previous year. This is Michael Connelly's second Falcon Award, his first being for "The Black Ice."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From his first incredible book, "The Black Echo," LAPD Detective Harry Bosch has had one mission and one mission only as he sees it-to speak for the dead. To bring justice to those who have killed and some measure of comfort, no matter how small to the victims left behind as survivors. When he retired, he took his watch and his files and thought his mission was over. Instead, while he does not have the authority of the badge any more, he realizes as time passes that the mission remains. In

particular, a case from a four year old unsolved murder begins to work its way into his mind. Angella Benton, an employee of Eidon Productions, was found dead in the vestibule of her apartment building. Bosch was assigned the case and was working it days later on a movie set when the set was robbed of two million dollars during a brazen daylight robbery shootout. Bosch would wound one robber, none of whom were ever caught, and the money was never found. After the robbery and the resulting high profile glare of the media, the Benton case was pulled from Bosch and folded into the robbery investigation and given to two detectives from Robbery Homicide. Days later, while eating lunch, one of the detectives was killed and the other permanently paralyzed in a robbery at a neighborhood bar. That was a death knell for the case as cops are a superstitious lot and there are always new cases that demand immediate attention. But Bosch without a badge is just as aggressive as he was when he carried the shield. He may be retired, but he still goes at it the only way he knows how and soon seems to have antagonized his former bosses as well as other parties. Before long, old friends are annoyed, a federal terrorism task force is involved and unhappy, as well as numerous other shadowy figures.

While I have been aware of Michael Connelly's impressive reputation as an author and the many readers who are fans of detective Harry Bosch, this is my introduction to this series. My five star rating indicates that I enjoyed the book tremendously and felt that it was exactly what the book jacket led me to expect and what the author was trying to accomplish. This is neither a great work of fiction nor is it even the best crime story that I have ever read, but it is well plotted, fast paced and very enjoyable with enough surprising details before the case is solved to keep the reader's interest. Recently retired LAPD Detective Harry Bosch is still haunted by the four year old unsolved murder of twenty-four year old Angella Benton, an assistant to a famous movie producer. He is also bothered by the apparently coincidental robbery and murder that occurred on the movie set as he was investigating Angie's murder a few days later. The two million dollars taken in the heist was never recovered. Furthermore, the cops in the Robbery-Homicide Division who took over the case became the victims in a subsequent apparently unrelated robbery that left one dead and the other completely paralyzed and extremely bitter. This is a classic detective story, and while it has many of the ingredients of a police procedural one of the important elements is that Harry is no longer on the force and has to rely on favors from his friends rather than having the power of his badge to get to the truth. The reader knows what happened and suspects that the question of why will in some way relate all the apparently random elements to the heist, then waits for Bosch to uncover who was involved and how they escaped apprehension.

I have to admit a particular fondness for Michael Connelly's books, those about Hieronymous Bosch is particular. There's something about the man, dark or mysterious, keeping him on the edge and away from the closeness that brings comfort from others. He is the perennial loner. After reading eight books about Bosch the Cop, we are now gifted with a story about Heironymous the pensioner. Bosch's instincts, however, haven't changed much I won't give away the story, much. Bosch, never one to let anything slide, becomes obsessed with the 4-year-old murder of a Hollywood production assistant. Bosch's involvement with the investigation of this murder came to an end after a daring heist rips off 2 million dollars from the set of movie. The money had been a prop. Bosch had been there interviewing the director. A tenuous link is drawn between the theft of the money, which resulted in the death of a bank officer and the injury of another, and the murder of the production assistant. But the case is handed to another division. Bosch is still haunted by the unsolved case, four years later. Despite lacking a badge, Bosch decides to whip out his old murder book and go on the hunt. Along the way, we meet some familiar characters, open up a few new cans of worms, close a few old ones, and discover the darkside of "Homeland Security". As always, Bosch's life is a slow-motion trainwreck. He has a head for criminal investigations, but spares little by way of thought for his own heart. As he is haunted by the murder case and the specter of his ex-wife, you can't help but feel attached to our old boy-in-blue. He is singularly tragic and always compelling. Hoping his life will turn out for the best is part of what keeps me reading. "Lost Light" did not disappoint.

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