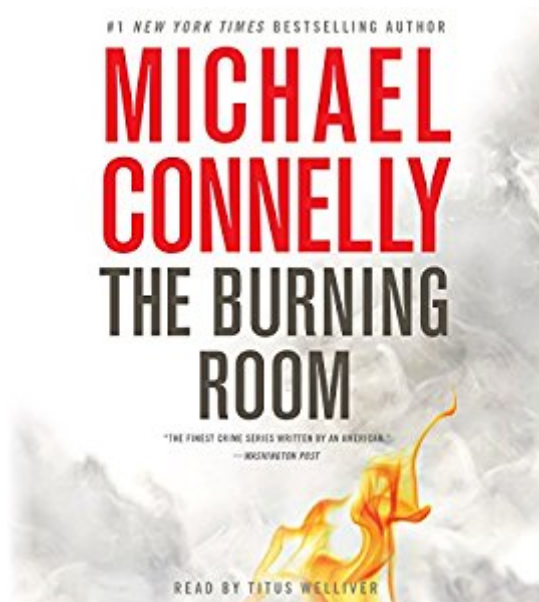


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The Burning Room



Synopsis

Detective Harry Bosch and his new partner investigate a recent murder where the trigger was pulled nine years earlier. In the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, not many murder victims die almost a decade after the crime. So when a man succumbs to complications from being shot by a stray bullet nine years earlier, Bosch catches a case in which the body is still fresh, but all other evidence is virtually nonexistent. Now Bosch and rookie Detective Lucia Soto are tasked with solving what turns out to be a highly charged, politically sensitive case. Beginning with the bullet that's been lodged for years in the victim's spine, they must pull new leads from years-old information, which soon reveal that this shooting may have been anything but random. In this gripping new novel, Michael Connelly shows once again why Harry Bosch is "one of the greats of crime fiction" (New York Daily News).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hieronymus (Harry) Bosch, Michael Connelly's iconic character, is in the twilight of his career as an L. A. homicide detective in "The Burning Room." He takes on the role of mentor to twenty-eight year old Mexican-American Lucia Soto, who profits from Harry's wide-ranging knowledge of police procedure (some of it not exactly by-the-book). Their latest case involves Orlando Merced, who was shot ten years earlier and survived. For a decade, he was confined to a wheelchair with a bullet lodged in his spine. Merced recently died and Harry wants to retrieve the bullet; it may help them find the killer. Harry and Lucy make a solid team. They are both committed to getting the job done, even if it means pulling all-nighters, being less than candid with their superiors, and upsetting

high-profile individuals. What they learn is explosive. As they follow the evidence that emerges, Harry and Lucy suspect that what appeared to be a random act might have been deliberate. They also discover a possible connection between the assault on Merced, an arson fire, and two robberies. Connelly keeps his foot on the pedal throughout this fast-moving and engrossing novel. The interplay between Bosch and Soto is amusing; he is all business and Soto matches his dedication. The beautifully constructed plot involves political corruption, greed, lust, and vengeance. Harry is irreverent, bends the rules when it suits him and, as usual, steps on some very important toes. The dialogue and writing style are smooth and fast-paced, and Connelly holds our interest with fascinating information about forensics, Los Angeles history, and investigative techniques. "The Burning Room" is suspenseful and has a slam-bang ending. One thing is certain--whatever the inimitable Harry does in the future, his fans will gladly accompany him on his journey.

The dedicated, wily veteran detective Harry Bosch of the recently revamped LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit and his newly assigned partner Detective Lucia Soto have a case that is both old and new. Orlando Merced, the leader of a mariachi band, was shot and paralyzed ten years ago in a plaza where bands go to get gigs, the bullet lodging in his spine. Now, Merced has died from blood poisoning from the projectile. Because former mayor Armando Zeyas used Merced as a poster boy in his campaign to fight crime, the LAPD has come under pressure to solve this case. All who know the crusty Bosch from previous books, know that he leaves no stone unturned when digging for evidence and that he works the police process as well as anyone, having connections in all of the right places. In this case, Bosch thinks that everyone may have it wrong. Careful analysis of the crime scene seems to suggest that Merced was not the target in the shooting, and that the path leads to some well-connected, powerful people. Parallel to this case, Lucia has been secretly digging into the Bonnie Brae apartment fire of twenty years ago; it was a case of arson and she, herself, as youngster in that building, barely survived. Harry agrees to assist Lucy, and discovers, strangely enough, that another crime on the date of the fire appears to be connected to that case. Ordinarily Harry would be soundly rebuked by the higher-ups for letting his attention be diverted, but this is another politically sensitive case which would make the captain look good if it was solved. The book is fairly consistent with previous Harry Bosch books, although his tolerance for newbie Lucy is a little out of character. One learns the streets of LA as Bosch drives among all of the law enforcement agencies, meets his contacts, and interviews witnesses and suspects. Characters from previous books make nominal appearances, including his teen-age daughter Maddie and an old flame from the FBI Rachael Walling. However, the author gives us very little of Bosch's personal life

in this book. How to work a case and the education of Detective Soto take center stage. A quibble with the book is the rather muddled ending of the two cases. In addition, at the end a charge by a police official that Harry violated police procedures looks contrived.

First of all, shame on Hachette for penalizing those of us who pre-ordered this book and paid \$12.74, and then lowered the price to \$9.99 the day after release. I'll never pre-order a book again. **WARNING - SPOILER ALERT!** Stop reading if you don't want to know any details of this book. As I was reading this book, the gratuitous mention of characters from past novels gave me the feeling that this was Connelly's last Bosch novel. You can make an argument for bringing back Rachel, but mention of the other characters served no purpose in this story. And, then there's the ending. If this is the way it ends, then Harry goes out with a fizzle instead of a bang. For me, the book was just so-so compared to his other works, but I forgive Mr. Connelly as I realize it's difficult to sustain a series for such a long time. I hope there's a new Mickey Haller book in the works.

Not one of his finest. I am a bit disappointed with this one. It is a little like Harry - tired and almost ready to retire! There are three stories all wrapped around each other and it just seems to be a story of facts, no real action.

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