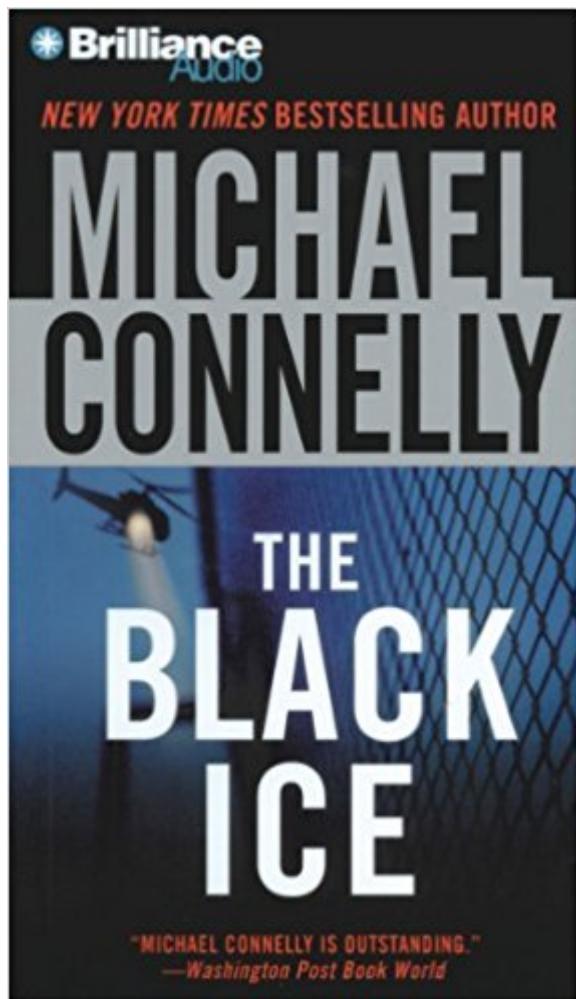


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The Black Ice (Harry Bosch Series)



Synopsis

Narcotics officer Cal Moore's orders were to look into the city's latest drug killing. Instead, he ends up in a motel room with his head in several pieces and a suicide note stuffed in his back pocket. Years ago, Harry Bosch learned the first rule of the good cop: don't look for the facts, but the glue that holds them together. Now, Harry's making some very dangerous connections, starting with one dead cop and leading to a bloody string of murders that winds from Hollywood Boulevard's drug bazaar to the dusty back alleys south of the border and into the center of a complex and lethal game— one in which Harry is the next and likeliest victim.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

LAPD detective Hieronymous "Harry" Bosch, protagonist of the highly praised mystery *The Black Echo*, returns in a procedural thriller set in and around the drug-trafficking underworlds of inner-city Los Angeles and the wastelands of Mexico. When Bosch arrives at a sleazy hotel room where a fellow officer has committed suicide, he senses that something is awry. Noncommittal superior officers, a diffident widow and tales linking the dead man to a newly created street drug called "black ice" (heroin, crack and PCP rolled into one) send Bosch down a winding trail of forensic impossibilities, brutally violent drug traffickers and an ultimately shocking case of mistaken identity. Award-winning Connelly's second fictional effort is strong and sure. His pacing could be better--too often he conveys the same information twice--but his plot and characters more than make up for a slow start. This novel establishes him as a writer with a superior talent for storytelling. Copyright

Second tense, tightly wound tangle of a case for Hieronymous Bosch (The Black Echo, 1991). This time out, the LAPD homicide cop, who's been exiled to Hollywood Division for his bumptious behavior, sniffs out the bloody trail of the designer drug ``black ice.'' Connelly (who covers crime for the Los Angeles Times) again flexes his knowledge of cop ways--and of cop-novel clichés. Cast from the hoary mold of the maverick cop, Bosch pushes his way onto the story's core case--the apparent suicide of a narc--despite warnings by top brass to lay off. Meanwhile, Bosch's boss, a prototypical pencil-pushing bureaucrat hoping to close out a majority of Hollywood's murder cases by New Year's Day, a week hence, assigns the detective a pile of open cases belonging to a useless drunk, Lou Porter. One of the cases, the slaying of an unidentified Hispanic, seems to tie in to the death of the narc, which Bosch begins to read as murder stemming from the narc's dirty involvement in black ice. When Porter is murdered shortly after Bosch speaks to him, and then the detective's love affair with an ambitious pathologist crashes, Bosch decides to head for Mexico, where clues to all three murders point. There, the well-oiled, ten- gear narrative really picks up speed as Bosch duels with corrupt cops; attends the bullfights; breaks into a fly-breeding lab that's the distribution center for Mexico's black-ice kingpin; and takes part in a raid on the kingpin's ranch that concludes with Bosch waving his jacket like a matador's cape at a killer bull on the rampage. But the kingpin escapes, leading to a not wholly unexpected twist--and to a touching assignation with the dead narc's widow. Expertly told, and involving enough--but lacking the sheer artistry and heart-clutching thrills of, say, David Lindsay's comparable Stuart Haydon series (Body of Evidence, etc.). -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

A Harry Bosch story is always exciting to read, first he is always in an almost knock down verbal fight with the brass, high above him in the power system. He always does things his way and this is one time the story becomes a cat and mouse game between the detective and the powers over whether or not Bosch will have any part in investigating the death of one of the department's own. The department seemingly leans toward suicide, Bosch says murder and it's at this point that Bosch works his magic in the detective work that leads to a very interesting conclusion. This all happens after a ferocious international fight in Mexico and Bosch's inevitable sexual episode. It is a very entertaining reading if you can keep track of the good guys and the bad guys..

Harry is hated by everyone, all the time, and forever and ever, or so it seems. AGAIN he is on the wrong side of every supervisor. He is a lone wolf and they can't stand it because they can't control him. They see a suicide, he sees a homicide and they despise that he won't let something go. A cop goes missing, then is discovered and the scene had been set up by someone who didn't want the investigating officers to look any further. Of course, Bosch does just the opposite and when the case gets under his skin so deeply, he cannot and will not let it go. His supervisors should know by now that he will get to the bottom, no matter who is on top trying to cover themselves and their associates. He begins to see several cases that are coming together as tied together in a way that would not be obvious unless a tenacious detective got his teeth in it. Black ice. Not that treacherous ice covering bridges and curves, invisible until you're spinning out of control. Black ice is a very dangerous drug that is making itself known and who gets the control is sitting on a gold mine. A trip (unauthorized, of course) to Mexico to discover why a body found in LA has evidence of insects found only one place. This uncovers a plot that has tentacles stretching into Los Angeles and must be stopped. I can't give this five stars because of the continuing (and BORING) theme of his being under scrutiny by IAD.

Detective Hieronymus Bosch's motto is this - 'Everybody counts, or nobody counts'. Bosch cites it often in his work, to remind himself that going after a killer is just as important if the victim is a poor nameless person of little consequence to society, as it would be if the victim was the most famous or important person in the city. Here, Bosch questions whether a death reported as suicide was not in fact a murder. It's particularly significant since the victim is a police officer himself, one of the narcotics squad who had been investigating a drug killing when he was found dead of apparent suicide. Bosch's persistence quickly puts himself at risk as he follows a string of murders in his efforts to piece together the puzzle and find the true killer. This is one of the very early Bosch novels, written in 1993 and second in the series. To date there have been 23 novels featuring Harry Bosch, 21 with him as the main character, plus 2 Mickey Haller stories where he makes brief appearances. Following Bosch through all of the stories and becoming more familiar with him as he becomes an experienced veteran detective, it is very interesting read this story which fills in a great deal of history into Bosch's life and helps explain what motivated him to become a police officer and murder investigator. The ghosts and demons that haunt Bosch become much more clear. It's an excellent story and as a big fan of the Bosch books, one that I consider crucial in filling out my understanding of him as a character. The Wrong Side of Goodbye is the next Harry Bosch novel, released on November 1, 2016.

Harry Bosch, the maverick detective, stumbles into an amazing tale of deceit and drug cartels when one of his fellow officers supposedly commits suicide in a lonely hotel room in Los Angeles. This guy's face was blown off, and there was some oddities surrounding the entire case that kept bugging Bosch. There was an unidentified murder victim that was left in a dumpster, there was a mysterious suicide note, and there was a complicated potential of drug smuggling via some biocontainment vessels that housed sterile fruit flies from Mexico. The fruit flies were legitimate, irradiated in Mexico and transported into the United States to be released into agricultural areas as an eradication technique for the ruinous fruit flies damaging millions of dollars worth of crops. The murder victim in the dumpster had signs of this laboratory in his nostrils which led Bosch to go investigate the plant in Calexico, the border town that has the Mexican counterpart of Mexicali, where the sterile fruit flies were created. All of these circumstances boil into one massive story of drug cartels, bullfighting, a drug lord who is very dangerous, and a mysterious suicide. This is an interesting tale, told through Harry Bosch, who is once again the lone wolf who follows his instincts, not the rules.

I read this book after I read the series. It definitely wasn't one of my favorites and the books become more interesting to me as they go. This one is about Mexican drugs.

I am rereading all the Bosch novels because I am enjoying the TV series so much. Of course there are some significant differences between the novels and the TV scripts and there is a blending of the stories as well. But Connelly's writing is top notch and he obviously plays an important part in maintaining the integrity of the stories when translated to screenplays. I don't think it would make a difference whether one reads the books first or sees the TV series first. Both are terrific!

I have chosen to delve fully into the Bosch series...all 23 and counting. It will take awhile but as I dig into this persona, I can't help but feel Connelly has given his character a solid, real (well, as real as fiction can get), texture....warts and all. I am reading them sequentially to follow the timeline of Harry's personal/professional life. Next up: The Concrete Blonde...sounds intriguing...recommend highly this series.

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