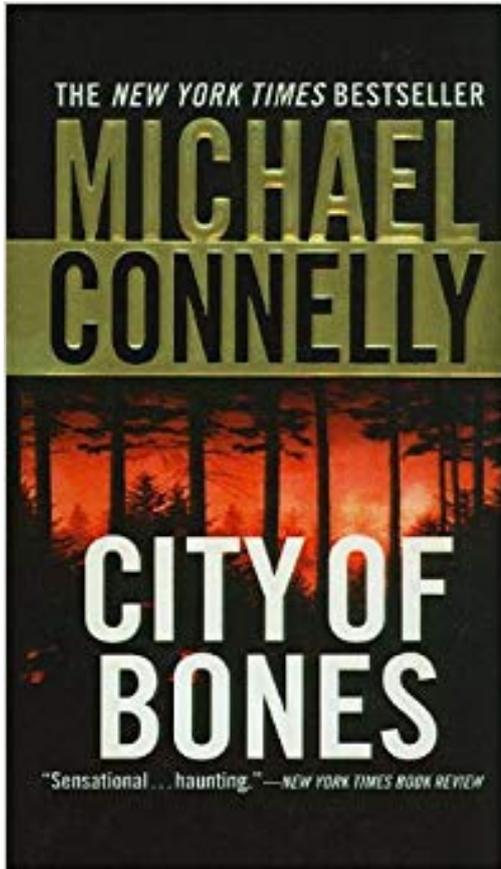


City of Bones (Harry Bosch) by Michael Connelly



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Connelly's powerful New York Times bestseller finds Detective Harry Bosch intent on solving a 20-year-old murder case--with an explosive ending that will leave all Bosch fans shocked and breathless. Great, gulp-in-one-sitting fun.--Entertainment Weekly.



Reviews of the City of Bones (Harry Bosch) by Michael Connelly

Samulkree

My husband and I recently watched the Amazon series Bosch based on Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch books. I thought it was excellent and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys that sort of thing. The story told in City of Bones was one of the ones that was dramatized for the television series, but there were differences between what appeared on screen and Connelly's written version. I think I like the book better, although the dramatization was interesting also.

The story begins on New Year's Day when a dog returns to his owner, while they are walking in the Hollywood Hills, carrying a bone he has dug up. His owner is a retired doctor and he recognizes the bone as the humerus of a child. He contacts the police and Harry Bosch, working the holiday, takes the call.

Harry goes to the area and begins the search for other bones. He finds them pretty easily. They are scattered over an area up in the hills. It looks like they have been there for a long time.

Soon the Medical Examiner and anthropologists are on the scene and, in time, it is determined that the bones have been in place since the late '70s or early '80s. Through dogged investigation, Bosch and his partner Jerry Edgar are able to confirm that the bones belong to a child who disappeared in May of 1980. The medical examination of the bones confirms further that the child - a 12-year-old boy - was beaten to death.

Not only was the victim beaten to death but throughout his short life, he had been systematically and cruelly abused. Bosch is deeply affected by this discovery, at least in part because of his own troubled childhood, and he vows to find the perpetrator of this crime and bring him to justice.

As we follow the twists and turns of the investigation, the body count begins to mount. A completely innocent man, who lives in the neighborhood where the child's bones were found, commits suicide because, in the course, of the investigation, an old secret of his is unearthed and it is leaked to a reporter who makes the assumption that he is the guilty person. The resulting notoriety of the media mania is more than the man can take.

On the trail of a potential witness, the police operation attempting to bring the man in for questioning goes horribly awry and a rookie police officer, seeking her own version of glory and heroism, is shot. Harry witnesses what happened, putting him in a difficult position because he knows that the man they were attempting to capture was not resisting and had nothing to do with the shooting. This is made even more difficult by his personal relationship with that police officer and the fact that she dies from her wound. (This was one of the differences between the book and the TV show.)

Through all of this, the mystery just seems to get murkier and it appears that Bosch and his team are not making any headway; however, persistence pays off and finally the solution to the mystery comes together, but before the final piece of the puzzle can be put in place, another person is killed.

So, three dead bodies join the bones of the dead child, but, in the end, the stubbornness of Harry Bosch wins the day. Solving murders is a sacred mission for him. It is his religion, and he always holds fast to that. It makes him a very good detective. It also makes him one difficult bugger to work with, even when he isn't deliberately trying to step on people's toes.

The ending of this novel was a bit of a surprise (no spoilers) and it will be interesting to see where the series goes after this. There are twelve more (so far) books in the series, so we know that Harry will be around to entertain us for a while. And that's a good thing.

Keth

Harry Bosch is still a cop but he's approaching that point in his career, with over twenty-five years of service, when he can be retired by administrative action. He and his partner, Jerry Edgar, catch a very old case involving the murder of a ten year old boy over twenty years ago.

Harry is also involved on a personal level with a younger police officer named Julia Brasher. They

have to be extra careful not to advertise their affair or it will be all over the squad room before you could say Jack Sprat. Such a liaison would be a career killer for both police officers.

This book shows how Bosch and Edgar perform a slow and methodical search of what evidence remains and those clues which can be unearthed, so to speak. The plot moves along the rim of a giant circle and eventually reaches a point where Bosch, Edgar and higher police authorities are satisfied that justice has been served.

It's a good read but, all things considered, it's more of a detailed police procedural on a cold case rather than an action-filled detective mystery.

Yozshujinn

When you read a murder mystery, you have some expectations. Unlike in the real world where the killer and the motive are usually more apparent, you expect some minimum things from your murder mystery even if those things aren't necessarily realistic because you're reading a piece of fiction. You want some twists and turns, you want some thrills, but most importantly, you want a good climatic ending with the killer where you come to understand what the motive was for the murder. In this novel, you get investigational focuses that lead nowhere and are dropped like a brick, you get a romance that ultimately added nothing to the book (as opposed to some other Bosch novels where the romance helped flesh out details about our hero), and by the end of the book, you have major unanswered questions about a major plot point in the middle of the book that is never adequately explained and about the motive of the killer at the end of the book, to say nothing about the fact that the murder weapon is never even identified. The premise is something that could have made for a good book, but it wasn't executed upon. It feels like a book that was rushed to get out on the market.

Stick

Other reviewers have provided a synopsis of this book where Harry Bosch and Jerry Edgar are working on a case from 20 years prior, only 20 years ago, it would have been a disappearance of a child and now it is a murder. Most of the action revolves around police procedures; and there is the added plot line of Harry's romantic involvement with a considerably younger rookie female officer. I did not feel that there was much depth in exploring or presenting either character in this relationship. Julia is shot and killed under questionable circumstances when they only knew one another for a couple of weeks and had been together only a few times. All about her, even his meeting with her Dad at the grave site, is left in a shroud of mystery and superficiality; yet I did not think she was simply a diversion for Bosch. I gave it 4 Stars because of that. The body count surrounding this case rises quickly; however, Harry does find the murderer to his own satisfaction. The ending was unexpected; and provided the first time in this series that I truly hoped Harry would see the Department's psychiatrist. Suppressing his feelings did not seem redemptive at all to me; and Harry is definitely on a search for redemption and forgiveness.

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