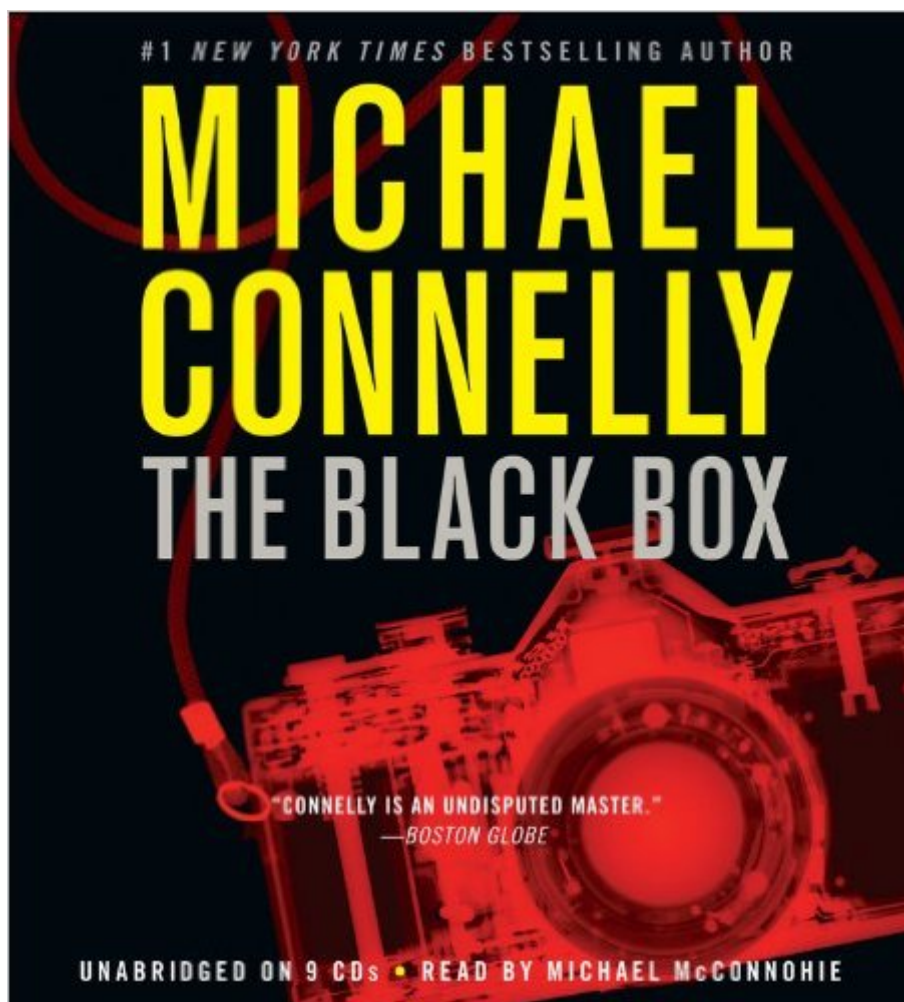


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The Black Box (A Harry Bosch Novel)



Synopsis

In a case that spans 20 years, Harry Bosch links the bullet from a recent crime to a file from 1992, the killing of a young female photographer during the L.A. riots. Harry originally investigated the murder, but it was then handed off to the Riot Crimes Task Force and never solved. Now Bosch's ballistics match indicates that her death was not random violence, but something more personal, and connected to a deeper intrigue. Like an investigator combing through the wreckage after a plane crash, Bosch searches for the "black box," the one piece of evidence that will pull the case together. Riveting and relentlessly paced, *THE BLACK BOX* leads Harry Bosch, "one of the greats of crime fiction" (New York Daily News), into one of his most fraught and perilous cases.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After so many Harry Bosch stories you would think they should start to run out of steam - IMHO this is not so. Michael Connelly is a consummate author who can keep a great character running and evolving and continue to produce a top-class page-turning police procedural. In the last book, after a short retirement Harry Bosch returned to the LAPD with a 5 year contract under the Deferred Retirement Option Plan - "The DROP". He now works with the Open Unsolved Unit chasing up cold cases. In 1999, at the height of the LA Riots, Bosch briefly gets involved with the discovery of the gunshot death of a pretty female free-lance Danish press photographer who was apparently killed as part of the riot. This case had always troubled Bosch and he gladly accepts the challenge although after all that time the trail has gone cold. Bosch is an impatient detective - to him

momentum is everything. Once he is on the trail he is a bloodhound who never lets up until he finds a break. He calls this "The Black Box" because, similar to air crash investigation a single verified clue may open up the whole case. After diligent and clever police work Bosch finds his Black Box and discovers a web of intrigue and violence going back to the first Gulf War. Working the case in his normal independent manner is not helped by his a strained relationship with and lack of respect for the competence of his superiors at LAPD, especially his current Lieutenant (O'Toole - nickname "O'Fool"). "You are the worst kind of police officer, Bosch. You are arrogant, a bully, and you think the laws and regulations don't apply to you.

In 1992, Detective Harry Bosch and his partner, Jerry Edgar, were on emergency rotation during the infamous Los Angeles riots, and were "dispatched to any place they were needed--wherever a body turned up." Fires, looting, and gang violence transformed L. A. into a war zone, with "all semblance of dignity and moral code gone in the smoke that rose over the city." In order to deal with a tidal wave of looting, revenge killings, and scores of other incidents, the police had to cut corners. "In the chaos of the moment the mission was simple: preserve the evidence, document the scene as best and as fast as possible, and collect the dead." Bosch and Edgar roll up to an alley near Crenshaw Boulevard, where a thirty-two year old Danish photojournalist had been shot in the head at close range. The deceased is Anneke Jespersen, whom Edgar nicknames "Snow White." Bosch finds a 9mm shell casing at the scene but little else, and for twenty years, Jespersen's murder remains unsolved. In 2012, Harry takes another look, knowing that finding Jespersen's killer after so much time has elapsed is, at best, a long shot. "The Black Box" is vintage Connelly, and Bosch is as stubborn and relentless as ever. He ignores his superiors when they try to derail him and pursues every lead, no matter how small, with a laser-like focus. Harry visits San Quentin to interview a gangbanger; traces an intriguing phone call that was placed ten years after Anneke's death; and asks for help from anyone who may be able to shed light on his case. With a bit of luck and solid detective work, he manages to narrow down his list of suspects to a few individuals who may have been responsible for a vicious crime and cover-up.

Harry is still working on closed cases and he decides to re-open the "Snow White" case. When he was an officer during the 1992 LA riots he came upon a murdered Danish reporter Anneke Jespersen, who was found dead by a National Guardsman. Harry was never able to solve that mystery and it basically went dormant for 20 years. The fact that he never found Jespersen's killer had always gnawed at him and the 20th anniversary sets him to dive back into it. In the meantime he

has annoyed his new group leader (O'Toole) and pretty soon the PSB (formally Internal Affairs) is investigating Harry for improprieties when he visited his girlfriend's (Hannah) son in prison. Harry is no longer a regular detective as he is in his four year DROP period and he could be let go for the merest infraction. As Harry starts to investigate the Jespersen case, he gets more blowback from O'Toole making him think that those that sit on the 10th floor are against him and are behind the PSB investigation. This makes Harry more determined to work on the case. Harry learns that a call was made to the police from Modesto, CA on the 10th anniversary of the murder and when Harry looks into that call, it is the clue he needs to really start the case going. His partner Chu had told Harry that every case has a "Black Box" which is the one clue that can break the case wide open. Harry has to work the case solo and let Chu work in the background because he is afraid that O'Toole will come after Chu too. Harry is relentless at pursuing all clues in his usual direct manner. The story gets hot and heavy as Harry must quickly solve the case before he is ousted from his job and must go after the bad guys without a partner for backup.

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