



Book of the Week

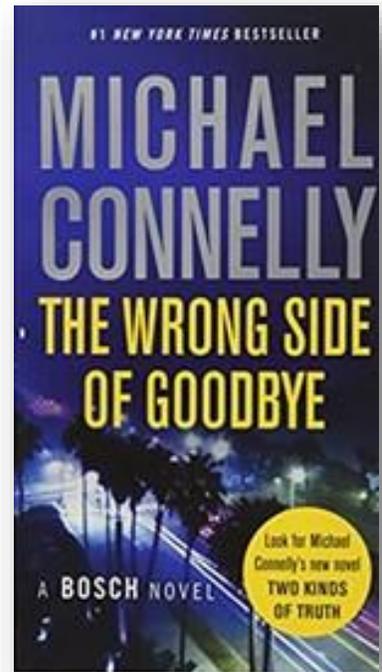
***The Wrong Side of Goodbye* by Michael Connelly**

Book Review by Wayne Wilkerson

Michael Connelly has written 36 books of fiction. Many of them, probably over 30, focus on the exploits of a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) detective named Harry Bosch. Several of the other books deal with Harry's half-brother Mickey Haller, also known as the Lincoln Lawyer. Harry sometimes shows up in Mickey's adventures, which often walk a fine line between the search for justice and a large settlement. Harry, on the other hand, has very little gray in his life. You are either in the wrong or in the right, resulting in fireworks with both co-workers and bosses. The same goes for his relationship with Mickey, since Mickey works for the Dark Side, AKA a defense attorney. But they do make a good team, and usually wind up on the winning side.

In a previous book Harry files suit against the LAPD, and as a result he retires from the force and becomes a very selective private investigator. He can do this since he has a 30-year pension and a paid for house in the hills above Los Angeles. He also is an unsalaried, part-time detective for the San Fernando Police Department (SFPD), a job that keeps him from being bored. He has a daughter who by this time is in her early 20's and is enrolled in college in Southern California. Her mother, a former FBI agent turned professional gambler (don't ask), was killed as a result of one of Harry's previous investigations. Harry has many acquaintances, but very few close friends. His work is his life, and his life is solving tough cases.

The case that forms the primary theme of this book deals with a Howard Hughes type of billionaire, Whitney Vance, who wants to know if he has any heirs from a previous relationship. Mr. Vance is dying, so this adds some urgency to the search. Harry is also working a case for the SFPD involving a serial rapist called the Screen Cutter. So, the author is forced to manage Harry's time carefully since he has two fast moving crime/plot lines, and well, Harry is the main character. Harry has a secondary interest in



the search since he was a Vietnam veteran, and one of the main characters also served in the conflict. I do not want to give any more of the plot(s) away, since part of the joy of reading a book is to try and figure out how the story line will be resolved. But I will tell you the book has an outcome that will satisfy fans of *Blue Bloods*. If you have read any of the other Harry Bosch novels, you will know what I mean.

Michael Connelly is a dependable writer with an eye for detail. That is one of the writing traits I look for in an author. For a series that is set in the Valley of the Angels, I want to know where to go to listen to good jazz and be served an ice cold (very important) martini, or what is the quickest way to get from downtown LA to Mulholland Drive during rush hour. Connelly is also a prolific writer, churning out about a book a year. This book will not be read by college students in their American lit class. But it is a good one for the beach or a four-hour flight. I believe the next Harry Bosch novel, *The Dark Hours*, is scheduled to be released November 9, 2021. This time he is teamed up with another partner from his LAPD day named Renee Ballard.

Michael Connelly is as dependable as a Landon Sims fastball. I hope you will enjoy this series as much as I have.

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