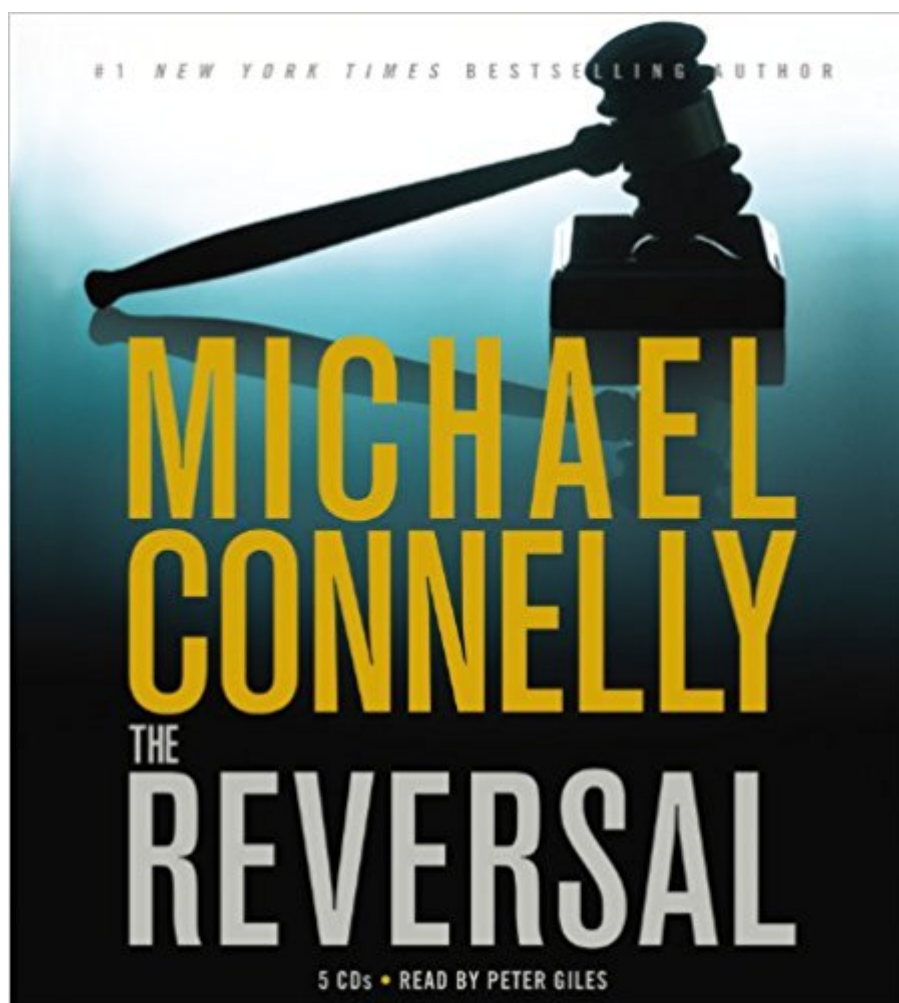


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The Reversal



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Customer Reviews

Connelly's new thriller features two of his series heroes-the wily defense attorney Mickey Haller and his half-brother, LAPD detective Harry Bosch. This time Haller is working the other side of the courtroom, as a special independent prosecutor trying to keep a very nasty child molester and killer behind bars, with Bosch doing his legwork. As we've seen in *The Brass Verdict*, the author has Haller narrating his chapters, while the Bosch-centered sections are told in the third person. For the former, Peter Giles has developed a breezy, fast-paced vocal approach, while the detective's process is presented in a tougher, no frills manner. Additional characters are provided their own unique voices, including the smooth-talking district attorney, the arrogant villain, Haller's icy-but-melting former wife, and a brave but wavering witness to the crime. Not only is the production highly entertaining, the package is particularly generous, offering an additional two CDs containing unabridged MP3-format versions of *The Reversal* and the previous Haller-Bosch match, *The Brass Verdict*, also read by Giles. A Little, Brown hardcover. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Connelly may be our most versatile crime writer. His Harry Bosch series has taken the hard-boiled cop novel to a new level of complexity, both in its portrayal of the hero's inner life and in Connelly's ability to intertwine landscape and meaning. His Mickey Haller novels, on the other hand, starring the maverick lawyer who uses his Lincoln Town Car as an office, are testaments to the sublime architecture of plot. With the crime novel now commonly rubbing

elbows with literary fiction, it sometimes seems that pure story has become a forgotten stepchild. In his Haller novels, Connelly reminds us how satisfying it can be to follow the path of a well-constructed plot. So it is here, in the third Haller novel, which finds the antiestablishment attorney accepting an unlikely offer: a one-time gig as a prosecutor, retrying a case in which a killer's 24-year-old conviction has been overturned on the basis of DNA. Taking second chair will be Haller's ex-wife, the formidable Maggie, with Harry Bosch (identified in *The Brass Verdict*, 2008, as Haller's half brother) serving as special investigator. The table is set for a straightforward legal thriller, albeit one starring three superbly multidimensional characters. And, yet, Connelly bobs and weaves around all our expectations. There is suspense, of course, and there are plenty of surprises, both in the courtroom and outside of it, but this is a plot that won't be pigeonholed. Reading this book is like watching a master craftsman, slowly and carefully, brick by brick, build something that holds together exquisitely, form and function in perfect alignment. --Bill Ott --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I like reading a series of books with one main character. I get to know them. I have therefore read all of Michael Connelly's books centered on the Detective Bosch. Because I finished all of them I tried other authors with less success and then returned to read some of his other books of Connelly's centering on other characters. I like Bosch the best (when he was active in the police department), the Lawyer Haller was good, and the the reporter was McElroy was also ok. This book however, which is really about the lawyer Haller is the best of all because it engages several of the characters I have come to know. Haller is the focus of the book of course, but Bosch has a major roll and the FBI profiler makes a major contribution. The book was detailed enough in its story that you knew what was happening and it felt possible, it had sufficient character interactions and development to hold interest beyond the story, and the story ended with the unexpected. My favorite of his books so far.

I've been catching up on past Connelly's and was excited to get to this second Lincoln Lawyer book but it was a big disappointment. Too much legal procedure and endless details about things that didn't become important in the story. There was also very little suspense or drama (the big "drama" there was, was totally predictable and at the same time just over the top) and --worst of all -- there were questions left hanging at the end. I don't know if it was a set up book for the next installment and whether those questions will be answered, but rather than intrigue me, it just fatigued me. This book was easy to put down and hard to finish. Sorry to be so negative but this one really felt as if

Connelly was on a tight deadline and just threw stuff on the page to get his word count. Can't recommend this one.

This is not one of Connelly's best but it's still readable enough. One of the complaints is that there are no surprises here, no twists and turns. It's just a mildly interesting story about an incarcerated man being re-tried for a murder he committed years before but contains no real element of suspense or mystery. The unusual element of the story is the fact that defense lawyer Mickey Haller is picked as an independent prosecutor, whatever that means. This is really silly as well as wildly improbable, if not actually impossible. What the point of it is I'm not sure, unless it's just a device to have Bosch and Haller work together. Whatever the reason, it makes no sense at all and doesn't work on any level: no DA on the planet would pick someone like Haller -a sleazy defense lawyer who cares nothing about justice, about right or wrong, and who happily frees guilty men on any technicality he can dream up- and in any case he would refuse the job, as the publicity would lose him his credibility and most of his clients. In the first two Haller books we see Mickey with grave doubts about the morality of his profession and even deciding to quit, yet at the end of this one he is relieved to leave the side of justice and return to 'the mission'! WHAT? In spite of this the story plods along agreeably enough until the end, where it simply tails off limply. Connelly's is a good writer but this is one of his poorer efforts. Mildly enjoyable but ultimately falls flat

Even though this is a fictional story, Connelly has a knack for making it seem that he's writing from personal experience. I can feel the emotionalism in his characters. Bosch is a Pitt Bull who never gives up, and relies on his experiences and mms maintains a soldiers sixth sense. Haller and Maggie are cut from the same sheet. Opposites attract, but not in this case since they are painted as true professional lawyers who care about their jobs and that the verdict is the right decision. I would recommend this for readers of suspense, action and drama.

Connelly can do much better. If you're a Bosch fan there's too much Haller; if you're a Haller fan there's probably too much Bosch. Either way one seems to put a dampener on the other. For me there's too much time dedicated to courtroom parlance, which always ultimately becomes repetitive and predictable. If the defence is the underdog the prosecution is always eventually verbally outdone, and vice versa if the underdog is the prosecution; and all the while minimal, if any at all, real action takes place. The ending, too, did little to enhance the read. It was as though the author ran out of

room and had to finish where he did while there was so much scope for a more exciting finale.

I have been reading Connelly's Bosch series from beginning to end. I came next to the Reversal, which is primarily a courtroom drama featuring Mickey Haller. But Bosch is the case investigator. So he features prominently in this book. First of all, it's a Michael Connelly novel -- that about says it all. He has a crisp writing style with rich character development and a tight and complicated plot that keeps the reader engaged and guessing to the end. It is so entertaining to read how a legal case is handled, the many manipulations and tactics that have to be employed by both sides. In this novel, that is particularly seen since Haller (a defense attorney) is asked to prosecute this case. So you end up seeing both sides of the case. It also gives the reader a good idea of how cops investigate these cases in preparation for trial. This is a great plot. One that takes a big twist at the end. I highly recommend all Connelly books and especially the Harry Bosch series (though the Haller series is no slouch either). I recommend reading the series in order to get the most from the character development from one story to the next.

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