

The Law of Innocence Primer

The Law of Innocence takes place just before and at the beginning of the Covid pandemic outbreak in Los Angeles, between Monday October 28, 2019 and Monday March 9, 2020.

The Law of Innocence is Michael Connelly's 35th book.

He considers it Book #6 in the Mickey Haller, Lincoln Lawyer (legal thriller) series (7 books). He has three other series besides the Mickey Haller books:

- The LAPD Detective Harry Bosch police procedural series (25 books)
- The LAPD Detective Reneé Ballard police procedural series (6 books)
- The Jack McEvoy - investigative reporter series (3 books)

Yet many times two or more of these are featured in the same book. They and many lesser repeating characters make up the Bosch-Haller Universe.

Key fact: Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller are half-brothers.

Despite all of that, Connelly does a good job making each book clear to every new reader, no matter what book(s) you start with.

I started years ago with random books, got hooked, and then decided to read all the Bosch-Haller Universe books in published order. It was a wonderful treat. I've done this now more than twice

None of the following is necessary to enjoy the book. Consider it all extra.

- The club website has a written blurb, a one minute video blurb by the author, "What to Expect," a lengthy write-up on the author's life and influences, and a few more links for in depth background information: All at: mysterybookfan.com/
- Reference chart on the main protagonists: page 2
- A Harry Bosch backgrounder: page 3-4
- All Connelly books in published order: page 5
- A chart that tries to show the relationship between the Haller and Bosch books, starting with first Haller book, *The Lincoln Lawyer*: page 6

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- *The Law of Innocence* will be released as a 10 part series TV show later this year as "Series 4" - the final series of some of the Mickey Haller books made for Netflix TV.

Mickey Haller	Harry Bosch
Birthname: J. Michael Haller, Jr. (b 1965)	Birthname: Hieronymous Bosch (b 1950)
Birth Father: J. Michael Haller, Sr. (Died in 1970) Prominent defense lawyer. [At least] Two known marriages; [at least] one known secret relationship with a prostitute, Marjorie Phillips Lowe. Long-time address: Canon Drive, Beverly Hills	
Birth Mother: [name unknown, but of Mexican ancestry.] The second known wife of J. Michael Haller, Sr.	Birth Mother: Marjorie Phillips Lowe. (Murdered in 1961 when Harry was 11 years old and living at a Youth Shelter.)
Marriage: He was married twice, now single: First Wife: Margaret "Maggie McFierce" McPherson – married 8 years; Mother of daughter Hayley Haller (b 1997). Career as an LA County Prosecutor who takes her work so seriously that she found it hard to be married to a defense attorney. 2nd Wife: Lorna Taylor – married 1 year; no children. She was, and continues to be, long time friend as well as office manager for Mickey (works from her condo). After her divorce from Haller she began dating P.I. Dennis Wojciechowski. By 2007 they were living together and married later that year.	Marriage: He was married once and has had several dating relationships over the years, but they typically come to an end (whether 6 months or 3-4 years) due to Harry's tendency to be obsessed with a case but especially because he takes for himself high risk strategies while on the job, that stress out the women who love him. Only Wife: [Not naming her due to possible spoiler if you choose to read through the Bosch books.] Mother of daughter Madeline "Maddie" Bosch (b. 1997). From the age of 13, Maddie lived with Harry.
What he Knows: Mickey knows about his older half-brother (also a lawyer) and three half-sisters from his father's first marriage. But he has no knowledge of Harry until he meets Detective Bosch when Mickey assumes the caseload of a murdered attorney, as told in The Brass Verdict .	What he Knows: Harry has known about his "other family" since he was 20 years old (and Mickey was 5), but he never initiated contact with any of the half-siblings, until an LAPD assignment in 2008 brought him into direct contact with Mickey. That case is told in The Brass Verdict .
First Book Appearance: The Lincoln Lawyer . Pub: 2005. Story occurs in 2005. He's 40.	First Book Appearance: The Black Echo . Pub: 1992. Story takes place in 1990. He's 40.
In The Law of Innocence: Mickey is 54. Hayley just graduated from Chapman College and is in her first year of Law School at USC.	In The Law of Innocence: Harry is 69 years old, retired. Maddie graduated from Chapman College and is in the LAPD Police Academy.

"The Team" Supporting Haller in this Book

Lorna Taylor: Mickey's 2nd wife, now divorced. Long-time friend and office manager. She keeps the files and answers the phone from her condo.

Dennis Wojciechowski: Former biker, client of Mickey's, now a private investigator that often works for Mickey. He and Lorna were married in about 2007.

Harry Bosch: Mickey's half-brother, retired LAPD detective, able and willing to help with additional investigative work for this case.

Jennifer Aronson: Staff attorney. Joined the firm originally to work on foreclosure cases, she is diligent and competent, and has recently assisted with Mickey's criminal defense cases.

Maggie McPherson: Mickey's first wife, and mother of Hayley. A county prosecutor with a lot of experience. Typically, she and Mickey have trouble getting along because she represents the State and he represents "the scum." Not now. Now, she does what she can to save him.

More About Harry Bosch

Harry was introduced in Michael Connelly's first published book as a 40-year-old Los Angeles Police Department homicide detective in 1990. It was published in 1992 – it took Connelly a while to write the book and especially to find a publisher. By his tenth book (if not before), Connelly set each book in the year it was published.

By the end of the first four Harry Bosch books, we learn a lot about Harry's back story.

- Harry's mother (Marjorie Phillips Lowe) was a prostitute. His father was a married, well-known, successful defense attorney, Michael Haller [Sr.].
- When Harry was born in 1950, his mother gave him the name (on his birth certificate), Hieronymous Bosch, based on an artist whose work she admired. His mother raised him, while a prostitute, keeping his father a secret even though Mr. Haller represented her every time she was arrested (at least eight times between 1948 and 1960).
- When Harry was 10 years old (1960), he was taken from his mother by social services and placed in the McLaren Youth Shelter [a real place from 1956 to 2003 - with horrific news accounts.] His mother visited regularly and was trying to get him back.
- But Harry's mother was murdered - found dead in a Hollywood alley in October, 1961. Harry was then termed, "Available to Adopt." He moved through a series of foster homes until he was 17 when he joined the army after convincing his foster "Dad" to sign for him.
- Harry spent several years (1967-1969) in Vietnam as a tunnel rat.
- Out of the army at 20 years old, he is curious about his father. He finds out his father's name and address using public records. He goes to his father's large home only to find his father dying of cancer and that he is attended by his current wife including several children older than Harry (at least one is a lawyer like the father) and one boy 5 years old; these are all half brothers and sisters to Harry. He learns later that the 5 year old was named J. Michael Haller, Jr. This is the boy who becomes the Mickey Haller in ***The Law of Innocence***.
- In August of 1970 Harry signs up for the LAPD. He gets his badge after graduating from the Police Academy in 1971.
- Harry progressed quickly from patrol officer to a divisional detective within eight years, and getting promoted to the elite Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) shortly thereafter.
- At RHD, he and his partner solved a major case, and they were each given a generous consulting fee in exchange for information to create a TV show

based on that case. Harry used his fee in 1982 as a down payment to buy his house at 7207 Woodrow Wilson Drive. (Note: if you watch the BOSCH Amazon Prime series, they do not use this address. Indeed, the house they use in the show is snazzier (more expensive) and more recently built than the house in the book. After the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, Harry rebuilds the house with some changes: 1) From one bedroom to two bedrooms; 2) a trap door escape for safety and security; 3) making earthquake-required building code improvements.

- Working a task force to identify and stop the "Dollmaker" serial killer in 1989, Bosch, following a tip, went to an address and found the suspect in bed. Bosch shot and killed suspect Norman Church when Church reached under his pillow for what might have been a gun. Following that incident, crime scene analysis confirmed that Church was in fact the serial killer. However, Bosch was punished for what the Department felt was an unjustified shooting: (1) he was demoted out of RHD and told to report to Hollywood Division as a divisional detective after, (2) a one-month suspension took place during September, 1989.
- ALL OF THE ABOVE takes place *before* Bosch Book #1, ***The Black Echo***, which takes place in 1990.
- 1990-2002: Harry is an LAPD Homicide Detective III, working out of the Hollywood Division Station. (This is up through and including ***City of Bones***.)
- 2003-2004: Harry has left the LAPD and is working as a private investigator. (This includes two books: ***Lost Light*** and ***The Narrows***.)
- 2005-2014: Harry is back in the LAPD under a special program for bringing back experienced, good performers known as Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) [this was a real thing]. He works for RHD in the "Open-Unsolved Unit" and for a few years in the "Homicide Special Unit." This includes books up to and including ***The Burning Room***. At this point, Harry is 64. He quits the LAPD.
- 2015-2019: Harry can't stop trying to solve cases. As a private investigator again, he takes a few cases, including one as Mickey's investigator (***The Crossing***), several as a volunteer for the San Fernando Police Department, and finally "hobby cases" (based on unsolved crimes from LAPD days that haunt him.)
- 2019: Now, Harry will do everything he can to help Mickey who has been framed for murder at the start of ***The Law of Innocence***.

ALL CONNELLY BOOKS IN PUBLISHED ORDER

See also: http://www.stopyourekillngme.com/C_Authors/Connelly_Michael.html

Books #9 and 12 are non-Bosch-Haller universe.

1.	The Black Echo (1992) Bosch #1
2.	The Black Ice (1993) Bosch #2
3.	The Concrete Blonde (1994) Bosch #3
4.	The Last Coyote (1995) Bosch #4
5.	The Poet (1996) McEvoy #1; Walling #1
6.	Trunk Music (1997) Bosch #5
7.	Bloodwork (1998) McCaleb #1
8.	Angels Flight (1999) Bosch #6
9.	Void Moon (2000) Standalone
10.	A Darkness More Than Night (2001) Bosch #7 McCaleb #2
11.	City of Bones (2002) Bosch #8
12.	Chasing the Dime (2002) Standalone
13.	Lost Light (2003) Bosch #9
14.	The Narrows (2004) Bosch #10; Walling #2 ; McCaleb #3
15.	The Closers (2005) Bosch #11
16.	The Lincoln Lawyer (2005) Haller #1
17.	Echo Park (2006) Bosch #12; Walling #3
18.	The Overlook (2007) Bosch #13; Walling #4
19.	The Brass Verdict (2008) Haller #2; Bosch #14
20.	Nine Dragons (2009) Bosch #15
21.	The Scarecrow (2009) McEvoy #2; Walling #5
22.	The Reversal (2010) Bosch #16; Haller #3
23.	The Drop (2011) Bosch #17
24.	The Fifth Witness (2011) Haller #4
25.	The Black Box (2012) Bosch #18
26.	The Gods of Guilt (2013) Haller #5
27.	The Burning Room (2014) Bosch #19
28.	The Crossing (2015) Haller #6; Bosch #20
29.	The Wrong Side of Goodbye (2016) Bosch #21
30.	Two Kinds of Truth (2017) Bosch #22
31.	The Late Show (2017) Ballard #1
32.	Dark Sacred Night (2018) Ballard #2; Bosch #23
33.	The Night Fire (2019) Ballard #3; Bosch #24
34.	Fair Warning (2020) McEvoy #3; Walling #6
35.	The Law of Innocence (2020) Haller #7; Bosch #25
36.	The Dark Hours (2021) Ballard #4; Bosch #26
37.	Desert Star (2022) Bosch #27; Ballard #5
38.	Resurrection Walk (2023) Mostly Haller #8; Bosch #28
39.	The Waiting (2024) Mostly Ballard #6; Bosch #29; Maddie #1

** *Nine Dragons*: I urge you to SKIP this book until you have read *at minimum*: pink books #1, 6, 8, 13 & 14.

Read All the Mickey Haller Books in Order

Only 3 books (yellow with ▼) have stories that do not include Harry Bosch (his half-brother); #1, #4, and #5.
To read the Mickey stories, read the yellow and green books.

M.C. Book #	ALL OF THE OFFICIAL* MICKEY HALLER BOOKS This color ▼ = NO Bosch	PARTIAL LIST OF THE OFFICIAL* HARRY BOSCH BOOKS This color ▼ = NO Haller
16	#1 The Lincoln Lawyer (2005) ▼	
17		#12 Echo Park (2006) ▼
18		#13 The Overlook (2007) ▼
19	#2 The Brass Verdict (2008) – also featuring Harry Bosch	
20	<i>The Scarecrow (2009)</i> does not have Harry or Mickey - It's the Jack McEvoy #2 book.	
21		#14 Nine Dragons (2009) ** – Mickey Haller appears briefly near the end.
22	#3 The Reversal (2010) – also featuring Harry Bosch	
23 & 24	#4 The Fifth Witness (2011) ▼	#15 The Drop (2011) ▼
25		#16 The Black Box (2012) ▼
26	#5 The Gods of Guilt (2013) ▼	
27		#17 The Burning Room (2014) ▼
28		#18 The Crossing (2015) – also featuring Mickey Haller
29		#19 The Wrong Side Of Goodbye (2016) - has Mickey Haller in a few chapters
30	<i>The Late Show (2017)</i> does not have Harry or Mickey - It's the Reneé Ballard #1 book.	
31		#20 Two Kinds of Truth (2017) – with Mickey Haller in a few chapters
32		#21 Dark Sacred Night (2018) ▼
33		#22 The Night Fire (2019) – with Mickey Haller in a few chapters
34	<i>Fair Warning (2020)</i> does not have Harry or Mickey - It's the Jack McEvoy #3 book.	
35	#6 The Law of Innocence (2020) – also featuring Harry Bosch	
36		#23 The Dark Hours (2021) ▼
37		#24 Desert Star (2022) – Mickey Haller appears briefly
38	#7 Resurrection Walk (2023) – also featuring Harry Bosch	

* Official just means that it is the order used on the Michael Connelly website for each series.

** *Nine Dragons*: I urge you to SKIP this book until you have read *at minimum*: pink books #1, 6, 8, 13 & 14 on page 5.

**My Favorite Nugget from the
michaelconnelly.com website**

Q: What are your long term goals as a writer?

Michael Connelly: I just want to keep on keeping on. I want to grow as a writer and get better. I want to keep the Harry Bosch series fresh and alive. I want to keep filling in the portrait of Bosch so that when I am done with him he is a fully realized and understood human being, a person that the readers who have gone the distance with him know like a brother.

First posted on website on 2011 and still there.

Michael Connelly on Heroes

People like Harry Bosch have made a noble bargain. I have drawn him from people I know who have made a noble bargain. They have to look at people in the autopsy room. They have to get to know people they didn't know until they were dead and still find the fire to do what they have to do. That's what has fascinated me about some of the detectives I met as a reporter and some I know personally now. It's hard to do that job "right." We are in an era now where there is a lot of anti-police sentiment, and it is deserved based on horrible things that police have done. That's the challenge. It is getting harder to do that work, and yet there are people that will still take that bargain: I'm going to do this and if I do it right, people probably won't know, but if I mess up, they are going to know. That is modern-day nobility to me.

---Michael Connelly, Interview with Ona Russell, Authors in the Tent, July 20, 2023