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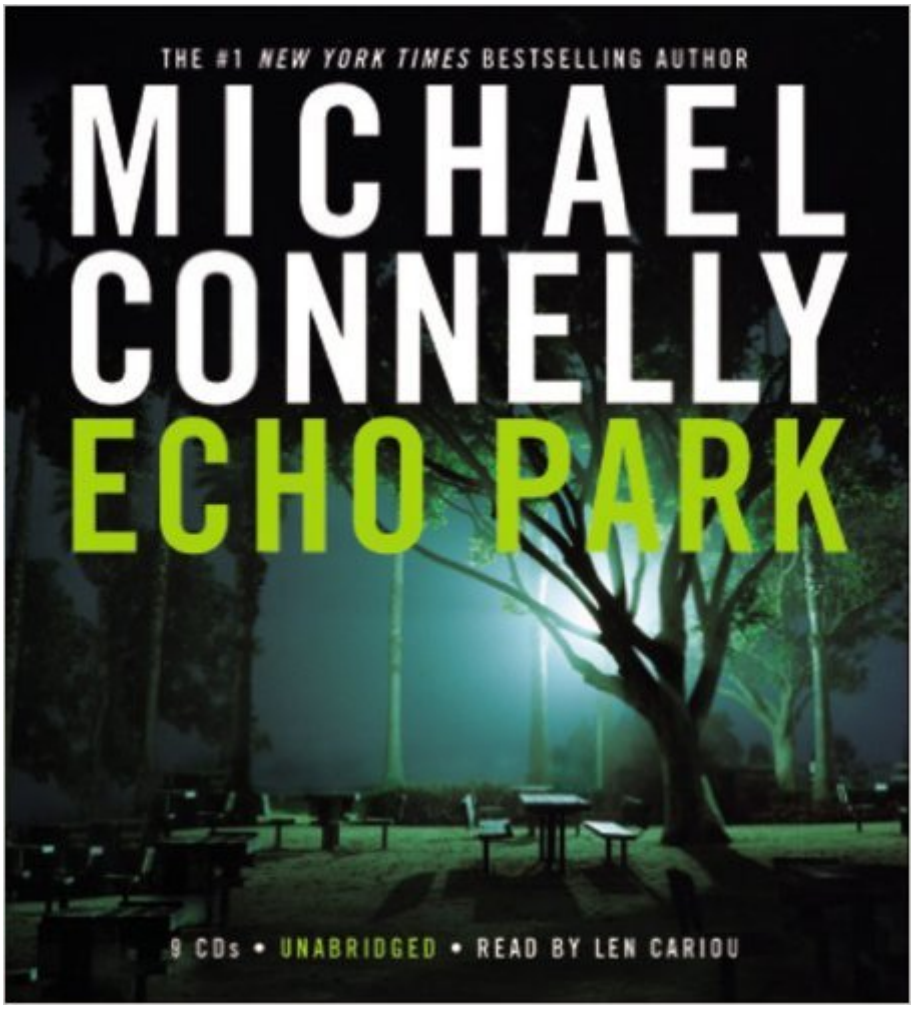
Echo Park (A Harry Bosch Novel)



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Synopsis

In 1995, Marie Gesto disappeared after walking out of a supermarket in Hollywood. Harry Bosch worked the case but couldn’t crack it, and the 22-year-old woman never turned up, dead or alive. Now Bosch is in the Open-Unsolved Unit, where he still keeps the Gesto file on his desk, when he gets a call from the DA. A man accused of two heinous killings is willing to come clean about several other murders, including the killing of Marie Gesto. Bosch must now take Raynard Waits’s confession and get close to the man he has sought - and hated - for eleven years. But when Bosch learns that he and his partner missed a clue back in 1995 that could have led them to Gesto’s killer - and that would have stopped nine murders that followed - he begins to crack.Michael Connelly’s suspenseful new novel pits the detective People magazine calls "one of the most complex crime fighters around" against one of the most sadistic killers he has ever confronted. It confirms that Michael Connelly "is the best writer of suspense fiction working today" (Richmond Times-Dispatch).

Book Information

Series: A Harry Bosch Novel

Audio CD

Publisher: Little, Brown & Company; Abridged edition (October 14, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600245250

ISBN-13: 978-1600245251

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (772 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In Echo Park, Michael Connelly’s eighteenth novel, Detective Harry Bosch works a thirteen year old case - The abduction and assumed murder of twenty-two year old Marie Gesto. The story opens with a flash back to 1993 where Bosch and his then partner Jerry Edgars discover the victims car in a garage assigned to an vacant apartment in a Hollywood landmark.They never found Marie Gesto and her case became one of Bosch’s cause celebre cases, reviewing the case from time to time. This seems to something Bosch seems do with regularity, having taken other so-called cold cases

under his wing. Anyway, the cold case of de jour for this story was the Gesto case, which becomes part of a serial murderer's confession in a plea agreement.This doesn't sit well with Bosch, since he had pegged another individual as the perp. As the story plays out Bosch's suspicions are substantiated. On a field trip to disinter Gesto's remains, The serial killer, Raynard Waits, grabs a detective's gun killing him and another police officer, then wounds Bosch's present partner, Kiz Rider. The fact that his partner is critically wounded, keeps Bosch from pursuing Waits allowing the serial killer to escape.In his efforts to gain an understanding of the Waits, Bosch calls Rachel Walling, an FBI agent and former profiler he cooperated with in the past. She becomes loosely involved in the investigation and as in the past, the two became romantically involved.As in the past it was a mistake, on both Bosch's and Connelly's part. Connelly, a great mystery writer, is no romance writer. He's as awkward and clumsy at romance as is his protagonist.

Settling in with a new Harry Bosch book by Michael Connelly is like getting together with an old, close friend you haven't seen in a long while. Harry is still with LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit along with his partner, Kiz Ridder. Returning to the police force after a short, unsatisfying retirement, Harry still looks at cases from long ago, cases that he had a hand in, but were never solved. One of these files concerns Marie Gesto, a 22 year old woman, who disappeared in 1993. Her car was found in an apartment garage, her clothes neatly folded and stacked on the front seat. The case has bothered Harry for 13 years, Now there's a break: Reynard Waits was stopped for a traffic violation in the Echo Park area. The officers spotted a plastic bag dripping blood and arrested him. The dismembered remains of two young women were stuffed in the bag. Reynard Waits, through his eminent criminal defense attorney, Maury Swann, has struck a deal with the fast-rising, ambitious prosecutor Rick O'Shea. Waits will lead officers to the body of Marie Gesto and seven other murder victims in return for life in prison instead of a death sentence. This doesn't sit well with Bosch, who is a smart, cynical, jaded cop out for justice. But Harry will follow orders. Taken to a remote site, Waits leads a police team to the burial place of Marie Gesto - and then escapes, killing two officers and wounding Kiz Ridder, Harry's partner. Now the real chase begins. Harry suspects a set-up. The prosecutor, who is running for District Attorney, is a prime suspect in Harry's mind, especially so when Harry learns that he has taken campaign contributions from one of the sleazier guys in town, a man whose son Harry had pegged for the Gesto murder more than a dozen years ago.

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