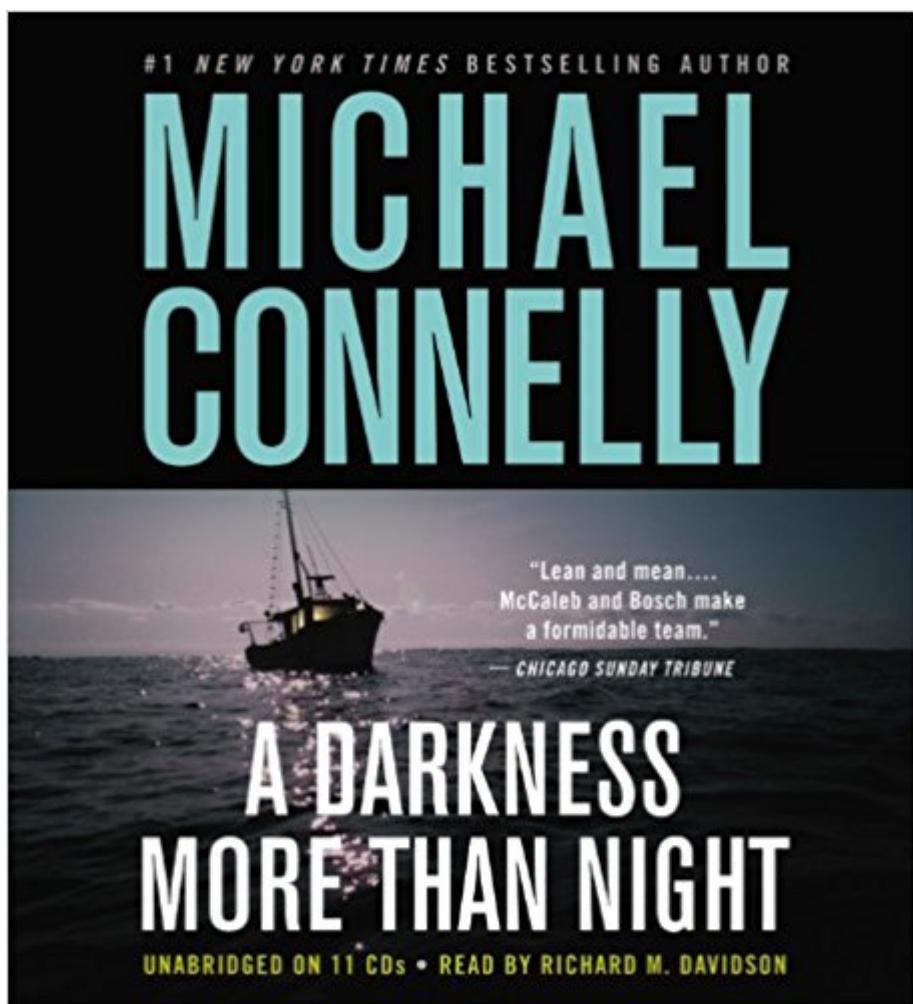


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A Darkness More Than Night (Harry Bosch)



Synopsis

When a sheriff's detective shows up on former FBI man Terry McCaleb's Catalina Island doorstep and requests his help in analyzing photographs of a crime scene, McCaleb at first demurs. He's newly married (to Graciela, who herself dragged him from retirement into a case in *Blood Work*), has a new baby daughter, and is finally strong again after a heart transplant. But once a bloodhound, always a bloodhound. One look at the video of Edward Gunn's trussed and strangled body puts McCaleb back on the investigative trail, hooked by two details: the small statue of an owl that watches over the murder scene and the Latin words "Cave Cave Dus Videt," meaning "Beware, beware, God sees," on the tape binding the victim's mouth. Gunn was a small-time criminal who had been questioned repeatedly by LAPD Detective Harry Bosch in the unsolved murder of a prostitute, most recently on the night he was killed. McCaleb knows the tense, cranky Bosch (Michael Connelly's series star--see *The Black Echo*, *The Black Ice*, et al.) and decides to start by talking to him. But Bosch has time only for a brief chat. He's a prosecution witness in the high-profile trial of David Storey, a film director accused of killing a young actress during rough sex. By chance, however, McCaleb discovers an abstruse but concrete link between the scene of Gunn's murder and Harry Bosch's name:"This last guy's work is supposedly replete with owls all over the place. I can't pronounce his first name. It's spelled H-I-E-R-O-N-Y-M-U-S. He was Netherlandish, part of the northern renaissance. I guess owls were big up there."McCaleb looked at the paper in front of him. The name she had just spelled seemed familiar to him."You forgot his last name. What's his last name?""Oh, sorry. It's Bosch. Like the spark plugs."Bosch fits McCaleb's profile of the killer, and McCaleb is both thunderstruck and afraid--thunderstruck that a cop he respects might have committed a horrendous murder and afraid that Bosch may just be good enough to get away with it. And when Bosch finds out (via a mysterious leak to tabloid reporter Jack McEvoy, late of Connelly's *The Poet*) that he's being investigated for murder, he's furious, knowing that Storey's defense attorney may use the information to help get his extravagantly guilty client off scot-free. It's the kind of plot that used to make great Westerns: two old gunslingers circling each other warily, each of them wondering if the other's gone bad. But there's more than one black hat in them thar hills, and Connelly masterfully joins the plot lines in a climax and denouement that will leave readers gasping but satisfied. --Barrie Trinkle

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Customer Reviews

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Adult/High School-Harry Bosch, the worn, pragmatic Los Angeles police detective, protagonist of a number of Connelly's earlier books, is joined by Terry McCaleb, former FBI crime-scene profiler, introduced in *Blood Work* (Little, Brown, 1998). Harry is immersed in testifying at the murder trial of a Hollywood film director, Jack Storey. When McCaleb, retired and living a quiet life with a new wife and two young children, is asked by a former colleague to look at the investigation materials of a recent gruesome homicide, he realizes just how much he misses his vocation. Terry alone has noticed some clues from the crime-scene video that point toward the influence of Renaissance painter Hieronymus Bosch. Despite pleas from his wife, Terry is drawn into the investigation and finds, to his dismay, that pointers lead straight to acquaintance Harry Bosch, whose real name is Hieronymus. Certain details in Harry's life fit in well with the profile Terry is developing of a ritualistic killer. The clues stemming from Bosch's paintings may lead readers straight to the Internet to view some of Bosch's well-known works to see the clues for themselves. The plot is intricate, and the twists and turns keep coming, but it is so well done, and the characters are so vivid, that confusion isn't a problem. Despite its length, this involving book is a fast read with "can't put it down" appeal. Carol DeAngelo, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA
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I've read MANY of Connelly's books, featuring Bosch and the reason I've read so many is he's created a character who will truly stand the test of time; in stories that are gripping and where LA is just as important of a character as the people. With THAT said, *A Darkness More Than Light* starts off with two storylines, the other reviews can tell you the diatribe of how it all plays out, but what I REALLY enjoy is when Connelly combines characters from different books. You had McCaleb, who's pulled his own weight in several books, Mcenvoy (sp?) the reporter from the Poet and Watson, who's shown up on and off. All in all by far, this is the most engrossing, well-plotted, dark and cynical; it made you think. As a writer, in novels, I often write notes to myself on particularly well

written passages or things to ponder and usually I have 2 pages or so....I had 19 !!You are missing out on this one, that's all I can say! One by one, the characters PUSH THROUGH THE DARKNESSHappy Reading!

An intricate and fast moving plot. Definitely one of the best Bosch books that develops two separated but eventually connected mysteries. Harry is in court testifying in a high profile case while, at the same time, he becomes the prime suspect in another gruesome murder. This book keeps the reader thoroughly engaged. If you like Bosch and intelligent mysteries you will love this book.

Harry is not the main character in this book, but he is a person of interest in a murder. How can this be? Why is it happening? All evidence points directly to him: owls, depraved art featuring hell by an artist whom he had been named after, proximity to the victim. Terry McCabe, a medically retired FBI agent is approached by LAPD to profile the ritualistic killer. He is led down a path that could only point to a detective with whom he had worked and had knowledge of. Everything points to Bosch, but he cannot bring himself to believe that Harry had finally accepted the dark forces and gone to that side.

While Harry Bosch is supporting the trial of a wealthy movie producer and seeming psychopath (unfortunately a combination that is as common in real life as in fiction) he finds himself as the target of a related investigation that could result in a failed prosecution. In my view, this is the weakest Harry Bosch novel to date. The introduction of involuntarily retired FBI profiler, Terry McCaleb, a sanctimonious, narcissistic [your favorite epithet here], as Bosch's friend/ally/Inspector-Javert is a distraction does nothing to add to the story. The plot device itself -- clues being left that referred to Bosch's late medieval namesake -- is far fetched. As a get-out-of-jail scheme it seems like a very low percentage shot. Nonetheless, Connelly pulls the disparate threads together and produces an enjoyable read albeit one that leaves some huge questions unanswered.

If you watch Bosch on , this book is the basis for season two. This is an early Bosch book - but it was great to revisit Harry earlier in his career. Just the basis though. The show deviates from the book in a few key areas. Both are excellent and stand on their own. My only complaint is that Michael Connelly does not write as fast as I read!

A very good story as you would expect from Mr. Connelly. With that said if you're expecting a normal Harry Bosch novel you will be disappointed. This book is more about another of Connelly's characters, Terry McCaleb. Bosch is more a secondary character. Still a very good book, well worth reading, just not the Harry Bosch book you may have thought you were buying.

Good deal on the Kindle book. Premise: Sadistic Hollywood filmmaker on trial for a strangulation and Lowlife serial prostitute killer have one thing in common: Bosch. The Season 3 series of Bosch happen to included the theme of this book and The Black Echo. Both books are good but Season 3 is lacking the details from the books that made them so enjoyable.

This Bosch novel is much more interesting than the season 3 of Bosch wherein they try to jam several books into the series. A Darkness More Than Night is suspenseful and educational as well. Learned much about the artist Hieronymus Bosch. Seems he was a twisted as the detective with his namesake! Again, don't try to follow the TV series after reading this book.

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