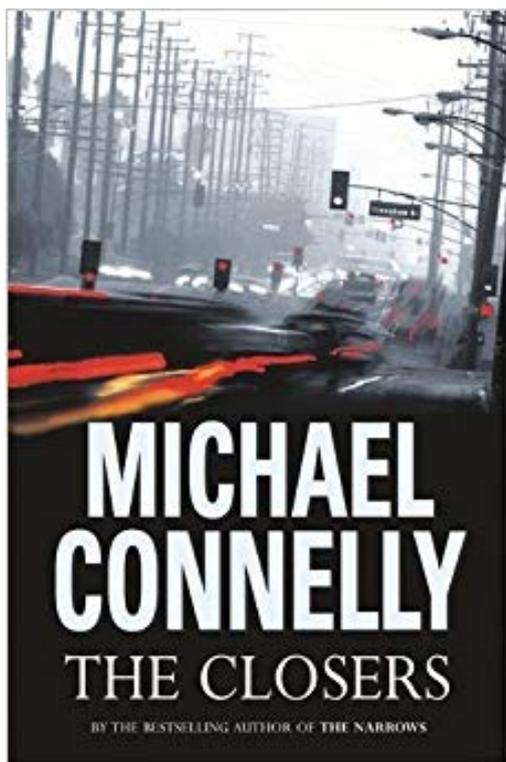


The Closers *by* Michael Connelly



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Reviews of the *The Closers* *by* Michael Connelly

Beahelm

A 17 year old murder is brought back to life for the Open-Unsolved unit of the LAPD. Harry Bosch, who had been in retirement, was back on the job in a probationary way. A beautiful, biracial teenager was murdered in 1988, and there had been many slip ups made during the initial inquiry. His nemesis, Irvin Irving, had a part in the dropped and messed up original investigation, but not because of who killed the victim, but because racial problems were rife during that time and he did not want this to be a racially motivated murder.

The possibility that the girl was killed by Aryan wannabes was a strong possibility, but Bosch and his partner Kizmin Rider, sorted through the possibilities. A chance phone call during the investigation of yet another murder, cleared up the old suspects and brought to light one that was nowhere near anyone's radar.

The ending held a very satisfying tone.

Marilace

Harry Bosch has come out of retirement and is back on the job. He lands a slot in the Open Unsolved Unit of the LAPD and is working again with his former partner Kiz Rider. They are assigned an old case involving the murder of a teen girl some seventeen years before.

Harry and Kiz consult the old "murder book" and get to work quickly. They interview the murdered girl's parents, now divorced, and see the girl's bedroom that has been kept exactly the same since her death. But there's something not quite right with the bed, something that nags at Bosch, so you know it will become more important later in the book.

In reviewing the murder book Harry notices that the original case was pressured by higher police authorities to move in a different direction. Harry and Riz believe this kind of "high jingo" was responsible for the case being closed without a final resolution. Topping this off is the reappearance of Deputy Chief Irvin Irving who puts unnecessary pressure on Bosch to keep his nose clean and not screw things up.

Kiz and Harry find a likely suspect for the murder rap but don't have enough hard evidence for arrest and subsequent prosecution. So they watch and wait while trying to find more witnesses and check out more leads. Meanwhile we learn of all the necessary work that detectives perform when trying to find the killer in a long forgotten homicide. The reader may lose interest early in the book but it pays to stick with it until the pace picks up in the final one-third and author Connelly springs his final surprise.

Shaktit

I still consider these series above average, however Bosch is extremely irritating character. His paranoia in relationships, his unnecessary urgency (why 20 year old cold case suddenly becomes highest priority for LAPD so that all resources need to be redeployed on it??), his disrespect to all including his partner whom he choose himself as the condition of his return to duty - he does not respect her because he keeps his little secrets from her, jumps into actions without her being aware of it. He is sloppy as well. He wants to be running around knocking on the doors but neglects to analyse accumulated evidence in the "murder book" etc. before he makes decisions that could result in disastrous events. He should have stayed retired. It is time to find a new hero who would at least know how to use a computer at least to send an email.

Winenama

The new Chief of police has instituted a program allowing those retired police with less than 3 years of retirement to return to duty. His old partner, Kiz Rider recruits Harry, & Harry only wants one thing to return and that is to have Kiz back as his partner. When she agrees to step away from her admin promotion, they are given a case which is 17 years old to solve. Much of the evidence is missing, but a DNA hit gets the case going again.

Porgisk

Almost dead-center in Michael Connelly's "The Closers", there is a line that goes something like "Redemption is the brass ring that everyone reaches for." And this is in keeping with Harry Bosch's thinking in the novels of this period. In the immediately preceding novels, "Angel's Flight" and "Lost Light", there was a great deal of discussion about Bosch's struggle to fight the good fight, and how there were too many gray areas involved that make the struggle even more difficult.

In "The Closers", Bosch, now back on the LAPD after a brief retirement, finds himself partnered with his old friend, Kiz Rider, to investigate a case that is 17 years cold. ("Closers" being the police slang for detectives who close old cases.) As any reader of Connelly's fiction has come to expect, the path to the truth of the case is often twisted, contradictory and dangerous. (And Connelly, as usual, writes in a way that goes above and beyond what one would expect from the genre.) In this novel, Bosch and Rider have to jog the memories of witnesses and participants in the investigation, view incomplete files (if the files hadn't been 'lost' over the years) and make sense of evidence that point in different directions at times. This was no easy task. The perpetrators aside, Bosch's old nemesis, Irvin Irving, is still sniping from the sidelines, making the mission more difficult.

But that's the issue!

Bosch realizes, by the end of the novel, it is the mission itself, the journey toward the truth, that provides the redemption that he had obsessed over. Although Bosch remains loyal to his belief that everyone counts or no one counts, he is also discovering that the desire to seek the truth for those who cannot find it themselves, is just as important. That is the mission. That is the brass ring.

The Rollers of Vildar

We've read the first ten in the "Bosch" series and this might be our favorite so far. Connelly chose to return to a third-person voice and this reader appreciated that. It made the story move along more smoothly for us, at least. The plot in this one is another beaut, and the writing quality was even better than the in the prior few. Great read!

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