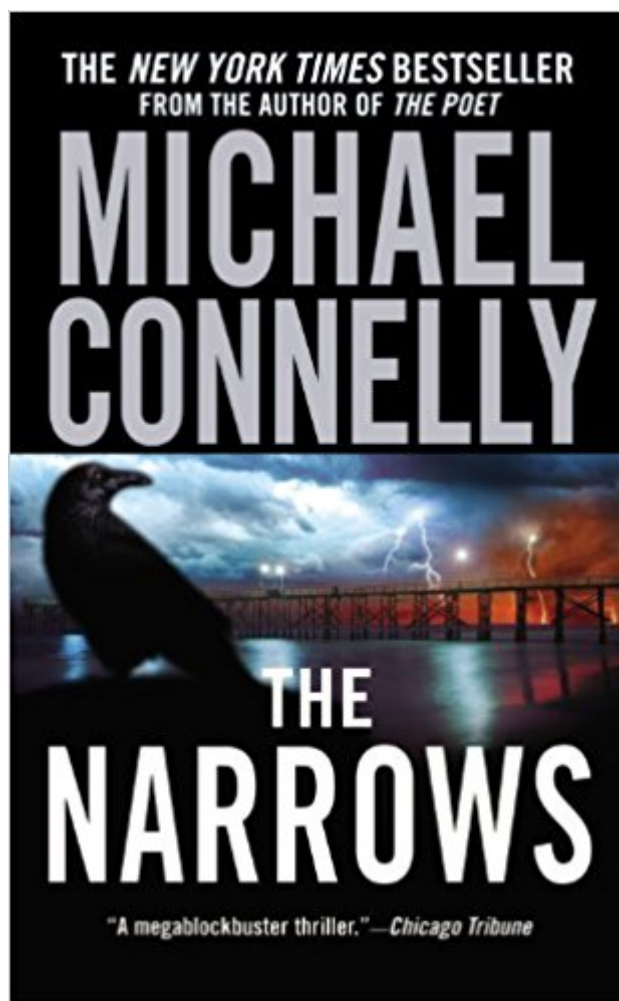




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The Narrows



Synopsis

FBI agent Rachel Walling finally gets the call she's dreaded for years. The Poet has returned. Years earlier she worked on the famous case tracking the serial killer who wove lines of poetry into his hideous crimes. Rachel has never forgotten the Poet-and apparently he has not forgotten her. Former LAPD detective Harry Bosch gets a call, too, from an old friend whose husband recently died. The death appeared natural, but this man's ties to the hunt for the Poet make Harry dig deep. What he finds leads him into the most terrifying situation he has ever encountered. So begins the most deeply compelling, frightening, and masterful novel Michael Connelly has ever written, placing Harry Bosch squarely in the path of the most ruthless and ingenious murderer in Los Angeles's history. This spectacularly dramatic and shocking novel will have Michael Connelly's readers desperately hungry for the next book from 'one of America's best writers' (Cleveland Plain Dealer).

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Customer Reviews

Those who are familiar with the audio adaptations of Connelly's books will be delighted to see that Cariou lends his talents to Connelly's latest mystery, which is a sequel to *The Poet* (1996). At the center of this engrossing thriller is world-weary, retired L.A. homicide detective Harry Bosch. While investigating the death of ex-FBI profiler Terry McCalab, Bosch begins to suspect that the notorious serial killer *The Poet*, presumed dead, may be the culprit. As he digs deeper, Bosch meets and eventually joins forces with FBI agent Rachel Walling, who went up against *The Poet* the first time around. The novel's point of view cuts from Bosch's first-person commentary to the third-person

perspectives of Walling and The Poet. Cariou handles these changes with professional ease. He gives Bosch a rough voice, raspy with experience, and provides Walling with a younger, but no less tough, intonation. Cariou's vocal dexterity becomes truly apparent, however, when he reads Connelly's descriptive passages. Whether he is illuminating a grisly crime scene, a rainstorm pummeling a Los Angeles freeway or a soft moment between Bosch and his young daughter, Cariou perfectly captures the subtleties of Connelly's tightly written prose. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

With a writer of Connelly's popularity, particularly one that works with a regular cast of characters, mixed reviews are to be expected. Each successive book opens the possibility of a narrative letdown. Part of Connelly's decision to collate a few of his most enduring characters into The Narrows was to address concerns many fans had with the ending of The Poet. Though it strikes a few critics as a risky move that doesn't bear repeating, the general consensus is that Connelly pulls the sequel off. Some reviewers disagree about whether the back-story is ample enough for the uninitiated. But whether The Narrows is his best or his worst work, it has elements of both, and plenty of the subtle characterization and gripping storyline that fans have come to expect from Connelly. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Book, that is! You didn't think I was going to give anything away, did you? No, that would be too easy - you're going to have to do it the enjoyable way; page by page, chapter by chapter! What can I say? Michael Connelly has set the hook and is reeling this fish in! I'm sure his and his bottom line will be happy. Start with his first Bosch novel - now! None are disappointing, all are immensely readable, as was true with The Narrows.

The crossover books that cover multiple main characters frequently tend to have to much ground to cover on all sides to satisfy the readers of each series. This generally means that the main story itself must be simpler, as was the case with this one where the villain was revealed very early on. Also, the attempted twist at the end was not really very well conceived, as it essentially meant that it truly was a major coincidence that Bosch became heavily involved in the case at all. While potentially heavily ironic for those familiar with that character, it was also quite unbelievable. However, even with those shortcomings, this was still a very good read. The pacing was generally good and the use of multiple settings to develop the story also worked well.

Pretty typical Bosch novel, but that is not a bad thing. Well paced, great characterization. This one is kind of a unique beast because it is a crossover of Connelly's other books, because it brings characters from Blood Work and The Poet into this story. If you like Connelly's work, you won't be disappointed with this one.

A good story but with few surprises. Personally, I think the best Bosch books are when he is with the LAPD investigating homicides. Harry is a private detective investigating the death of a friend as the trail leads to a serial killer. In a rare exception the reader knows the answer before Bosch knows. Some of the scenes and relationships with the FBI are a little contrived. Good but far from the best Bosch.

Book starts out with a dark plot. Typically Connelly adds a lot of details about the characters and setting that help to make the dark plot background more palatable. This keeps the reader interested in the characters and interesting setting as the plot develops. There are so many surprising twists and turns in the plot. It's hard to put the book down as you care more about the characters and the resolution; so you want to keep reading. There is no way I could have predicted the ending. It surprises and provides great suspense until the end. The author has created a gripping story with an amazing ending.

Continuing the Harry Bosch saga Michael Connelly keeps it fresh and exciting. You really care what is happening to Harry as he encounters enemies everywhere. Already on the next novel in the series. Also enjoy the TV series, although not as good as the books.

This story has twists & turns as usual, but becomes much much more when Bosch does a favor for the Widow of Terry. This leads Bosch into an active FBI investigation where the FBI warns him to get out of their way. Bosch, of course does not, and...

When it comes to reading series, I admit I am obsessive/compulsive. I read the books in the order of their publication and, if I find that I have accidentally read one out of order, I circle back and read the overlooked book(s) as soon as possible. Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch series is one of my favorites, but I hate it when he combines Harry with one of his other primary characters in books. I don't really mind Mickey, the Lincoln Lawyer, but I never liked Terry McCaleb. So, when it came

time for me to read #10 in the Bosch series and I downloaded it to my Kindle and noticed the description of it as "Terry McCaleb #3" I groaned aloud and considered skipping it. Then my OCD kicked in and I started to read. It didn't take long for my groan to become a chuckle. In the first few pages of the book, we find that Connelly has killed off Terry McCaleb. Nice move, Michael! Terry had had a heart transplant and had to take medications to keep his body from rejecting the organ. He took the meds faithfully and should have been okay, but something went wrong and he suffered heart failure while out on his fishing boat with his partner and a paying customer, and he died before medical help could reach him. The autopsy confirms heart failure as the cause, but his widow is not satisfied and has his meds tested by a lab. She learns that his capsules had been tampered with and believes her husband was deliberately murdered. She contacts Bosch, who is now a private detective after having retired from the LAPD, and asks him to investigate. As Harry digs into the case, he discovers some troubling links to an old case involving a serial killer. Following the clues takes him to a desert site in Nevada where he finds the FBI in the process of digging up bodies - eight so far - from a burial site. He stumbles into the middle of their investigation, eventually hooking up with Agent Rachel Walling. Walling was the agent who had tracked and shot the serial killer known as "The Poet" in the standalone novel by that name that Connelly wrote some years back. Though he was wounded, "The Poet" survived and escaped capture and went on to kill again. Now, it seems evident that the Nevada site is the work of that killer and the old team that tracked him is gathering to try to put an end to him. The Narrows continues the saga of "The Poet" and the hunt for him. Many of the characters from the earlier book appear here. But now they've also got Harry Bosch on their team. Can there be any doubt of the outcome? Meanwhile, on the personal front, Harry is getting to know the daughter that he just learned about in the last book, *Lost Light*, and he is still entangled in a tormented relationship with her mother, his ex-wife Eleanor Wish. They can't live together, but it seems there are too many connections - mainly the daughter that they both love - to ever allow them to completely disconnect from each other. Also, in the middle of his investigation, Harry is contacted by old friends from the LAPD informing him of a new policy implemented by the department that would allow him to rejoin it without having to repeat time at the academy. His old partner, Kiz, wants him back to help work cold cases, the kind that Harry never gives up on. Harry admits that he has missed having the badge and is sorely tempted to return. So, will he or won't he? Michael Connelly is a very clever writer and he basically had me from the first sentence on this one. He moved the narrative along at such a pace that I really found it hard to put down. Plus, I loved the little shout-outs that he found a way to give to some of his fellow mystery writers like Ian Rankin and Clive Cussler. He also has some references to a movie that was

apparently made by Clint Eastwood from one of his novels - although I didn't see it - and it seems that Connelly probably didn't care much for it. Just another juicy little fillip to add to the pleasure of reading this very good book. Reader's OCD sometimes pays off.

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