

The Black Echo Study Guide

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Plot Summary

Homicide Detective Harry Bosch nearly dies in the "black echo" of the water tunnels beneath Los Angeles, when he discovers how FBI agents have engineered two diamond-heists and murdered his former Vietnam buddy and an innocent graffiti artist.

A frightened young graffiti artist sees a body dragged from a Jeep into a pipe and calls 911. Detective Harry Bosch responds, recognizes a fellow "tunnel rat" from Vietnam, William Meadows, and finds evidence for Meadows' involvement in a an unsolved bank robbery. Bosch takes this to the FBI, confident they can help one another but gets nowhere with Special Agent Wish. Her boss, John Rourke, lodges a complaint with IAD, which still holds a grudge against Bosch for refusing to be part of the "Family."

Day 2 finds IAD's Lewis and Clarke confident they will get Bosch suspended by the end of the day, so he uses his remaining time to determine the eyewitness's identity. Sharkey and his crew are violent muggers of gay men, but not knowing this, Bosch feels sympathy for a kid with a terrible home life. The FBI drops its complaint, but IAD continues its tail. Day 3 finds Wish distracting Bosch, Bosch and Rourke in a testosterone contest and Bosch and Wish tangling over hypnotizing Sharkey to extract details. Wish drops by Bosch's house late at night to make up.

Day 4 sees Bosch and Wish visiting a halfway house, which yield leads to Meadows' possible accomplices and murderers. While Bosch and Wish sleep together, Sharkey picks up an ominous stranger. Day 5 begins before dawn, with a summons to Sharkey's murder scene. This death is so convenient that it suggests inside information. Rourke tells Bosch about the continuing IAD tail, which propels him to confront Lewis and Clarke about their illegal tap on his phone. Back together, Bosch and Wish learn about two Vietnamese gangsters and the imminence of a second heist. Outside Wish's apartment building, they are nearly killed by a hit-and-run driver. After they survive four hours of interrogation, Bosch and Wish go to bed.

Morning 6 begins happily but turns to conflict as Bosch hides using IAD equipment to bug Binh's phone. They capture the number he dials, track down Tran in Little Saigon, follow him to the Beverly Hills, watch him transfer his diamonds to a briefcase and disappear. Rourke dictates how they will deal with the tunnelers. Bosch is suspicious that everything is falling into place so smoothly, and Wish is troubled by the drive-by and her brother's death in Vietnam. She reveals that a visit to the memorial makes her desire justice. As morning 7 dawns following an all-night vigil, Bosch determines that Rourke is behind the robberies. The ambitious IAD tails charge in and die in a hail of bullets. Bosch lives up to his reputation as a lone cowboy - and faces his greatest fear - by plunging into the black echo. Shot and going into shock, Bosch sees Rourke killed by Wish.

Wish visits Bosch on Day 8, in the hospital, after IAD finishes his grilling and threatens to fire him if he talks to the press. Bosch is sad that Wish plans to quit the FBI. Troubled, he sneaks out of the hospital and to the station, where, listening to Sharkey's tape, puts



together the pieces. After Meadows' Memorial Day funeral - and after providing a reporter enough information to report the truth using anonymous sources - Bosch confronts Wish, learns how and why she has masterminded everything (except the murders) and suggests she turn herself in. When she does, she mails the Hopper print with which they both identify - as loners in deep shadows.



Part 1, Pages 1-39

Part 1, Pages 1-39 Summary

A young graffiti artist works in the early morning hours near a reservoir and hides in the bushes when he hears the approach of a truck along the access road. A few hours later Los Angeles Police Department detective Bosch is awakened by his desk sergeant who says a dead body has been found at the Mulholland Dam, 30 feet inside a pipe. .

Bosch surveys the crime scene and crawls inside to confirm the death and look for evidence. When the body is brought out, there are no scratches to indicate dragging and nothing in the victim's pockets. Sakai finds one fresh needle mark and assumes the cause of death is a "hot load." Bosch recognizes the tattoo of a Vietnam tunnel rat and asks his partner, Edgar, to check the computer for a "Meadows, William," born circa 1950.

Bosch says he knows Meadows from Saigon . Bosch examines the graffiti that covers the pipe and finds one, fresh, incomplete and nicely sprayed: "Sha." Bosch drives to Meadow's apartment and looks around the cheaply furnished living room. The landlady says she sees him being dropped off one morning from a beige Jeep.

Bosch asks Edgar to request Meadow's file from the VA. Bosch will follow up on next-of-kin-notification, push for an immediate autopsy and get a search warrant if the VA gives Edgar a hard time.

Part 1, Pages 1-39 Analysis

A dramatic opening establishes a frightened eyewitness sees a crime, followed by a jump to a dream sequence of Bosch's underground terror. From a description of his living room and first phone call, his bachelor-cop lifestyle and strident attitude towards the chain of command are established. His partner, who moonlights while putting in his time is contrasted with Bosch's meticulous style and creates tension, which arises with everyone Bosch encounters in the novel. The tunnel motif returns when Bosch examines the dead body, and his personality is deepened by pushiness with the coroner's team and continual note taking. When the DB turns out to be a fellow "tunnel rat" from Vietnam, the case becomes more personal. Bosch spots the graffiti that the kid in the opening sequence abandons hastily and wonders if he could be the voice on the 911 call.



Part 1, Pages 39-79

Part 1, Pages 39-79 Summary

Bosch finds a shattered picture frame on the floor. It holds a yellowed photo taken in Vietnam in 1969/70, of seven tunnel rats, shirtless, proudly displaying tattoos. A pawnshop ticket for an "antique bracelet, gold with jade inlay" fall out. Bosch bags it and heads downtown, concluding that only needing to get Meadows' corpse out of the apartment can account for the haste of the search that misses the ticket.

Outside the freshly-robbed Happy Hocker pawnshop, owner Oscar Obinna waits for detectives and is disappointed that Bosch wants to see a pawned bracelet. Bosch quiets Obinna looks up the record and says they are both victims: the fine and valuable piece has been stolen. Obinna produces a Polaroid of the bracelet, recalls the transaction and recognizes Meadow's dead face.

Bosch listens to the 911 tape in the com center where a boy's voice tells the dispatcher about finding a body in a big pipe by the dam above Hollywood. Bosch makes a copy and heads up to the third floor. Bosch logs into the "Homicide Information Tracking Management Automated Network," whose acronym, HITMAN, typifies the LAPD penchant for catchy names. Gradually, Bosch narrows his search to six hits, and prints out one record on an indigent who sleeps in the pipe.

An hour later, Bosch finds a Polaroid and 50 pages of documentation on the heist of WestLand Bank at 6th and Hill downtown. The FBI contact is Special Agent E. D. Wish. Realizing that the high-publicity case occurs while he is in Mexico serving his suspension for the Dollmaker case, Bosch phones Joel Bremmer at the Times. The LAPD generally hates the paper, which is regularly critical of its activities, but Bremmer is good. Bosch suggests he will get a story in return for clips of the stories that ran during his "extended vacation." Bosch tears out and pockets the photocopy of the bracelet and heads to the medical examiner's office.

Dr. Jesus Salazar agrees that the fatal pop in the arm is the only fresh scar. Salazar conducts the autopsy and can testify to "death at the hands of others."

Bosch reads the four Times stories on the WestLand caper. The first article, citing FBI Special Agent John Rourke, states vaguely that \$1 million worth of jewels and other valuables are taken. The LAPD and FBI are investigating jointly, but have no arrests or suspects. The next article is longer and more prominent, with a photograph of the ransacked vault with a manhole-sized opening in the floor. Losses are double the first report, as the burglars take advantage of the three-day weekend, having tunneled 150 yards from the storm main, perhaps a 7-8-week project. The third article, a melodramatic piece, is not by Bremmer, but he writes the fourth story a week later.



Bosch knows the case is too big to slough off and wonders about the lack of suspects. With his background in demolition, Meadows' name must have come up.

Part 1, Pages 39-79 Analysis

The first day of the investigation continues with Bosch discovering a major clue and several minor ones in Meadows' apartment, which leads him to the scene of a pawnshop robbery. Bosch does not believe in coincidence. He revisits his old squad room because of its convenient location, clashes with snotty young detective, which allows background to be introduced on his downfall from RHD to Hollywood and discovers that the pawned bracelet comes from an unsolved bank heist that occurs during his "vacation." Some particulars of Bosch's suspension and transfer are revealed, but the full story comes out later. Bosch's contact at the "Times" provides background on the bank heist and the names of the FBI agents, who soon become key figures in the story. The autopsy, graphically portrayed, determines that Meadows is tortured before being killed, which raises the question of what can be worth this? At home, where the beauty shop murders are first mentioned (explained in detail later in the book), Bosch recalls his horrible last mission as a young tunnel rat, which leaves him claustrophobic.



Part 2, Pages 80-113

Part 2, Pages 80-113 Summary

Bosch heads to the office where he sees a young boy handcuffed to a bench. Bosch busies himself typing his crime report and when he Xeroxes the forms, he notices that the kid is gone. Bosch always keeps a copy of his murder books to read daily, to look for new angles. Bosch omits from the "Investigating Officer's Chronological Report" the connection between Meadows and WestLand and his visits to the pawnshop and Bremmer, wanting to talk to the FBI first.

Bosch meets with FBI Special Agent Wish to tell her that he believes his homicide is related to their Westland case and wants to discuss possible suspects. Bosch produces the FBI bulletin picture of the bracelet matching Obinna's Polaroid, and says that the guy who pawned it six weeks ago is his victim, probably whacked in retaliation for breaking the rules. Bosch tells Wish about the evidence, omitting his acquaintance with Meadows. He believes Meadows leaves the ticket as a clue, knowing he will die.

Irvin Irving, Deputy Chief in charge of the Internal Affairs Division (IAD) reviews the file on Bosch while waiting for agents Lewis and Clark. Irving reviews Bosch's military record, his rapid rise in the LAPD, and his fall last year. While Irving grudgingly admires Bosch's homicide work, he cannot accept those who refuse to be part of the LAPD "Family." Pierce Lewis and Don Clarke enter silently. They are to go to Hollywood Division, report by phone morning and evening and copy their daily reports to Bosch's supervisor, Lt. Pounds.

Edgar learns that a female FBI agent last year presented a subpoena for Meadow's file. Bosch confronts Wish about the VA files she has pulled. Wish informs him that he is off the case at the FBI's request. She is sorry that Rourke has called Lt. Pounds to suggest a conflict of interest and regrets it puts him back in trouble with IAD.

Bosch says Vietnam is an old story and denies that Wish can know him from paper files. She objects: the files show him an "institutional man," from shelters to foster homes to the army to the police force. He has probably seen things that make his namesake's disturbing paintings look like Disneyland, but he has survived despite doing things his own way and being an outsider. Bosch tells Wish to have Rourke make another call, to get him put back on the case by morning or read in the Times about how the FBI lets a suspect in a major bank heist be killed under its nose.

Part 2, Pages 80-113 Analysis

The second day of the investigation begins with Bosch preparing initial paperwork that omits items about which he is still unsure and intends to clear up with the FBI. He goes there confident he can help them with an important, unsolved case in exchange for information that may help him clear the Meadows case. Instead, he hits the diffidence



with which the FBI normally treats state police forces. Special Agent Wish, a major character going forward, is rude and rigid, while her boss pretends to be occupied in his own affairs. Bosch sees through the ploy and senses something is not right. Learning that the FBI holds VA files on himself and Meadows, Bosch tails Wish to a restaurant to confront her. Citing data from his file, Wish critiques his life and career, providing rich facts about the protagonist in a clever manner. When he sees he is getting nowhere, Bosch threatens to go public with the FBI foul-up. It has already been seen that he has an important contact at the Times. The gambit recurs at the end of the novel, when Bosch appears to know the whole dirty truth and has even less to lose. Bosch's immediate superior and the IAD personnel who intend to make his life miserable again are introduced, clearly holding a grudge for him escaping their clutches the first time. Irving is a particularly colorful, if reprehensible, character. Through him, the LAPD's homophobia is made clear, in advance of juvenile male prostitutes being introduced to the story line.



Part 2, Pages 113-144

Part 2, Pages 113-144 Summary

Bosch returns to the station and is interviewed by IAD who announce that Bosch and Edgar are off the case and order them to tell anything and everything. Bosch says that the FBI has verified his Mexico alibi and cleared him and claims new evidence has panicked the FBI into making the call. The FBI has taken over the murder case, folding it into the bank case.

Bosch checks the data on gang members and juvenile offenders and "S-H-A" hits 343 times in the moniker file, but narrows to 19 when blacks and Latinos are excluded. Bosch concentrates on variants of "shark," and comes up with "Sharkey," the street name of 17-year-old Edward Niese, a graffiti artist with no known gang affiliations. Three months earlier, he had been found sleeping in that pipe. Feeling sorry for Sharkey and sure that the IAD papers are out on himself, Bosch drives back to sign out at the empty station. Eleanor Wish calls, saying the FBI has called off the dogs to keep the investigation out of the papers.

Part 2, Pages 113-144 Analysis

Day 2 continues with a confrontation with IAD detectives Lewis and Clarke, with predictable wisecracks about the 1804-06 expedition that first crosses the American northwest. Bosch's superior, Lt Pounds, sticks up for his men surprisingly well, even though he dislikes Bosch's attitude and methods. He admits that Bosch is a talented investigator but is fed up with having him in his command. More information about Bosch's military and police career come out, as do the LAPD's database resources in a fairly detailed description how Bosch works fast, ahead of his anticipated suspension to learn the identity of the graffiti artist he is convinced has placed the 911 call. Sharkey's troubled life is examined in detail, using his police record and a visit to his pitiful home. When the FBI appears to believe Bosch's threat and incorporate him in their investigation - a puzzling development - IAD refuses to give up and begins a tail, which complicates the rest of the novel.



Part 3, Pages 145-180

Part 3, Pages 145-180 Summary

Wish speaks of 1,500 miles of underground pipes that allow anyone to get near any building in the city. The FBI suspects three criminals working underground and a lookout topside. They ride Honda all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) through the storm sewers for two miles to within 150 yards of WestLand, cut a standard-sized 24-inch hole, and spend 3-4 weeks digging 10-20 feet per night. By day, they hide the hole from DWP inspectors with plywood coated with concrete.

Once beneath the bank, the thieves tap the bank's electric and telephone lines and bypass the alarm. They bore through five feet of concrete and steel, pack the hole with C-4, wire it, and pop it from the drainage tunnel. Once inside the vault, the thieves invade deposit boxes all weekend before backing out around 3 AM Tuesday. Losses are reported on 90% of the looted boxes, mostly untraceable stuff, suggesting they choose well.

Wish sets up a videotape of the interior of the scene of the crime and Bosch asks how the tunnel rats come under suspicion. Wish cites the use of C-4, which Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Vietnam vets still use; booby traps to protect the thieves' rear while inside the vault; peg holes left over from tripwires; and "Hansel and Gretel" markings of the route using the three quick slash marks used in Vietnam. Wish says that they find nine ex-tunnelers living in Southern California, all of whom check out, with only Meadows moving up to the level of suspect because of his criminal record and postwar work history.

Part 3, Pages 145-180 Analysis

The third day of Bosch's investigation opens with him distracted by Eleanor Wish, whom he finds attractive and enigmatic. She provides a succinct summary of the crime, which shows admiration for the planning and execution that becomes clear only at the end of the novel. In the Federal Building, Bosch and Rourke posture at one another, while Wish urges her new partner to give her boss a chance. Bosch is convinced Rourke is not her lover, but misses the tension between them - also revealed only at the end. That Rourke commanded a unit in Saigon also, surprisingly, fails to strike Bosch until later. The final critical plot element that Bosch could not have put in place is the death during the war of Wish's brother. She declares she has her own reasons for where she serves in the Bureau.

The main thrust of the morning's work is staking out where the database says Sharkey sleeps. They break in on a member of his crew, an underaged prostitute, and Bosch and Wish conflict over dealing with statutory rape and delinquency. Wish is a stickler for regulations and seems oversensitive to sexual crimes, while Bosch is a pragmatist:

everyone must do his or her job. They find and apprehend Sharkey, who knows police procedures and is relieved to be hassled only about the 911 tape rather than last night's assault. He wonders at the FBI involvement.



Part 3, Pages 180-208

Part 3, Pages 180-208 Summary

Sharkey claims he is nearly 18, tries not to live with his mom, is not a fagot but sells pictures to them and never beats or robs victims. Whenever the crew's room is too crowded and he lacks money, Sharkey sleeps in the warm pipe. On the night in question, Sharkey finds a dead guy inside and splits to call 911. Bosch tells Sharkey how the unfinished scrip and paint can lead them to him and demands the real story. The driver gets out and pulls a body out from under a blanket in the back of the Jeep while the other guy does nothing. A minute later, he tears off a branch and sweeps inside the pipe. He drives with headlights off across the dam, bashing the light bulb on the little house midway. When he cannot hear the engine any more, Sharkey comes out, calls into the pipe, shines his bike light in, and crawls in with a lit match. It is creepy, so he heads downhill and calls the cops.

Bosch wants to continue and possibly hypnotize Sharkey because Sharkey has not given them anything usable yet. Bosch is an LAPD hypnotist but Wish wants to wait and is sure Bosch can find Sharkey again. He recalls the Jeep being dirty white or beige with a seal he does not recognize. The driver has dark hair, black clothes and an empty tool belt at the waist.

Bosch offers to handle Sharkey alone. Wish observes that Bosch seems to care for the boy, but Bosch maintains he is just another little bastard who will soon be killing or killed. Bosch finds a bed for Sharkey at the Home Street Home. Bosch follows Sharkey there, checks him in and asks him to hang around a few days. Bosch drives to the station, picks up the FBI files, and is home by 9 PM.

A handwritten sheet compares data from Social Security and DMV records to show Meadows working sporadically for underground utilities and mining, each job ending over drugs and absenteeism. Noting Charlie Company's address and phone, and that of Meadows' parole officer, Daryl Slater, Bosch constructs a chronology for 1981-88, which closes many gaps through the day his Parole Officer signs off. Bosch suspects Meadows hatches the bank heist at TI or Charlie Company, where he also hooks up with his accomplices—and murderer.

Part 3, Pages 180-208 Analysis

The third day concludes with Bosch and Wish interrogating Sharkey at Hollywood Station. It reveals some of psychological tricks that are crucial to gleaning information from unwilling witnesses, and, seemingly, Wish's unfamiliarity with even basic principles such as not interrupting the story's flow. Late in the novel, Bosch considers that she has other reasons for interfering and for opposing the use of hypnosis, whose legal status is discussed. Their parting tense, Bosch settles in to study the evidence as a "cliché cop,"



when Wish comes to his house to make up. Bosch's explanations and story about Vietnam add dimension to the picture of Meadows. Note how quickly Wish discounts any connection of Meadows and his cohorts' escape attempt from TI with the bank job. Bosch misses it, caught up in her as a person. She recognizes the nightmarish triptych of the creation and fall that hangs on the wall, the work of his Dutch namesake, an icon of Los Angeles.



Part 4

Part 4 Summary

Bosch and Wish drive to Ventura County to augment the FBI's cursory check of the Charlie Company outreach program owned and operated by Colonel Gordon Scales, and tended by Vietnam combat veterans. Bosch and Wish see genuine surprise and sadness as Bosch tells Scales about Meadows' murder. When Bosch promises to tread lightly if he cooperates, Scales locates Meadows' file and master flow chart and offers to prepare a list.

Back at the Federal Building, Wish runs Scales' list and orders mug shots, while Bosch calls St. Louis for basic service biographies. Fifteen ex-cons serve in Vietnam while Meadows is there, but Art Franklin and Gene Delgado stand out. They fit Sharkey's recollection of a big man and a small one, but Sharkey cannot view the mug shots because he and his crew have disappeared.

Sharkey worries Arson and Mojo one night will not charge in to save him on their scam but moves into position and within minutes climbs into a Grand Am, whose safe-looking driver's Rolex will bring \$3,000. Sharkey gets worried when he does not see his crew behind them. As he steers toward Hollywood Bowl, the man asks angrily if they have met. Sharkey plans a hit and run - or just run - as they head toward the pedestrian expressway.

Part 4 Analysis

The fourth day develops two sound leads to Meadows' possible accomplices and murderers, whose mug shots Bosch wants to show to Sharkey. The boy has predictably disappeared, and the investigators at Wish's suggestion call it a night and retire to her apartment. There, exchanging backgrounds and unsolved emotional problems they decide Vietnam is unfair to everyone. A large portion of the chapter is devoted to the halfway house run to rehabilitate combat veterans who fall afoul of the law. The director's piety bothers Bosch, but he admires the success of the program. Bosch and Wish's common taste in music, art and books permits a deft segue to the mysterious Dollmaker case, which has been mentioned several times. Bosch reminds her and the reader that Lewis and Clarke are still circling like sharks. Meanwhile, in a scene that reeks fear, Sharkey approaches the end of his short life, led by someone over-concerned about whether they have met. The joke about his being bait and his fear of being abandoned play out tragically.



Part 5, Pages 247-267

Part 5, Pages 247-267 Summary

Bosch receives a page from Edgar who tells Bosch that Edward Niese's body has been found inside a pedestrian underpass. Bosch crouches near the body, realizing he is responsible for this death. Someone knows that Sharkey has information that cannot be allowed to get out. This unconnected death means things are out of control and the rules have changed. Bosch insists there is someone on the inside, but Wish points to many people who saw Sharkey with them, including his friends. Bosch declares that he has gotten the kid killed and intends to find out who did it.

Bosch turns to the WestLand victims list all of whom Wish says have been checked for criminal records and interviewed. Finding the Vietnamese connection too strong to ignore, Bosch examines 34 box holders with Vietnamese names. Bosch has ready a list of Vietnamese boxholders when Rourke enters the squad and remarks on the early start. Wish reports their witness' death. Rourke will request an internal review but advises Bosch to look first to his own department, whose IAD is still tailing him. Bosch knows that only Wish could have told him about this while not acknowledging it to him.

Part 5, Pages 247-267 Analysis

Part 5 opens overnight, as Bosch fumbles his way through sex with Wish, gets it right the second time, sleeps soundly for the first time in a long while and is awakened by Edgar in too-playful a way about Sharkey's death. Note the sudden emotional change in Wish, after seeing the body. Note also the extent of Bosch's claustrophobia in this spacious tunnel. Sharkey's death is too convenient for someone with inside information. Wish doubts it, but Rourke is vehement and aggressive and exultingly tells Bosch about the continuing IAD tail. This sends Bosch out on his own, setting him up for the confrontation with Lewis and Clarke that follows.



Part 5, Pages 268-287

Part 5, Pages 268-287 Summary

Lewis and Clarke follow Bosch up the highway and phone in for instructions after they witness Bosch dropping something into the water off the Malibu pier. After dropping the hypnotism memo, Bosch walks off the pier, resolved to get justice for Meadows and Sharkey. He recognizes the IAD Plymouth and is glad, because Lewis and Clarke are part of his new plan. He drives to the U.S. Administration Building, home of INS and has Hector Villabona run a name search. Villabona recognizes the name Ngo Van Binh, who has high political connections in Washington, DC. Before drives away, Bosch makes sure the IAD car is with him.

Bosch observes Lewis and Clarke through binoculars a half-block uphill. Bosch finds the Nagra recorder at the obvious location, disconnects it, and carries it inside. Listening to the tape, Bosch knows they have changed reels at least twice, and Wish's visit has been taped, but talk on the back porch may not have been picked up.

Bosch pockets the equipment and slips out the side, down the embankment and comes up behind the Plymouth where he grabs both disoriented detectives by their silk ties and drags them out of the vehicle. Bosch handcuffs them to each other, cuffs them around a palm tree and tosses their weapons into the car. When Bosch pulls out the equipment, they claim to know nothing about it. Bosch offers to set them free if they answer questions; Lewis is willing, but Clarke is not. Lewis denies planting the bug and reporting his interview with Sharkey in Boytown but admits to dropping their log and film in the deputy chief's box and finally admits to copying Pounds. Bosch asks the big question, directed to Clarke: why is IAD still on him? When he remains silent, Bosch informs them that they are the only ones who know he talked to a kid who is now dead, and he intends to put them before IAD. Lewis say the FBI does not trust him,so they are following him on their behalf.

Part 5, Pages 268-287 Analysis

The fifth day continues with a surprising confrontation between Bosch and his IAD tails. Detail is given on how electronic surveillance is carried out, and Lewis and Clarke fight over how to deal with their predicament, insisting they are not responsible for the bugging. Their humiliation guarantees they will dog Bosch to the end, helping to set up one facet of the dénouement.



Part 5, Pages 287-316

Part 5, Pages 287-316 Summary

Bosch returns Villabona's call to learn he cannot get a file on Binh because it is classified and suggests Bosch use any contacts he has at the State Department. Wish and Bosch meet with Bob Ernst, Assistant Deputy, Trade and Development. Wish explains they need background on a name that has come up in a case. Ernst finds that Binh is a former Saigon police officer and that Binh heads the vice unit. Binh appears to have been one third of the triad within the police department that orchestrates all corruption. They have been converting the funds to diamonds compact enough to fit into two shoeboxes. A second captain dies in Vietnam, but the third, Nguyen Tran, escapes with Binh.

Bosch postulates that Meadows is part of Binh's VIP treatment and Wish thinks that Binh uses a safe deposit vault to hold illegal funds. Meadows hears about Charlie Company, gets early release, meets up with war buddies and in one day hatches a plan. They may know which box is Binh's from Isley's visits but hit enough others to cover up. They know Binh cannot report the loss. It is a perfect crime until Meadows pawns the bracelet. Bosch has been thinking about the 11-month lease due to expire the next week on Meadow's apartment. This and his murder over a bracelet suggest the crime is only half-over: Tran's diamonds, wherever they are stored, are going to be stolen during the coming three-day weekend.

Both Bosch and Wish know they cannot explain why after 15 years everything has changed but know they have two days to figure out where the next tunnel is being dug. They must find Tran and his bank in order to catch the bandits/killers. Bosch proposes visiting Binh the next day.

When Bosch and Wish exit the car at Wish's apartment, they are in the direct path of an oncoming car with high beams. They leap onto the hood of Bosch's car and roll onto the grass. Pulling their weapons, both fire at the fleeing vehicle. Amazingly, the car starts, and Bosch begins a pursuit. Bosch chooses a shortcut to the highway as he calls in an "Officer Needs Assistance" with no description of the vehicle. As they speed down the freeway, Wish searches for a vehicle with square lights and a damaged right side. They pull over the first one they see, and Bosch splays the driver against the car.

Part 5, Pages 287-316 Analysis

The conclusion of the fifth day brings Bosch and Wish classified information about two Vietnamese gangsters whose location they cannot trace, but who help fill the last pieces in the puzzle. They realize that time is running out for preventing a second bank heist. Angrier than ever, Lewis and Clarke follow them to a restaurant and know where they can find them. Outside her apartment building, they nearly die in a hit-and-run and their

pursuit of the perpetrator ends when they pull over an innocent driver. How Friday will begin is easy to guess.



Part 6, Pages 317-352

Part 6, Pages 317-352 Summary

No one understands how a cop can fail to get a car's make. Pounds is angriest that they pull over a lawyer, who is sure to sue and that dozens of motorists have called 911. Bosch is determined to clear the case and demands that the IAD tail be pulled. When Pounds shows clear surprise, Bosch wonders to himself about Lewis and Clarke's whereabouts when they are nearly run down.

Pounds requests a full run-down on the case and asks if LAPD should search the tunnels if the FBI will not. Bosch realizes that Pounds wants in on the glory if there is a bust, but agrees with Rourke that stumbling around underground is too risky. He wants first to work on finding Tran and his stash. Rourke believes the drunk driver theory and asks if she has any jealous ex-boyfriends.

The next morning, Wish goes to the Bureau to face fallout and check Binh's file. Wish and Bosch will meet at Hollywood Station where Bosch can exchange the damaged car. When Wish arrives at the station, she and Bosch head to Binh's office in a section of the city where Koreans and Vietnamese coexist. Bosch asks Wish to conduct the interview, figuring that Binh will respond better to a federal agent.

Bosch and Wish enter the store and Binh assumes the visit is about the bank robbery and reluctantly leads them through a warehouse to his office. Wish asks him to tell her in "specific detail" about the papers he keeps in the box. Bosch conceals the installation of a T-9 phone bug. When he returns to the interview, it shifts to Binh's background as a police captain, and their knowledge that he has been paid in diamonds. Wish says the diamonds are the real target of the break-in and suggests Binh may suspect Nguyen Tran is behind it. They doubt it, but need to talk to Tran. As Binh's hard face cracks, Bosch asks where Tran is. Angry that Bosch has butted in, Wish reassures Binh that they want only to prevent another break-in. Bosch warns Binh not to go after Tran himself and tells him his only hope of recovering anything is to cooperate with them.

In the car, Bosch pulls out the Nagra, turns it on, and sets it to its fastest recording speed. Wish is horrified when she realizes what Bosch has done inside. The red light on the Nagra flicks on, showing Binh's phone is in use, and Wish does not prevent the taping. It is in Vietnamese, but there is no need to translate it, because Bosch wants only the phone number, whose digits can be counted on the slowest playback speed. He radios the dispatcher for the name and address for the Orange County phone number. They drive to a business called Tan Phu Pagoda in Westminster, "Little Saigon."

Bosch and Wish have dispatch run Tran's name through NCIC and DMV. Dispatch says Tran lives in Beverly Hills and has no criminal record. While Wish checks in and requests a bank canvass and check of the property computer, Bosch spots a white Ford



LTD, obviously a police sedan. Rourke confirms Bok/Tran's identity and ownership of properties through Diamond Holdings, Inc.

Later that afternoon, a Mercedes enters a parking garage across the street from Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L). In the huge front window is a polished steel vault door. Wish watches the Mercedes while Bosch watches Tran enter with two bodyguards. Through the window, Bosch and Wish see a man escort Tran into the vault, follow him out with a safe-deposit box, and lead him into a private room. Wish calls for FBI backup and Bosch heads inside.

Bosch brushes by a gruff ex-cop and assumes another identity to gain access to the vault's layout. Hearing Avery escort "Mr. Long" from the private room, Bosch asks to see the vault. Grant explains the mantrap's operation, borrowed from the L.A. County Jail: the inside door opens only after the outside one locks and an armed guard makes a visual check and activates the lock. The vault is bigger than Bosch envisions. Bosch watches Tran, who has handcuffed the briefcase to his wrist, and Avery open Box 237. When Tran leaves, Bosch hurries out, sees them enter the parking garage, and wonders where Wish is.

Part 6, Pages 317-352 Analysis

Bosch survives his interrogation and plants questions in his boss's mind about what the IAD and the FBI chiefs are up to. He and Wise go to bed and part in the morning like a happy white-collar, married couple. The mood ends immediately when Bosch holds back from her plans to illegally bug a suspect to get the phone number of another, as time runs short on stopping another break-in. Wise sees that no other means is possible and acquiesces far more quickly than earlier. They both are amazed that they have not thought before of non-banks, considering the Vietnamese cultural aversion to banks. Bosch uses clever deception and appeals to the staff's snobbery to case the unregulated BHS&L. Note the oblique reference to Ronald Reagan. Bosch sees the diamonds carried out, but the anticipated backup from the FBI is missing. That Tran's deposit-box is now empty is unknown to the robbers, believed to be tunneling below. The dénouement is set up.



Part 6, Pages 352-383

Part 6, Pages 352-383 Summary

Around the corner from the BHS&L, Lewis waits to talk to Irving, impatient that he is not promptly available for the hourly, land line reports he demands. Lewis believes Bosch and Wish follow the Mercedes without knowing its destination but figure something out when they arrive. Irving spends ten minutes outlining his theory and giving instructions to watch them all night and phone him at home for approval before moving in.

The BHS&L salesmen are stunned as Bosch waits for Wish. He introduces her to Avery before taking her to an office for a private conversation. She says that they must stall until Rourke talks with DWP and sends in a tunnel crew. He has promised reinforcements for the surveillance. As knocking on the door grows louder, they step out to deal with haughty Martin B. Avery III, owner and chief operating officer of BHS&L. Immediately skeptical that anyone can invade his vault, he shows them its schematic, which shows reinforced concrete sandwiched between sheets of one-inch steel plating. Avery III reports vault alarms the last two nights, which Avery IV resets after dealing with Beverly Hills policemen who respond. Avery III explains that, unlike bank vaults, theirs can have the time lock overridden for their clients' convenience. It is part of the premium service known about by an elite few. The operation takes under a minute. Bosch realizes this is too slow to surprise the bandits.

An hour later, Bosch and Wish are in his car on the second level of the empty parking garage opposite BHS&L, enjoying an open view of the locked vault. They have sent Avery III home but ask him to be ready to be called back. Bosch sees the white LTD and its two occupants a block up Wilshire. At 8 PM, three cars arrive in procession, the last a BHPD car that the perpetrators' lookout cannot miss. The occupants converge on Bosch's car, whose hood serves as a meeting table. Rourke clarifies that BHPD is involved only as a courtesy. FBI agents Hanlon and Houck will join the overnight surveillance from a separate angle. Ed Gearson, a DWP underground facilities supervisor, brings a schematic that Rourke unrolls and searches for their current location. BHPD Capt. Orozco unrolls the BHS&L blueprint to pinpoint the vault.

Rourke returns to the car hood, dismisses Gearson and announces it is too dangerous to go in after them. Instead, they will trap them safely after "things take their course." A SWAT team in DWP uniforms will make a recon run to find their entry point and set up to wait. Rourke says that for reasons he cannot divulge, they will open only one box, find it empty and leave. Bosch wonders at this supposition. Bosch asks about stationing men inside the vault. Rourke reminds them of the danger of blast injury. Rourke orders the two surveillance teams to alert him instantly by land line if anything happens, and he will alert SWAT to stand by. If an alarm goes off, they are to call Avery, reset the alarm, and send him away; he is not to open the vault. .



Bosch keeps watch while Wish checks in with Rourke. She reports that SWAT has found a beige Jeep pulling a trailer containing three blue ATVs in a car pool lot near the freeway entrance. SWAT is setting up at three exit positions nearby and waiting for a warrant to examine the vehicles.

Part 6, Pages 352-383 Analysis

Friday ends with Rourke dictating how they will deal with the tunnelers. Bosch is suspicious that everything is falling into place so smoothly, and Wish is troubled by the drive-by and her brother's death in Vietnam. She reveals that a visit to the memorial makes her desire justice and quotes the late FBI director that justice is "incidental to law and order." Again, Bosch is too preoccupied with his growing feelings for her to see behind her words. In the end, enjoying the hindsight he has so often denigrated, he will see the missed signs.

Part 7

Part 7 Summary

Bosch finds several documents from the FBI jacket, including medical records and a two-page letter from a congressman thanking Meadows for his hospitality during a recent fact-finding visit to Saigon. The second page notes that Meadow's commanding officer, Lt. John H. Rourke, has spoken well of him. Bosch calls Rourke to reveal that Meadow's complete file shows that Rourke was his CO. Bosch phones LAPD dispatch and asks for confirmation of a SWAT callout in Beverly Hills. Getting it, Bosch realizes the vault is a decoy. Having flushed out Tran and the diamonds, Rourke will take him down. Bosch has played into his hands.

Bosch shows the letter to Wish and tells how he has confronted Rourke, who does not know they have non-sanitized evidence. They are spinning their wheels here, watching the vault and have led Tran to the slaughter. The LTD might belong to the robbers, not IAD. Wish brings up the alarms, fire hydrant and arson, which suggest that Rourke is leading his men into a trap. Wish radios Hanlon and Hauck, even though they may be in on the charade, and Bosch informs Orozco. The BHS&L alarm goes off and Bosch knows Rourke's men have walked into the trap.

Bosch leaves Hanlon and Hauck in place, pending orders, and Bosch realizes that the discoveries about the BHS&L come too late for Rourke to tell the men underground, so they have proceeded as planned. If they split after finding Tran's box empty, there is little time to waste. They will not risk drilling until the alarm is reset, so Bosch heads to meet the BHPD patrol car, telling Wish to inform SWAT and make up an excuse for Rourke not informing them. When Avery III arrives, Bosch asks him to reset the alarm, lock up, and drive around the corner for coffee. Bosch orders everyone out and returns to his car. Wish says Hanlon, Houck and SWAT are in holding positions.

Lewis waits until Avery turns off Wilshire before pulling him over and asking him for help in figuring out what illegalities Bosch is up to. Flagging down Clarke, who is watching the BHS&L, Lewis considers that Bosch may be sending manpower to the wrong places while his underground accomplices break in. Avery volunteers to let them into the vault. Having surprised the agents, he admits to telling Bosch about this possibility. Lewis jumps out to call Irving at home and the office and has him paged. Figuring it is an opportunity to be the hero, Lewis gives up and tells Clarke they are ordered to go in.

Hanlon radios seeing white males come out of the alley and enter with a key. Wish advises that they are LAPD. Bosch sees them inside the vault room and through binoculars sees Avery opening the vault door. Lewis smiles, both draw their weapons, and Avery turns the wheel. They leap out and run, guns held up, across Wilshire through traffic. As the door opens, Lewis' body flies backwards and blood and brains spatter the glass wall. Bosch sees muzzle flashes in the darkness and Lewis crashes through onto the sidewalk. The shooter fires on Clarke who is thrown backwards,



landing on Avery. When the gunfire ends, Bosch jumps through the opening, slides across the floor, and fires on the blur of a man dropping through the floor. A second man - Franklin - fires an M-16 over Bosch's head but Bosch hits him in the upper chest. Wish climbs through the window, Beretta in hand. In crouched marksman positions, they enter the empty vault. Avery is whimpering, Clarke is clamping his throat and gasping for air. Wish calls for backup and ambulances and alerts SWAT to expect company while Bosch drags Clarke off of Avery and out of the line of fire. Clarke is dying, Avery appears unhurt and Lewis died before hitting the glass.

Wish returns and Bosch tells her to tell backup and SWAT that an "officer friendly" has entered the tunnel. Wish argues to wait for backup and a plan, but he insists, refusing them more of a head start. Bosch plunges into blackness and hears running footsteps upstairs. Then he looks around with his flashlight. The thieves are headed west, away from the SWAT teams. Rourke has skillfully led everyone astray at the meeting, leaving Bosch on his own. Bosch crawls down the passageway sweating from heat and fear. He knows that the ATVs that SWAT is staking out are decoys. Rourke has played it well. Bosch chooses a right turn, away from the SWAT setup.

Bosch hears Delgado running and follows him uphill to another lighted junction room and then downhill toward the main line. Moving too fast, he slips, flails his arms and is hit in the right shoulder. He knows he is going into shock. Bosch wonders at hearing running footsteps stop, followed by muffled voices and two pistol shots. He stares into a penlight moving toward him and asks Rourke if it has a matching pointer.

Rourke holds an M-16 and does not answer the charge that he has killed Delgado, but says killing a cop is the only way for him to come out a hero. Finally, he says everyone up there knows the story and are sending help. It will go better for Rourke if he gets him out. Rourke pushes him down and declares that Bosch has cost them \$5-\$6 million from Tran, ruined a perfect crime and will not get out alive. Meadows' body should not have been found for days and then been written off as an OD. Instead, a kid reports it right away and Meadows' buddy from Vietnam gets the call. To get Bosch's attention, Rourke jams the barrel of his M-16 into his shoulder, sending searing pain through his body. Pain leaves Bosch temporarily alert, and he notices the FBI jumpsuit is inside out to conceal the label; that accounts for the empty tool belt Sharkey sees. Rourke and Bosch struggle in the water and and mocks him for ending up in a black echo.

Bosch asks why Meadows died. Rourke says it is because he was a "fuck up" over there and here. Everything is perfect until he holds back the bracelet. Bosch hears footsteps and asks about the bracelet to keep Rourke talking. The plan is to get rid of all the junk and wait until after the second job to move the diamonds. Rourke sees the pawned bracelet on a list provided routinely by LAPD and has to get it back because of the publicity about the old lady's sentimental story. He is sure Meadows is to blame. For his part, Rourke is well paid for helping them bring the diamonds into the country, but one day the seed planted long ago sprouts. Two gunshots thunder and he forces his eyes open to see Rourke drop the gun and fall.



Part 7 Analysis

On Saturday, Bosch learns Rourke is behind the robberies and has positioned his forces perfectly to thwart his true allies. Bosch considers possibilities: the bank vault is a decoy for the theft of Tran's gems - meaning he has set up a second person for murder or it is too late for the break-in to be averted, and Rourke wants his team to die to eliminate witnesses. By the time it becomes clear, it is the latter option, Bosch's self-righteous and ambitious IAD tails move in and die in a hail of bullets. Knowing that SWAT has been positioned to keep it out of effective action, and unwilling to let the murdering thieves get away, Bosch lives up to his reputation as a lone cowboy and faces his greatest fear - reentering the black echo. Rourke's murdering Delgado is little surprise, and his attire helps Bosch fit one more part of the puzzle in place. His fight to keep conscious is harrowing. Wish's coming to the rescue is not unexpected, but the revelations that follow are.



Part 8

Part 8 Summary

Bosch is in King/Drew Hospital. Rourke and Lewis are dead, and Clarke is being kept alive until they line up recipients for his organs. Wish is fine but being kept under wraps. The LAPD and FBI are claiming Rourke, Lewis and Clarke were valiant soldiers who died in the line of duty. The Times reports that Lewis and Clarke are part of an FBI investigation, which Edgar knows is a lie. Bremmer has been calling with suspicions, but to protect himself, Edgar says nothing.

Bosch wakes to find Irving sitting nearby and Irving questions Bosch for 90 minutes. Bosch asks what they find at Rourke's place, but is told it is none of his business. When Irving warns him not to shoot his mouth off about officers killed in the line of duty without supporting evidence, Bosch cannot hold back. Irving says that truth and what the public hears are not the same.

Wish has not heard whether the diamonds have been recovered; two crews are on the case while she rides a desk. Tran and Binh are not speaking and probably have their own posse out. She figures Lewis and Clarke decide they are scouts and Avery's tale confirms it. When he lets slip about the vault override, they decide to be heroes. She speculates that Rourke wants SWAT to kill his accomplices, so he can keep all the diamonds from the first heist.

Exasperated by wasting time so close to a breakthrough in the case, Bosch dresses, dodges Galvin exits the hospital. Bosch heads to the deserted office where he looks for some new name or discrepancy or unimportant detail to jump out at him. Bosch returns no calls but notices Veronica Niese's name on Edgar's pad. This reminds Bosch that Sharkey's interview tape has not been transcribed and should still be available on backup tape. He hears Wish ask if Sharkey recognizes her and then there is silence until Bosch enters. After listening several times, Bosch sees the truth .

Part 8 Analysis

The eighth day describes Bosch's abbreviated hospital stay, from his feverish awakening to finding his skittish ex-partner, who warns him to play dumb and retire, through an inquisition by the brass, where he obeys the order to bridle his wisecracks and an unofficial conversation that reveals his error in suspecting the late IAD officers of bugging his house to a depressing goodbye with Wish. Unable to sit still and tormented by Rourke's odd talk about sharing the pot with fewer players, Bosch escapes from what amounts to house arrest. Only when he hears on tape Wish asking if Sharkey recognizes her - the same question his killer asks repeatedly - does the light that he has been seeking dawn. Note the hellish opening sequence, reminiscent of the novel's second scene, where the shades of all the murdered now wander. In admitting Lewis

and Clarke's mistakes, Irving returns to the theme of Family and how its protection is the police department's highest calling; recall in this context J. Edgar Hoover's quote about justice being incidental to law and order. Bosch rejects it now as earlier.

Part 9 and Epilogue

Part 9 and Epilogue Summary

His first conclusion is that Wish is the passenger in the Jeep that dumps Meadows at the reservoir. Sharkey's failure to recognize her preserves his life until hypnosis is suggested. His second question is how Wish ties in with the Vietnam veterans and victims. Recalling how the Memorial upsets and changes her, he decides to find her brother's name. Having read all 58,132 names, he fails, as expected, to find Michael Scarletti.

Meadows' grave is surrounded by media vans. Seeing Bremmer leave the grave, Bosch summons him and says he has not read the newspaper accounts, but is sure they are bullshit. He agrees to tell Bremmer three things to check, provided nothing gets back to him: make IAD explain what Lewis and Clarke were doing; find out where Rourke is being buried and send somebody to cover it, and obtain military records on Meadows, Rourke, Franklin, and Delgado to tie up loose ends.

Wish has learned from the scanner that receipts for the diamonds are found in Rourke's storage locker, and they are getting a court order to open the locker. Bosch asks about her brother and her visit to the wall. She admits to anger and outrage that her brother does not return. He asks for details, but she says her father and mother do not discuss it with her. When he disagrees that she does not understand, she blanches and looks resigned. She knows Bosch has her secret as they near the memorial and admits her brother's name is not there.

Wish insists she has not lied to Bosch; she says only that Michael never came back. He dies in L.A. on a two-day layover en route home in 1973. It is ruled an OD, but she knows he is killed by heroin in a Hollywood brothel. She denies it has anything to do with Meadows, but he sees it all revolves around her. For Wish, it is Michael and his sacrifice. Wish wants Bosch to believe no one was to get hurt, but everyone who helps kill Michael is to lose everything. Ernst tells her about the triad, using Rourke and his embassy crew as a conduit for sending heroin home in sealed diplomatic pouches via "short-timers" such as Michael.

Rourke counts on the family hushing up Michael's death. She is astonished to find Rourke working in the FBI. Transferring, under her married name, to his command, she easily seduces him with her plan. Rourke recruits the others, pulls strings to get them into Charlie Company and convinces himself that the perfect plan is his. Her idea, however, is to disappear with the full treasure, leaving the others hurt. When Meadows pawns the bracelet, Wish sees it on a list and both she and Rourke panic. He waits until the second tunnel is nearly dug before confronting Meadows. Meadows dies without giving up the pawn ticket. When Rourke brags about killing someone long ago with heroin and getting away with it, she knows she is doing the right thing.



Delgado and Franklin break into the pawnshop while Rourke takes Wish to help dispose of the body. She knows from Meadows' record about his sleeping at the reservoir, so they take him there. She also knows that the location is in Hollywood Division, and Bosch would take an interest in his old comrade. Rourke is out of control, and Bosch is her safety valve in case she has to bring the whole thing down. She is determined that Rourke not get away with it again. Sharkey, she says wistfully, is safe until she lets slip to Rourke the idea of hypnotism. She is sure Rourke drives the hit-and-run. Rourke steers everyone away from BHS&L and does not warn Franklin and Delgado. She follows Bosch underground and kills Rourke.

Bosch advises her to get a lawyer, tell her brother's story and specify she is not in on the murders. The U.S. attorney will probably let her plead down and the FBI will go along. Bosch will not turn her in, but he will tell Binh and Tran, so they will come after her seeking justice. He is doing this for Sharkey; someone must answer for him.

Bosch checks back into MLK, rests two days and has his shoulder repaired. He reads Bremmer's front-page Times article about Rourke's funeral but sees nothing about Wish. The next day, Pounds tells him that he is reassigned to Hollywood homicide after recovery. Bosch's next visitor is a prosecutor from the U.S. attorney's office. That means Wish has come in. He confirms Wish's alibi for the night of Sharkey's murder. Next morning, Bosch checks out to begin six months of recuperative leave. He finds a slip in his mailbox, which he takes to the post office to claim a wide, flat wrapped package. He knows before opening it that it is Wish's Nighthawks print. He hangs it near his front door and studies it from time to time.

Part 9 and Epilogue Analysis

The novel wraps up rapidly when Bosch visits the replica of the Vietnam Memorial and confronts Wish. She is ready to confess everything, putting all the pieces in place. Bosch's threat to tell the Vietnamese captains about her convinces her to turn herself in. Bosch specifies that someone must pay for Sharkey's murder. The story ends with Bosch owning the Hopper print with which they both identify - as loners in deep shadows.



Characters

Hieronymus Bosch

The novel's 40-years-old, graying, droopy-mustached, constantly smoking protagonist, standing just under six feet tall, wiry, with dark, emotionless eyes, Harry Bosch is "in the barrel" when a dead body is reported in a pipe at the Mulholland Dam. He recognizes the DB as a fellow "tunnel rat" from the First Infantry Division during Vietnam, and, unlike lazier colleagues, Bosch smells murder and uses his superior investigative skills to pursue the case.

Named for a famous 15th-century Dutch painter of the same name, Bosch goes into foster care when his mother is murdered. He enlists in the Army and serves in Vietnam, partnering with the now murder victim, William Meadows. Bosch loses his ability to fight underground and finishes his tour in Saigon as an MP. Returning to civilian life in 1975, Bosch receives VA counseling for post-traumatic stress (PTS), insomnia, and claustrophobia, and wavers between crime and justice before joining the LAPD as a patrolman. Within eight years, he is a homicide detective renowned for solving serial murders. When one is made into a TV movie and series, Bosch earns \$50,000, which he puts down on a small, cantilevered house in the hills above Studio City. It makes Bosch feel like "prince of the city."

After ten years in the prestigious Robbery and Homicide Division (RHD), Bosch finds himself "sentenced" for nine months to the "sewer" in Hollywood Division, having been busted after shooting an unarmed suspect in the Dollmaker Case. The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) "goons," Lewis and Clarke, who accuse him, still want to bring him down. During his 22-day suspension in Mexico, Bosch misses a major bank job, which he quickly links to Meadows and offers his insights to the FBI. Ever caustic, Bosch tangles with Special Agent John H. Rourke, who calls IAD to have him suspended. Lewis and Clarke are put on Bosch's tail. When Bosch threatens to expose the FBI's disinterest in an unsolved case to the press, he is assigned to assist Special Agent Eleanor Wish, whose rudeness and insistence on protocol in the first meeting amaze him.

Following a series of leads, Wish and Bosch conflict over dealing with an under aged prostitute and her john, the danger of second-hand smoke and proper interview techniques. Wish vehemently opposes hypnotizing Sharkey and declines a dinner invitation. They part angry, but Wish shows up at Bosch's house at 11 PM, proposing a truce. He finds her sad face attractive and wonders if they have a future. He finds out when she proposes dinner at her Santa Monica townhouse. There Bosch admires a framed print of Edward Hopper's Nighthawks, the original of which he has seen in Chicago and with which he identifies - as a loner. Their first time making love is awkward, but the second is natural. Wish's mood changes abruptly at the grisly scene of Sharkey's murder, but rebounds after an old acquaintance at the State Department provides a lead about a Vietnamese crime syndicate. After dinner, Wish invites Bosch home, but before they enter, a hit-and-run driver nearly kills them. Their pursuit pulls



over an innocent lawyer and leads to four hours of separate interrogations. Afterwards, they go to bed.

Wish is horrified when Bosch without her knowledge bugs Binh's phone, using equipment he has found in his home, and over which he has brutalized Lewis and Clarke. Listening, they decipher a phone number, stake out the corresponding address, and tail Tran to the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L). Meadows' non-sanitized file shows that Rourke was Meadow's commanding officer in Vietnam. When an explosion rocks BHS&L, they race inside, and Bosch pursues the suspects into the nightmare of the tunnels. Wounded and certain Rourke will kill him, Bosch hears gunshots, sees Rourke slump and thinks he sees Wish's face.

In recovery, after telling his full story to the humorless brass and being warned not to talk with reporters, Bosch is depressed to learn that Wish is leaving the FBI. Bosch sneaks out of the hospital, goes to the station, reviews the Sharkey interview tape, hears Wish ask if Sharkey recognizes her, realizes the truth, verifies that her brother's name is not on the wall, and after Meadow's shabby funeral, confronts her. Wish describes how she organizes getting even with everyone involved in her brother's murder, down to making sure that Meadows' death will clearly be murder to his old comrade. Bosch advises that she turn herself in. He will not do it, but will inform Binh and Tran. Contacted by a prosecutor, Bosch confirms Wish's alibi for Sharkey's murder and learns she faces 30 months tops. Bosch hangs the Nighthawks print that Wish mails him and contemplates himself as the loner.

Eleanor D. Wish

The FBI Special Agent who signs the WestLand National Bank burglary investigation, Eleanor D. Wish (née Scarlett) is a complex character, who ends up partnering - and sleeping - with protagonist Harry Bosch, but in the end admits she is the mastermind of the entire caper, as revenge for her beloved brother, who was murdered 15 years earlier. Tall, lithesome, brown-haired, tanned, hard-shelled, a bit weary and wearing a brown business suit, Wish keeps Bosch waiting 90 minutes and is rude throughout their initial talk. Her boss, John H. Rourke, pretends to be talking on the phone at the next desk. Frustrated by Wish's insistence on following protocol, Bosch leaves. Seeing her in the lobby, he tails her to a restaurant, sits opposite her and demands that Rourke get him back on the case or read about it in the Times. Meeting next morning in a coffee shop, Bosch is preoccupied with her sad, but attractive face, as she gives a full rundown on the evidence, with clear admiration for the planning and execution of the operation. Her defense of Rourke as a thorough administrator convinces Bosch that they are not lovers.

Chasing a young witness, Wish and Bosch conflict over turning in an under aged prostitute and her john, the danger of second-hand smoke and proper interview techniques. Wish vehemently opposes hypnotizing Sharkey and declines a dinner invitation. They part angry, but Wish shows up at his house at 11 PM, proposing a truce. After they check out the Charlie Company outreach program, Wish recites her story of



majoring in criminal justice, being recruited by the FBI, serving five boring years in Washington, D.C. and transferring to "the bank robbery capital" of the nation. She proposes they have dinner at her Santa Monica townhouse, where Bosch admires a framed print of Edward Hopper's Nighthawks. Their first time making love is awkward, but the second is natural. When they are summoned to Sharkey's murder scene, Wish's mood changes abruptly. Through an old acquaintance at the State Department, she obtains a lead about a Vietnamese crime syndicate. Over dinner, an inexplicable warmth returns and Wish invites Bosch home. Before they can enter, a hit-and-run driver nearly kills them. Their pursuit pulls over an innocent lawyer and leads to four hours of separate interrogations. Afterwards, Wish takes Bosch home.

Wish is horrified when Bosch, without her knowledge, bugs Binh's phone, but she goes along with deciphering the phone number that Binh dials. They stake out the address, and tail Tran to the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L). On an overnight stakeout, Wish recalls visiting the Vietnam Memorial, finding her brother's name missing and swearing to seek justice. Meadows' non-sanitized file shows that Rourke was Meadows' commanding officer in Vietnam. When an explosion rocks BHS&L, they race over and Bosch pursues the suspects into the tunnels. Wounded and certain Rourke will kill him, Bosch hears gunshots, sees Rourke slump and thinks he sees Wish's face.

Wish visits Bosch in recovery and announces she is leaving the FBI. Reviewing the Sharkey interview tape, Bosch hears Wish ask if Sharkey recognizes her, realizes the truth and confronts her. Wish describes how she organizes getting even with everyone involved in her brother's murder, down to making sure that Meadows' death will clearly be murder to his old comrade. Bosch advises that she get a lawyer, tell her brother's story and specify that she is not in on the murders. He will not turn her in, but in two days will inform Binh and Tran that she was involved in their loss of the diamonds. Contacted by a prosecutor, Bosch confirms Wish's alibi for Sharkey's murder and learns, off the record, that Wish will get 30 months tops. Wish mails Bosch her Nighthawks print.

Binh and Tran

Two former Vietnamese police captains involved in smuggling brown heroin into the U.S., 1973-75, who immigrate with amazing ease suggesting political friends in high places, Binh and Tran unintentionally help break the Westland National Bank mystery. Ngo Van Binh shows up on a list of WestLand National Bank boxholders who report no losses. His INS file is still classified. Wish's contact in the State Department can tell them only that Binh headed the vice unit in Vietnam and is one third of the "Devil's Three" triad that controlled and orchestrated all corruption in Saigon. A second captain died in Vietnam, but the third, Nguyen Tran, escaped to the U.S. with Binh, with \$15-\$18 million converted into two shoeboxes full of diamonds. Protagonist Harry Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish visit Binh's warehouse and explain that they know about his smuggling past and want to warn Tran. He plants an electronic bug in the phone, and they wait for Binh to phone Tran. They visit "Little Saigon," stake out Tran's golden stretch Mercedes and follow him and his "hired muscle" to the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock



(BHS&L), where Tran transfers his diamonds to a briefcase and leaves. It is too late to call off the break-in. The FBI recovers and confiscates the diamonds.

Joel Bremmer

The chief crime reporter for the Los Angeles Times, Bremmer has a good reputation among cops who generally hate the newspaper. He writes a bestseller about the "Beauty Shop Slasher," Harvard Kendal, which becomes a movie and television series, establishing protagonist Harry Bosch as a popular hero. When Bosch puts together his murder victim and the WestLand National Bank robbery, he phones Bremmer for the articles he missed while under suspension, and offered a story in return. On the day Bosch is to be suspended, Bremmer calls under an agreed pseudonym, but there is no time to get back to him. After Bosch is shot, Bremmer calls Bosch's ex-partner, Jerry Edgar, who has no comment. After FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish tells Bosch the truth about masterminding a plot to get even with everyone involved in her brother's death, he talks with Bremmer on condition of anonymity. He knows that Bremmer is driven by ambition rather than justice, but does not care.

Jerry Edgar

Protagonist Harry Bosch's partner in the Hollywood Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, Jerry ("Jed") Edgar sells real estate on the side for Valley Pride Properties. Wearing impeccably tailored \$900 suits, large, slow-moving Edgar is hard to keep pace with. He wears his hair cropped close and has skin as dark and smooth as an eggplant. He intends to retire as soon as his 20 years of 9-to-5 service are in and cater to cops' real estate needs to the tune of \$250,000 a year. Wanting the listing, Edgar constantly urges Bosch to sell his tiny cantilever house above Studio City and trade up, but Bosch refuses. Edgar goes to VA for Meadows' file and is worried when he learns the FBI has taken it and Bosch's. Unsure how Edgar will stand up to an IAD grilling, Bosch says Edgar knows nothing about the Meadows' case, and Edgar is assigned to a new partner, a lush. They investigate the murder of the young witness in the Meadows case, and Edgar again wants to not dig too deeply into the evidence. Edgar risks his career to visit Bosch in the hospital after Bosch is wounded and advises him to claim amnesia when interrogated, take his 80% disability pension and leave the LAPD. Bosch is disappointed in his ex-partner.

Franklin and Delgado

Two alumni of Charlie Company, Art Franklin and Gene Delgado both serve time for bank robbery, after returning to Los Angeles from service in separate MP units in Saigon. Like William Meadows, recently deceased, they are discharged in 1973, but stay on as civilian military advisers until April 1975. Franklin is sent away for a series of robberies and is at Terminal Island during Meadows' day and his stay at Charlie Company, the prison halfway house for ex-Vietnam vets, overlaps Meadows' by two



months. Delgado serves local time in L.A. for three burglaries before going to Soledad for attempted bank robbery. He leaves Charlie Company a day after Franklin arrives. They match Sharkey's description of a big man and a small one. When mug shots of Franklin and Delgado are shown to the vault guards at WestLand National Bank, one guard positively identifies Franklin as Frederic B. Isley ("FBI"), who buys three Honda ATVs for cash a month before the robbery. As it turns out, FBI Special Agent John H. Rourke - their commander in Saigon - recruits them for their tunneling experience, pulls strings to get them into Charlie Company, and is congratulating himself on Part 1 of the perfect crime—until Meadows pawns a bracelet. He sends Franklin and Delgado to steal it back while he confronts, tortures and kills Meadows. By the time Bosch puts the pieces together and puts the second target, Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L), under surveillance, it is too late for Rourke to call the mission off. Franklin opens fire when the vault opens, killing two LAPD IAD detectives, and is wounded in the shoulder by Bosch, who chases them below ground. He finds Franklin's body and is drawn by noise into Delgado's trap. Delgado wounds Bosch before being killed by Rourke.

Ed Gearson

An underground facilities supervisor for the Department of Water and Power (DWP), Gearson brings to a strategy meeting with the FBI and Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) a schematic showing all utility lines, tunnels and culverts. The FBI agent in charge, John H. Rourke, makes clear that he does not appreciate being upstaged by Gearson, and gets Gearson to validate his plans for ambushing the thieves as they flee.

Hanlon and Houck

FBI agents assigned to overnight surveillance at the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock, augmenting protagonist Harry Bosch and Eleanor Wish. Hanlon and Houck keep in radio contact and respond when the break-in occurs. Hanlon accompanies Wish into the tunnels on Bosch's tail but chooses the wrong way at a forking, allowing Wish to find her partner and save his life by killing her boss, John H. Rourke.

Irvin Irving

The Deputy Chief of the LAPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD), Irving wears tailored suits, has manicured nails and a gleaming scalp, but is most notable for his "flying jaw." Fussy, mistrustful of technology, he is a "slow-moving, careful policeman," who dislikes shortcuts and abbreviations. Above all, he covets a chief's office on the 6th floor of Parker Center. When the FBI complains about protagonist Harry Bosch, a detective whose homicide work Irving grudgingly admires, but whose refusal to be part of the "LAPD Family," he cannot accept, Irving assigns Bosch's old nemeses, Lewis and Clarke, to tail him discretely. Irving wants written and telephonic reports daily. When it turns out that FBI Special Agent John H. Rourke is the ringleader in a second robbery, Irving directs the press cover-up.



Lewis and Clarke

Partners in the LAPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD), reporting directly to Deputy Chief Irvin Irving, detectives Pierce Lewis and Don Clarke look like brothers, having close-cropped brown hair, the physique of weightlifters and conservative gray silk suits; they could be brothers. Called to Irving's office, Clarke smiles, hearing that protagonist Harry Bosch has again become a "priority problem" for IAD. They investigate him nine months earlier in conjunction with the Dollmaker case and are ready to turn him over to the grand jury for murder, but are ordered to stand down. This time, they are determined to end his days in the LAPD. Irving orders them to tail Bosch without being seen and report to him and Bosch's lieutenant daily. The partners argue constantly in the car, with Lewis nervously picking his teeth. They notice Bosch's teenaged witness, Sharkey, and take pictures but leave any larceny he might commit to other police. Clarke believes that Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish are just "knocking off a piece" inside the motel, but Lewis doubts they are that stupid.

When Bosch discovers an electronic bug in his home phone, he (wrongly) assumes it is theirs, sneaks out, circles behind "Heckle and Jeckle," drags them out of the car, handcuffs them to one another around a palm tree, confronts them with the evidence and rejects their pleas of innocence. Bosch is sure the equipment will keep them from reporting the incident, but learns later that they do report it and want to prosecute him, but Irving asks them to wait. They are so furious that they tail Bosch and Wish on their own time. Seeing them talk to the manager of the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L) and learning he has told them he can bypass the time-lock on the vault, Lewis and Clarke convince him to let them into the vault, and fall in a hail of bullets from inside. Lewis dies instantly while Clarke holds on a few days. Bosch worries about his inability to mourn the deaths of these fools who wanted so badly to be heroes.

William Joseph Meadows

The dead body found in a pipe at the Mulholland Dam, Meadows is protagonist Harry Bosch's fellow "tunnel rat" while serving in the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. Bosch recognizes him from the tattoo they all shared as a bond then and from pictures of his youthful, living face. Meadows is the only rat unafraid of going "from the blue into the black." He collects ears and scalps as trophies and plays Jimmi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" as his anthem. Left underground on one mission, however, Meadows freaks out and has to be hauled out. He is re-assigned as an MP at the U.S. embassy in Saigon until the pullout in 1973, and remains as a civilian military adviser until 1975. His last mission for the U.S. government is security during the massive exodus of South Vietnamese officials fearing North Vietnamese reprisals.

Back in Los Angeles, Meadows amasses a record of bank robbery, attempted robbery, possession of heroin, loitering at the dam and "hype beefs." He called Bosch once, last year, when he needs help beating a beef in Van Nuys. He learns Bosch is a cop from write-ups about the Dollmaker case. Bosch calls the arresting cop and arranges for the



VA clinic to take him in for six weeks. Neither calls the other again. Bosch's lazy partner, Jerry Edgar, sees nothing "hinky" in a lifelong junkie dying of an overdose, but Bosch contacts the U.S. Armed Services Records Archive in St. Louis for Meadows's military records. Toxicology results are surprising only in that Meadows receives "a very hot shot" of Asian heroin, 55% pure. Before dying, he is tortured with electric shock to the chest.

Further investigation shows that Meadows' commanding officer as an MP in Saigon is FBI Special Agent John H. Rourke, who also commanded Art Franklin and Gene Delgado. Together, they send heroin to the U.S. in sealed diplomatic pouches via "short-timers." Devising a plan to recover diamonds brought in illegally by two crooked Vietnamese police captains, Rourke recruits all three to break into the two Vietnamese's safe-deposit boxes. Items stolen to cover the theft at WestLand National Bank are to be destroyed to prevent leaks, but Meadows needs money, so pawns a distinctive bracelet, causing Rourke to panic. After torturing Meadows, Rourke kills him, and with Special Agent Eleanor Wish - working the case with Bosch - stows his body in the pipe. Injured during the second break-in, Bosch leaves the hospital to attend Meadows' VA funeral.

Edward Niese AKA Sharkey

The young "tagger" (graffiti artist), who sees something late night at the Mulholland Dam, Sharkey phones 911 at 4:30 AM, alerting police to a dead body but refuses to give his name or wait for officers. His police jacket shows Sharkey is a real troublemaker. His real name is Edward Niese, age 17, with busts in Hollywood and West Hollywood for shoplifting, vandalism, loitering, drugs and selling nude photos of himself to gays. After 20 days at Sylmar Juvenile Hall, he is on home probation but has run away. Three months earlier, he is found sleeping in the pipe at the Mulholland Dam. While working the Meadows murder, protagonist Harry Bosch sees Sharkey, now sporting blond dreadlocks, in the station house, chained to the lockup bench, but he is gone by the time Bosch makes the connection.

With partners Arson and Mojo, Sharkey watches for affluent-looking, lone males to take him home for sex and then admit the larger thugs to beat and rob him. They succeed with "Jack" in a gated townhouse development in Flores. When Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish find his yellow motorbike, Sharkey has just sold pictures and worries about being arrested for the break-in. He is relieved that they want only to talk about the body at Mulholland Dam. He accompanies them to Hollywood Station, tells the story on tape, but cannot identify the driver of the Jeep, his silent companion, or the logo on the door. Wishing he could hypnotize Sharkey to obtain more detail, Bosch takes him to a youth shelter and reminds him he can find him again. That night, Arson and Mojo fail to back Sharkey up when a stranger picks him up, drives him to Hollywood Bowl, and slashes his throat in an underground passage. Bosch is called to the scene, sees "RIP Sharkey" spray-painted over his body, realizes it is a warning to him about this case and vows vengeance for a street kid who does not deserve to die like this. Turning in Wish for her part in the plot, although she does not kill Sharkey, is Bosch's way of keeping that vow.



Oscar Obinna

The owner of the Happy Hocker pawnshop, Obinna waits since 5 AM for police detectives to investigate the smash-and-grab he has suffered at 4:30. When protagonist Harry Bosch drops in to examine an item for which he has found a pawn ticket, Obinna shows his frustration with the police department but stresses he always complies with the law and lists and photographs pawned objects. He turns over a Polaroid of William Meadows' fine antique bracelet. Obinna's caterpillar-like eyebrows show his shifting emotions.

Capt. Orozco

The commander of the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD), Orozco is built like an inverted pyramid. At the strategy meeting held in a garage across from the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L), Orozco is marginalized. FBI Special Agent John Rourke says he is there only as a professional courtesy. Orozco objects to letting the perpetrators break into the vault before apprehending them as that will destroy the public's trust in the institution, whose interests he is obliged to defend. Overruled, he threatens that if the operation is a disaster, he will report everything to the press. When protagonist Harry Bosch realizes that Rourke is masterminding the break-in, he turns over command to Orozco and drops into the tunnel system below ground to hunt the escaping criminals.

Harvey Pounds

Protagonist Harry Bosch's superior in the LAPD Hollywood Division, the Lieutenant nicknamed "Ninety-eight Pounds" accepts him for the homicide table despite his reputation as a loner. A militant reformed-smoker, Pounds hates detectives using his office as a smoking area in his absence and suspects Bosch is the worst offender but never catches him in the act. When FBI Special Agent files charges against Bosch over the William Meadows' murder case, Pounds removes Bosch and his partner but restrains Internal Affairs Division (IAD) detectives Lewis and Clarke as they relish the idea of ending Bosch's career. Pounds is amazed when the FBI withdraws charges and requests Bosch on temporary liaison. Pounds does not want Bosch back in his command again, but accepts him after he recovers from a gunshot wound, on orders from the top.

John H. Rourke

The FBI Special Agent heading the WestLand National Bank burglary investigation, Rourke makes the first vague statement to the press, claiming that \$1 million worth of jewels and other valuables are taken, without elaborating on how the burglars enter the vault. Rourke pretends to be busy on the phone when protagonist Harry Bosch appears with new information on the case, which has been stalled for nine months. Talking with Special Agent Eleanor Wish, Bosch figures out who Rourke is and confronts him with his



evidence. Rourke calls Bosch's lieutenant and LAPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD) to lodge a complaint against Bosch. He has to retract it when Bosch threatens to go public with his information. Reluctantly, Rourke allows Bosch and Wish to partner on the case. He tries to buddy up to Bosch on the basis of his three tours in Vietnam. A bit older and heavier than Bosch and wearing the FBI's traditional blue blazer with a power tie, Rourke says they must cooperate towards the same goal.

Rourke is, in fact, behind the second phase of an operation inspired by Wish. In Vietnam, Rourke and an embassy crew consisting of William Meadows, Art Franklin, and Gene Delgado send heroin home in sealed, diplomatic pouches via "short-timers." They murder one courier, Michael Scarletti, who gets curious about his package and hush up his death. Michael's grief-stricken sister is Eleanor Wish, who is astonished to find Rourke working in the FBI in Washington, DC. Transferring to his command in Los Angeles, she easily seduces him with a plan to recover diamonds brought in illegally by two crooked Vietnamese police captains. Rourke recruits the others, pulls strings to get them into Charlie Company and convinces himself that the perfect plan is his. Wish's idea, however, is to disappear with the full treasure, leaving the others hurt. No one outside the "circle of guilt" is to be hurt. When Meadows pawns a bracelet, Rourke panics, waits until the second tunnel is nearly dug, confronts, tortures and kills Meadows. He also kills a teen, who witnessed the disposal of Meadow's body. He commands the SWAT team waiting for the second break-in, placing them away from the real action. When Bosch chases Franklin and Delgado into the underground maze of tunnels, Rourke is waiting for them. He boasts of sharing the treasure with fewer people and is about to kill Bosch when Wish shoots him dead. The FBI is prepared to bury Rourke as a hero until Bosch disobeys orders and leaks details to the press, destroying Rourke's reputation as "John Wayne reincarnated."

Larry Sakai

A coroners technician dispatched to the Mulholland Dam crime scene, Sakai has not yet lived down dumping a loaded gurney on the freeway in rush hour without noticing. Protagonist Harry Bosch does not like Sakai, but admires his professionalism, watching him examine the deceased to determine preliminary time of death. Bosch suspects that on an earlier case, Sakai leaks the information that gets it dubbed the "Dollmaker Case," launching Bosch into unwanted fame.

Dr. Jesus Salazar

The Los Angeles County medical examiner, "Sally" likes mysteries and is intrigued by protagonist Harry Bosch's interest in an apparent overdose victim, William Meadows. Salazar begins his career in 1974, searching the rubble of a Symbionese Liberation Army house for Patty Hearst's remains, working for three days with Bosch, then a patrolman. Bosch finds it useful to bounce hypotheses off the careful forensic scientist.



Gordon Scales

A pipe-smoking, retired and born-again U.S. Army colonel, Scales runs Charlie Company, a work farm for early releases from prison. Scales, in his 60s but looking as fit as a young man, dresses like his men and lives among them. He accepts only Vietnam combat veterans and tries, through hard work and religion, to put back into them what Vietnam took out. He keeps meticulous records, which he shares grudgingly with law enforcement. His operation depends on public donations. Parole boards and wardens listen to him, and every vet doing time begs to be sponsored to go there.

Hector Villabona

An Immigration and Naturalization Service employee who describes himself as "the token beaner in the bean-counting department," Villabona is an old acquaintance of protagonist Harry Bosch and a "let's-do-it" kind of guy. He processes Bosch's 34-name list of Vietnamese-surnamed victims of the WestLand Bank caper, and recognizes the name of Ngo Van Binh, whose entry into the U.S. in 1975, suggests that his paperwork had to have been "greased."



Objects/Places

Beverly Hills Safe & Lock

The institution on Wilshire Blvd. in which Nguyen Tran stores his illegal cache of diamonds, the BHS&L and the tunnels beneath it provide the novel's dénouement. Protagonist Harry Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish follow Tran to BHS&L after smoking him out using an ex-colleague, Ngo Van Binh, the target of an unsolved robbery a year earlier at the WestLand National Bank. Tran puts his surviving half of the jewels in BHS&L because it is not federally regulated. The Vietnamese are said to distrust banks. BHS&L provides a useful service to an elite Hollywood clientèle and charges premium fees. In the huge front window is a polished steel vault door. This is the only remarkable feature of the 14-story J. C. Stock Building. The vault is considered impregnable, with double-plated tempered glass and vibration alarms. Access to the mantrap is controlled by a hand-recognition pad that unlocks the first door, which must lock before the armed guard inside the vault opens the inside one. The vault is larger than Bosch envisions, extending far back into the building. Safe deposit boxes line the walls and a steel structure running down the center provides larger storage areas. Bosch and Wish explain the problem to Martin B. Avery IV, owner and chief operating officer of BHS&L. The robbers follow the same methodology as at WestLand, coming up from below, but Bosch and Wish are waiting for them. Their target - Tran's diamonds - have already been spirited away.

The Blue Chateau

A depressing, 1950s-era, two-story concrete motel off Hollywood Blvd., the Blue Chateau is, according to CRASH computer files, the sleeping place of Edward Niese, AKA Sharkey, and his crew for months. The old man behind glass in the office tells protagonist Harry Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor D. Wish that Sharkey's bike is gone, so he is probably not in Room 7, which he shares with his crew. Somebody is always in there, however. He reminds them that the sliding door in back is expensive to replace. They split up to cover both doors. Bosch knocks, a man desperate for an to escape out the back runs into Wish, and an underaged prostitute, Bettijane Felker, says the crew is in Boytown. Wise wants to book the pedophile, but Bosch refuses to waste time on what is at best a misdemeanor.

Charlie Company

A halfway house in Ventura County, Charlie Company is a vegetable farm owned and operated by the retired and born-again Col. Gordon Scales, and tended by Vietnam combat veterans, 24 at a time, on early release from prison. Fieldwork and religious counseling sessions result in a recidivist rate of only 11%. Parole boards and wardens listen to Scales, and every vet doing time begs to be sponsored there. Scales



cooperates in the murder of program alumnus William Meadows not because he is legally required to but because Scales had premonitions that Meadows might go bad and because his Christian belief that murder is uncivilized. Protagonist Harry Bosch acknowledges Scales' good work, but believes other vets from here, yet unidentified, may have met at "Charlie Company" to plan a bank robbery linked to the murder. The farm owns three pickups, two tractors and a four-wheel-drive Jeep, white with the company seal on the door.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Referred to by LAPD officers as the "feebees" and "Fucking-B-I," the FBI has plush offices on the 17th floor of the Federal Building on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. When protagonist Harry Bosch goes there to offer new insights into an unsolved crime that he has tied to a recent murder, he notices immediately that the FBI does not go in for catchy acronyms, and its facilities rival legal or real estate offices. Bosch receives a cool reception from Special Agent Eleanor Wish, and realizes another person engaged in a phone call is her superior, John Rourke. He sees both names in the BOLOs (be-on-the-lookout-for) issued after the WestLand National Bank robbery nearly a year before. When Rourke lodges a complaint against Bosch with LAPD Internal Affairs Division (IAD), Bosch threatens to tell the press that the FBI rejects new information on a prominent, unsolved case. Rourke's complaint is withdrawn, and Bosch joins Wish in the reinvigorated investigation. The novel repeatedly shows the FBI throwing its weight around vis-à-vis local police departments and agencies such as the Veterans Administration.

First Infantry Division

The U.S. Army division in which protagonist Harry Bosch and murder victim and bank robber William Meadows serve as "tunnel rats" during the Vietnam War. The First Infantry attaches these specialists to patrols in order to check out and destroy underground tunnels through which the Viet Cong move about the country.

Happy Hocker

A pawnshop located in the Bradbury Building in downtown Los Angeles, the Happy Hocker gives William Meadows under the alias Fields \$800 for an "antique bracelet, gold with jade inlay" seven weeks before he is murdered. The shop is broken into the night of Meadows' murder, and the bracelet, along with cheaper items in the same cases, are stolen. Owner Oscar Obinna is angry that the police are not responding when protagonist Harry Bosch arrives with a pawn check for that very bracelet, found in the dead man's bedroom behind a framed picture.



Hollywood Division

The division of the Los Angeles Police Department to which protagonist Harry Bosch is assigned after being reprimanded and transferred from the prestigious Robbery-Homicide Division, because of his action in the Dollmaker Case. Hollywood Division is located on Wilcox. Most of its business comes from Hollywood Blvd., two blocks north. The detectives' bureau holds long tables assigned to burglary, auto, juvenile, robbery and homicide, "all awash in paperwork and clutter." Behind them are a holding tank and jail. Hollywood Division, commanded by Lt. Harvey ("Ninety-eight Pounds") Pounds, is considered a "sewer" assignment. The back alley smells of urine and vomit wafting out of the cells, and smoking detectives sneak into Pounds' office in his absence, since the health code forbids smoking in common areas.

Internal Affairs Division

The division of the Los Angeles Police Department that investigates cases against police officers. IAD is despised by the rank-and-file. Protagonist Harry Bosch has an open file, stemming from the Dollmaker case, which resulted in his transfer to Hollywood Division. Ambitious, meticulous Deputy Chief Irvin Irving, who wants to take him down after the FBI files a complaint, runs IAD. He assigns covert reconnaissance to gung-ho detectives Pierce Lewis and Don Clarke, keeping a short rein and demanding regular reports and phone-ins from landlines. When the FBI withdraws its complaint, IAD continues the stakeout, assuming Bosch is up to something. Lewis and Clarke end up getting killed trying to be heroes.

Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center

Thanks to the gangbangers in Watts, MLK is the country's premier facility for treating gunshot wounds. Military physicians train there. After being shot in a tunnel, protagonist Harry Bosch is flown there by helicopter, has his shoulder repaired and awakens strapped to a bed in a room guarded by a uniformed Wilshire Division officer. He endures grilling by combined LAPD/FBI brass, is warned not to talk with the press and promptly escapes down an "authorized personnel" elevator and out through the emergency room. His doctor phones to order him back or consider himself no longer his patient. After attending former colleague William Meadows' funeral and confronting FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish with proof of her complicity in the murder and two bank robberies, Bosch returns to MLK for further surgery.

Mulholland Dam

The body of water that provides Los Angeles with 60 million gallons of drinking water - despite four years of drought - the Mulholland Dam is surrounded by a gravel access road and a ten-foot-high chain-link fence. The novel opens with a young graffiti artist witnessing a Jeep drive up with lights off, which stops while the large driver pulls out a



dead body, drags it into a pipe meant to capture mud slides during heavy rains, sweeps away tracks with broken shrubbery, and drives off across the dam with lights off. The smaller passenger says nothing and does not leave the vehicle. The graffiti artist, Sharkey, who frequently sleeps in the pipe to avoid going home, determines the body is dead and flees to call 911. The investigating officer is the novel's protagonist who recognizes the dead body as a colleague in Vietnam 15 years earlier. At the end of the novel, all these coincidences are shown to not be coincidental. FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish knows about Sharkey's loitering record and wants Bosch to draw the case.

Parker Center

Headquarters for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Parker Center houses the central computers with programs that are all known by clever acronyms. The various police chiefs have their offices on the 6th floor, so "6th floor" is code for the top brass.

Robbery-Homicide Division

The prestigious division of the Los Angeles Police Department from which protagonist Harry Bosch is downgraded after the Dollmaker Case nine months earlier; Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) is housed on the third floor of the Parker Center (Los Angeles City Hall). Bosch serves nearly ten years before being suspended and transferred. Because of its convenience, he returns there to look into leads before attending an autopsy on murder victim William Meadows and receives snide treatment from the young detective, who inherits his desk.

WestLand National Bank

The financial institution located at 6th and Hill in downtown Los Angeles that is burglarized in September, WestLand is the victim of tunneling from beneath, using the extensive municipal tunnels for access. During the week before the hit, the alarms go off multiple times, so the manager (since fired) shuts it off, in order not to ruin his Memorial Day plans. The FBI determines that Vietnam "tunnel rats" dig below the bank, bolting an industrial drill to the underside of the vault slab, bore through five feet of concrete and steel, pack the hole with C-4, wire it and pop it out from in the drainage tunnel. LAPD shows that at 9:14 AM on Saturday, alarms go off in adjacent buildings. Patrols investigate but figure it is an earthquake. No one investigates WestLand, where the alarm is silent. Once inside the vault, the thieves invade deposit boxes all weekend, sleeping in shifts, and eating from survival packets and junk food. There are signs in the sand that they are armed with M-16s, meaning they do not plan on surrendering if things go wrong. During 60 hours, they drill open 464 boxes out of 750 and begin clearing out around 3 AM Tuesday. The well-tanned manager discovers the heist at opening time. As protagonist Harry Bosch and Eleanor Wish develop new leads, bank employees identify mug shots of the "top man" who purchased a safe-deposit box under

the fictitious name Frederic B. Isley ("FBI"). The one stolen item that shows up proves to be the reason for William Meadows' murder, with which the novel begins.



Themes

Coincidence

Protagonist Harry Bosch, an LAPD homicide detective repeats at intervals throughout *The Black Echo* that he does not believe in coincidence. The question first comes up when William Meadow is found dead in a pipe at the Mulholland Dam. They fought side-by-side 15 years earlier as "tunnel rats" in Vietnam. When Bosch tells his lackadaisical partner, Jerry Edgar about it, Edgar cries conflict of interest and will not consider the signs that Bosch alone sees pointing to murder. The question of coincidence comes up again at the Happy Hocker pawnshop: a valuable piece is taken in a break-in around 4:30 AM, a half hour after the 911 call that alerts the LAPD to Meadows' body. The shop owner produces a Polaroid of the bracelet, recalls the transaction and recognizes Meadow's dead face. Bosch takes the evidence he has gathered linking Meadows to the unsolved WestLand National Bank robbery and is shocked to find that Special Agent Eleanor Wish and her boss, John Rourke seem uninterested in the evidence. Wish insists on using normal liaisons. Bosch is convinced that the guy who pawned it six weeks earlier is his victim, probably whacked in retaliation for breaking the rules. When Bosch admits to knowing Meadows long ago and believes that Meadows left the pawn ticket as a clue, knowing he will die, the FBI again bring up conflict of interest but declare that a tunnel caper and dead tunnel fighter cannot be coincidence. They reveal that Bosch, early on, is a suspect, but his visit to Mexico at the time of the robbery clears him. Bosch and Wish discover that two other "tunnel rats," checked out by the FBI but cleared, are, like Meadows, "alumni" of a halfway house for ex-combat veterans who fall afoul of the law. Both have criminal records that include bank robbery.

Another coincidence that Bosch cannot accept is discovering LAPD standard-issue bugging equipment installed in his house while two IAD "goons" are staking him out. He sneaks out, comes up behind Lewis and Clarke's car, yanks them out, handcuffs them to each other around a palm tree and rejects their denials. It turns out that they are not guilty, but it provides Bosch the equipment to break the case open with his own illegal bug. Finally, Bosch rejects coincidence in finding in Meadows' unexpurgated military records a two-page letter from Louisiana Congressman Noone dated 1973, in which he says Meadows' commanding officer, Lt. John H. Rourke, speaks well of him. This one nauseates Bosch, but the ultimate truth is worse: Wish sets up Rourke to avenge her beloved brother's death. She convinces Rourke to dump Meadows' body within the jurisdiction of Hollywood Division, knowing Bosch's reputation for tenacity. He is her "safety valve," should the plan unravel. There are no coincidences.

Duty

Beginning at William Meadow's murder scene at the Mulholland Dam, the protagonist, Detective Harry Bosch conflicts with his lackadaisical partner, Jerry Edgar about putting in too much effort on an open-and-shut case. Edgar, who sells real estate on the side,



views police work as a 9-to-5, retire-after-20-years enterprise. The coroner's technician (who cannot live down a reputation for losing a body on the freeway due to inattention) claims that the coroner is too backed up with important cases to rush this obvious OD. Bosch finds Dr. Salazar curious about mysteries and intrigued by something he sees on Meadows.

Bosch takes his first-day discoveries to the FBI to provide the first new lead in nine months on a high-publicity bank robbery. They are interested only in being on the receiving end of "interdepartmental cooperation" - like having an LAPD helicopter follow bank robbers - but not with sharing information with locals. LAPD's Internal Affairs Division (IAD), likewise, adopts a personal, vindictive attitude, putting "Family" above truth and justice. By the second day, when she has had time to read Bosch's murder book on Meadows, FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish commends Bosch on his thorough work, saying a lesser detective would have gotten nowhere - would probably have written it off as a deadbeat OD. Still, she questions Bosch's conflict of interest until he explains how out-of-date the friendship is and how evidence shows Meadows is intimately involved in her unsolved case. Wish defends her rigid and authoritarian boss, John Rourke, as a gifted administrator, inadvertently damning him by praise.

The clues continue falling into place, despite the FBI and IAD. The young witness Sharkey's murder suggests that an insider is involved in one or the other department, but Rourke and Wish - both of whom are involved, unbeknown to Bosch - deny it vehemently. A CIA man, who carefully "compartmentalizes" information, puts them on the tail of two Vietnamese police captains, and they find it likely that a second break-in is imminent. Reasoning that the end justify the means, Bosch uses an illegal phone tap, which horrifies Wish, but she goes along. Too late, Bosch discovers Rourke's links to the robbers and easily wins Wish to his view. When she comes to Bosch's rescue in the tunnels, it appears that she is showing loyalty to her partner (and lover). In fact, she is the mastermind of the plot, as one last puzzle piece convinces Bosch. He convinces her to get it off her chest and turn herself in.

The LAPD and FBI bury their dead - the bumbling IAD detectives and Rourke, respectively - as fallen heroes, in order to placate the public. "Family" matters above all else. Bosch is threatened with termination if he reveals the truth, which the FBI will determine but do not publish. Honorable Bosch risks his career to get the story out and appears not to be disciplined as the novel ends. Wish's highest duty is to her beloved brother, killed by Rourke.

Vietnam

The nightmare of the conflict in Vietnam, culminating in the dramatic helicopter evacuation of the U.S. Embassy on 30 Apr. 1975, and the exodus of the boat people, is woven throughout *The Black Echo*. Protagonist, Harry Bosch, still suffers, 15 years after his return to Los Angeles and eight years in the LAPD, from post-traumatic stress (PTS), insomnia and claustrophobia. Fellow veterans waver between crime and law enforcement. Called to the Mulholland Dam to investigate an apparent OD, Bosch



recognizes a fellow "tunnel rat" from the First Infantry Division, William Meadows. The evidence inexorably leads Bosch to a halfway house run by a pious ex-colonel, Gordon Scales, who accepts only combat veterans and tries, through hard work and religion, to put back into them what Vietnam took out.

To explain himself to FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish as he begins to have feelings for her, Bosch describes his subterranean missions in Vietnam. Meadows is the only rat unafraid of going "from the blue into the black." He collects Viet Cong ears and scalps as trophies and plays Jimmi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" as his anthem. Left underground on one mission, however, Meadows freaks out and has to be hauled out. He is re-assigned as an MP to the U.S. embassy in Saigon until the pullout in 1973, and remains as a civilian military adviser until 1975. His last mission for the U.S. government is security during the massive exodus of South Vietnamese officials fearing North Vietnamese reprisals.

Bosch learns that Meadows' commanding officer in Saigon is FBI Special Agent John H. Rourke, who also commanded ex-cons Art Franklin and Gene Delgado, "alumni" of Scales' program. Together, they sent heroin to the U.S. in sealed diplomatic pouches via "short-timers." Devising a plan to recover diamonds brought in illegally by two crooked Vietnamese police captains, Rourke recruits all three to break into the safe-deposit boxes of the two crooked Vietnamese captains. Only at the end of the novel does Wish get off her chest that she is the mastermind of the operation, and her motivation is justice for her brother, who was one of the couriers. Her family keeps the story from her, but it comes out when she visits the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. and finds his name missing. She gets assigned to Rourke's FBI command and convinces him to rip off the two rich Vietnamese captains. Ngo Van Binh's diamonds are stolen in the WestLand National Bank job; a year later, Nguyen Tran's are to be stolen. Bosch convinces Wish to turn herself in for the robberies by saying otherwise he will tell Binh and Tran who will hold her responsible. All of the other Vietnam-related conspirators are dead.

Style

Point of View

The Black Echo follows LAPD Detective Harry Bosch from the time he discovers that a dead body is that of a colleague in Vietnam through the surrender of his partner and lover, FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish. The lion's share of the novel is devoted to following clues. Bosch is under suspension and visiting Mexico when a major bank robbery occurs. This provides an opportunity for Wish to fill him in on particulars. She goes into meticulous detail about the robbers' planning and execution, seeming to admire their handiwork. Only at the end of the novel does she reveal that she pulled the strings while letting her boss, whom she wants above all to bring down, to think he is in charge. The anonymous third person omniscient narrator seems closer to Bosch's perspective than to Wish's and does not betray the truth until Bosch stumbles over it. Several times, the value of hindsight in police work is mentioned.

There are numerous summaries - and some psychological flashbacks - to Bosch's institutional upbringing and service in Vietnam. How he attains the popular fame that saves his neck when he is accused of killing an unarmed suspect is brought out piecemeal in conversation between himself and Wish, who has read his files and psychological evaluations. She shares with him a sanitized version of her life's story, stopping short of admitting any guilt. Only when Bosch puts the last puzzle pieces into place and confronts Wish does she gratefully get the weight of years off her chest, confessing and justifying her actions, while specifying that none of the innocent bodies are her fault, and she has not lied to Bosch. She wants only to get back at those who used and murdered her brother 15 years earlier.

Setting

The Black Echo is set in Los Angeles, CA, from Sunday, May 20, through shortly after Memorial Day, 28 May 1990. The action begins at a crime scene at the Mulholland Dam in the Hollywood Hills, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Hollywood Division of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Its dilapidated station house, reeking of urine and vomit, is located on Wilcox. Most of its business comes from Hollywood Blvd., two blocks north. The detectives' bureau holds long tables assigned to burglary, auto, juvenile, robbery and homicide, "all awash in paperwork and clutter." These conditions contrast sharply with the plush offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) on the 17th floor of the Federal Building on Wilshire Blvd., facilities that rival legal or real estate offices. Between these extremes is Parker Center, housing the LAPD's central computers in the basement and the police chiefs on the 6th floor. Bosch briefly visits his old haunts at the prestigious Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD), housed on the third floor.



A number of dismal, drug- and violence-plagued streets are pictured with graffiti and barred windows everywhere. Bosch remarks they are as depressing inside as outside. Several are depicted during searches. Hollywood Blvd. is shown as a major venue for male prostitution. An underpass at the Hollywood Bowl is the scene of another grisly murder. Bosch and FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish drive north into Ventura County to visit a halfway house for Vietnam combat veterans who fall afoul of the law, and drive the scenic Pacific Coast Highway back. Both of their apartments are shown in sufficient detail to establish their characters and contrast their tastes, except a single painting with which they both identify. Wish lives in a Santa Monica townhouse, while Bosch owns a small, cantilevered house in the hills above Studio City, Beverly Hills.

The novel's climax occurs in the tunnels beneath the Beverly Hills Safe & Lock (BHS&L), reminiscent of those in Vietnam that Bosch and the first murder victim explored and destroyed as "tunnel rats." They are described in detail as Bosch tries to explain himself to Wish. The corruption rampant in Saigon is described in connection with the two heists that frame the novel. This leads Bosch and Wish to L.A.'s "Little Saigon," and into Beverly Hills. Shot below ground, Bosch is flown to Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center (MLK) near Watts. He confronts Wish in front of a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in the Veterans Administration cemetery across from the Federal Building, where they part.

Language and Meaning

The *Black Echo* is filled with police and military jargon consistent with the major characters' life. The penchant of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) for clever acronyms contrasts sharply with the decorum shown by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Author Michael Connelly generally drops technical terms and acronyms into dialog and moves briskly forward, leaving the reader grateful not to receive a paragraph of explanation that might otherwise break the story line to explain. More often, he works the explanation into the ongoing dialog and narrative. At one point, protagonist Harry Bosch laughs to himself about a coroner's use of the word "hinky;" he muses on how once police slang makes it onto television and the movies - or into a coroner's mouth - it is long passé. During an autopsy, Bosch listens to a long passage of dictation about the condition of internal organs, saying it is too technical to make any sense to him, no matter how often he hears it.

Most of Bosch's dealings with people - colleagues, suspects, witnesses and especially superiors - are caustic. He has a wry sense of humor that he cannot rein in, no matter how it would be in his self-interest to do so. He treats FBI Special Agent Eleanor Wish with a male superiority that she resents. At one point, when visiting "Little Saigon," she ignores his plan and gets the information they need by impersonating a real estate saleswoman. Their relationship turns physical, waivers when a witness is found murdered and then returns to near-love. Each tells his or her life story. As it turns out at the end of the novel, Wish continually hedges her words, talking about how her brother does not come home from Vietnam, which Bosch assumes means he is killed. Only

when Bosch puts all the pieces together and knows Wish has masterminded both break-ins does she come clean and explain everything honestly.

Structure

The Black Echo consists of nine chapters ("parts") and an Epilogue. Each part covers the events of a single day from midnight to midnight and bears the date from "Sunday, May 20" through "Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day Observed." The Epilogue summarizes several days after Memorial Day. Of necessity, the chapters differ greatly in length and emotional level.

Day 1 opens with two ominous scenes: young Sharkey's witnessing the dumping of a dead body and protagonist Harry Bosch's nightmares about Vietnam, 15 years ago. It then shifts to developing Bosch's bristly character, which contrasts with his dedication, loyalty and intuition. The contrast increase when he finds the FBI and in IAD hostile. By Day 3, Bosch is besotted with Wish, clouding his ability to pick up subtleties in things she reveals. They conflict over methods, but end up in bed. Seeing Sharkey's body shakes her inexplicably, after insisting she need not be babied.

A clash with Wish's boss, John Rourke, sends an angry Bosch out alone to deal brutally, but effectively, with his IAD pursuers. It heightens their mutual hatred and guarantees a final showdown. Bosch and Wish mellow are en route to bed when they are nearly killed and engage in a dramatic car chase. The brass' animosity towards Bosch comes out again in the investigation, but the lovers resume where they leave off. Morning 6 begins like a scene from "Ozzie and Harriet," but quickly turns into the most productive of the investigation, involving Bosch and Wish in another fight over illegalities, but yielding through the supposed IAD bugging equipment, a breakthrough. The one Vietnamese suspect phones an accomplice, whose address they determine, set up a stakeout and follow him to a second imminent break-in.

Bosch convinces Wish that her boss is the mastermind, who has positioned FBI forces to prevent their interfering with his plans. Bosch forces down his old phobias to enter the L.A. sewer system, chasing Rourke's thwarted crew. Rourke's last words and the look in his eyes when Wish shoots him troubles Bosch. Threatened with termination if he speaks to the press and having explained to him a few misconceptions, Bosch puts together the final puzzle pieces, speaks to the press under conditions of anonymity, and confronts Wish. The book concludes with her getting off her chest why and how she has used Rourke - her beloved brother's murderer - to obtain justice for the brother. It has the character of a deus ex machina, but ties up all the loose ends.

Quotes

"Bosch didn't remind Sakai that it was he who had been driving the ME wagon that dumped a body strapped to a wheeled stretcher onto the Ventura Freeway a few months back. During rush hour. The stretcher rolled down the Lankershim Boulevard exit and hit the back end of a car at a gas station. Because of the fiberglass partition in the cab, Sakai didn't know he had lost the body until he arrived at the morgue." Part 1, pg. 17.

"Bosch sat alone, thinking, and scanning the room for secrets. His eyes eventually came down on the cards spread out before him on the coffee table. Solitaire. He saw that all four aces were up. He picked up the deck of remaining cards and went through it, peeling off three cards at a time. In the course of going through he came across the two and three of spades and the two of hearts. The game hadn't stalled. It had been interrupted. And never finished.

"He became restless. He looked down into the green glass ashtray and saw that all the butts were nonfiltered Camels. Was that Meadows's brand or his killer's. He got up and walked around the room. The faint smell of urine hit him again." Part 1, pg. 39.

"'What'd you find?' Bosch asked.

'Not sure yet. We'll see. The question is, What did you find Bosch? My field tech told me you were demanding an autopsy on this case today. Why is that?'

'I told him I needed it today because I wanted to get it done tomorrow. I thought that was what we had agreed on, too.'

'Yes, he told me so, but I got curious about it. I love a good mystery, Bosch. What made you think this was hinky, as you detectives say?'

We don't say it anymore, Bosch thought. Once it's said in the movies and people like Salazar pick it up, it's ancient.

'Just somethings didn't fit at the time,' Bosch said. 'There are more things now. From my end, it looks like a murder. No mystery.'" Part 1, pgs. 60-61.

"'Or what? What can you do? I mean, let's be honest. With your record, you'll probably be suspended by tomorrow. As soon as Pounds got off the phone with Rourke he probably called IAD, if Rourke didn't do it himself.'

'Doesn't matter. Tomorrow morning I hear something, or tell Rourke he'll be reading a story in the Times about how an FBI suspect in a major bank heist, a subject of FBI surveillance no less, was murdered right under the bureau's nose, taking with him the answers to the celebrated WestLand tunnel caper. All the facts might not be right or in the correct order, but it will be close enough. More important than that, it will be a good read. And it'll make waves all the way to D.C. It'll be embarrassing and it'll also be a warning to whoever did Meadows. You'll never get them then. And Rourke will always be known as the guy who let them get away.'" Part 2, pgs. 112-113.



"'I'm not home. What is it?'

'This kid you were looking for, the one on the nine one one call, you found him, right?'

'Yeah, but we're looking for him again.'

'Who's 'we' - you and the feebee woman?'

Eleanor came out of the bathroom and sat down on the edge of the bed next to him.

'Jerry, what are you calling me for?' Bosch asked. He was beginning to get a sinking feeling in his chest.

'What's the kid's name?'

Bosch was in a daze. It had been months since he had fallen so deeply asleep, only to be roused out of it. He couldn't remember Sharkey's real name and he didn't want to ask Eleanor because Edgar might hear and then know they were together. Harry looked at Eleanor and when she began to speak, he touched his finger to her lips and shook his head.

'Is it Edward Niese?' Edgar spoke into the silence. 'That the kid's name?'

The sinking feeling was gone. Bosch felt an invisible fist pressing up under his ribs and into the folds of his guts and heart.

'Right,' he said. 'That's the name.'

'You gave him one of your business cards?'

'Right.'

'Harry, you aren't looking for him anymore.'" Part 5, pgs. 250-251.

"As the assistant deputy for trade and development strode to his desk empty-handed, he said, 'Detective, would you mind not smoking? I find I very bothersome in a closed room like this.'

Bosch stubbed the butt out in the small black bowl on the corner of the desk.

'Sorry,' he said. 'I saw the ashtray. I thought—'

'It's not an ashtray, Detective,' Ernst said in a somber tone. 'That is a rice bowl, three centuries old. I brought it home with me after my stationing in Vietnam.'

'You were working on trade and development then, too?'

'Excuse me, Bob, did you find anything?' Eleanor interjected. 'On the name?'

It took Ernst a long moment to break his stare away from Bosch.

'I found very little, but what I did find may be useful. This man, Binh, is a former Saigon police officer. A captain. ... Bosch, are you a veteran of the altercation?'

'You mean the war? Yes.'" Part 5, pg. 295.

"'What about the safe-deposit vault?' Bosch cut in. he knew Tran would be coming out of the private office at any moment. He wanted to be in the vault by then.

'Yes, of course, the vault. As you saw, it is on display to the world. The glass circle, as we call it, is perhaps our most brilliant security ploy. Who would attempt to breach it? It is on display twenty-four hours a day. Right on Wilshire Boulevard. Genius?'

Grant's smile was wide with triumph. He nodded slightly in an effort to prompt agreement from his audience.

'What about from underneath?' Bosch asked, and the man's mouth dropped back into a straight line.'" Part 6, pg. 349.



"Did you ever hear what J. Edgar Hoover said about justice?' she asked.

'He probably said a lot, but I don't recall any of it offhand.'

'He said that justice is incidental to law and order. I think he was right.'

She said nothing else and after a while he could hear her breathing turn deeper and longer. When a rare car drove by he would look over at her face as the light washed across it. She slept like a child, with her head leaning against her hands. Bosch cracked the window and lit a cigarette. He smoked and wondered if he could or would fall in love with her, and she with him. He was thrilled and disquieted by the thought, all at the same time." Part 6, pg. 383.

"The IAD detective had taken a round in the lower neck. Blood was seeping from between his fingers and there were small blood-tinted bubbles at the corners of his mouth. He had blood in his chest cavity. He was shaking and going into shock. He was dying. Harry turned back to Avery, who had blood on his chest and neck and a brownish-yellow piece of wet sponge on his cheek. A piece of Lewis's brain.

'Avery, you hit?'

'Yes, uh ... uh, uh, I think ... I don't know,' he managed in a strangled voice.

Bosch knelt next to him and quickly scanned his body and bloody clothes. He wasn't hit and Harry told him so. Bosch went back to where the double-glazed window had been and looked down at Lewis on his back on the sidewalk. He was dead. The bullets, having caught him in a rising arc, had stitched their way up his body. There were entry wounds on his right hip, stomach, left chest, and left of center of his forehead. He had been dead before he hit the glass. His eyes were open, staring at nothing." Part 7, pgs. 404-405.

"Rourke never said a word. He slowly sagged down the wall, staring off to his right - the direction Bosch thought the shots had come from - and leaving a smear of blood that followed him down. In the dimming light, Bosch could see surprise on his face and then a look of resolve in his eyes. Pretty soon he sat like Bosch against the wall, the water moving around his legs, his dead eyes no longer staring at anything.

Things went out of focus for Bosch then. He wanted to ask a question but couldn't form the words. There was another light in the tunnel and he thought he heard a voice, a woman's voice, telling him everything was okay. Then he thought he saw Eleanor Wish's face, floating in and out of focus. And then it sank away into inky blackness. That blackness was finally all he saw." Part 7, pgs. 424-425.

"Once he found it, he rewound the tape a bit so he could hear the interview from the start. He rewound too far and ended up listening to half a minute of another interview concluding. Then he heard Sharkey's voice.

'What are you looking at?'

'I don't know.' It was Eleanor. 'I was wondering if you knew me. You seem familiar. I didn't realize I was staring.'

'What? Why should I know you? I never did no federal shit, man, I don't know—'



'Never mind. You looked familiar to me, that's all. I was wondering if you recognized me. Why don't we wait until Detective Bosch comes in.'

'Yeah, okay. Cool.'

There was silence on the tape then. Listening to it, Bosch was confused. Then he realized that what he had just heard had been said before he went into the interview room.

What had she been doing? The silence on the tape ended and Bosch heard his own voice.

'Sharkey, we are going to tape this because it might help us later to go over it. Like I said, you are not a suspect so you—'

Bosch stopped the tape and rewound it to the exchange between the boy and Eleanor. He listened to it again and then again. Each time it felt as if he had been punched in the heart. His hands were sweating and his fingers slipped on the buttons of the recorder. He finally pulled the earphones off and flung them onto the table.

'Damn it,' he said.

Pederson stopped typing and looked over." Part 8, pg. 453.

"When he arrived at the house of Woodrow Wilson he found a yellow slip of paper in his mailbox. He took it to the post office and exchanged it for a wide, flat package in brown paper. He didn't open it until he was home. It was from Eleanor Wish, though it did not say so: it was just something he knew. After tearing away the paper and bubbled plastic liner, he found a framed print of Hopper's Nighthawks. It was the piece he had seen above her couch that first night he was with her.

Bosch hung the print in the hallway near his front door, and from time to time he would stop and study it when he came in, particularly from a weary day or night on the job. The painting never failed to fascinate him, or to evoke memories of Eleanor Wish. The darkness. The stark loneliness. The man sitting alone, his face turned to the shadows. I am that man, Harry Bosch would think each time he looked." Epilogue, pgs. 481-482.

Topics for Discussion

How do two paintings, Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Delights* and Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks*, contribute to the novel?

How is Harry Bosch's smoking used to define his character and his changing relationship with Special Agent Eleanor Wish?

How does Harry Bosch view the Vietnam War?

What role does Jerry Edgar play in the novel?

How are the tunnel experiences in Vietnam and Los Angeles similar and how are they different? Is Bosch justified in going in without back-up?

How early in the novel do you suspect John Rourke's involvement in the crimes? If earlier than Bosch, describe what gives him away to you; if later, describe how the author maintains the mystery.

How early in the novel do you suspect that Eleanor Wish is the mastermind in the crimes? If earlier than Bosch, describe what gives her away to you; if later, describe how the author maintains the mystery.

What role does the Internal Affairs Department play in the novel? Is it integral or peripheral?