

The Concrete Blonde Study Guide

The Concrete Blonde by Michael Connelly

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Plot Summary

The Concrete Blonde by Michael Connelly is an exciting and fast-paced drama about Harry Bosch - a Los Angeles police detective, who at the age of forty three is in court defending himself against the widow of a man he was forced to shoot. When he attempted to arrest the man he believes to be the Dollmaker killer, despite warnings, the man reached under his pillow . Concluding he is after a gun, Detective Bosch shoots and kills Norman Church. Now his widow is suing him for that death four years earlier. The widow hires Honey Chandler, a more-than-capable attorney, who believes Harry overstepped his boundaries as a police officer, and who is sure Harry gunned Church down in cold blood. The case is further complicated when another Dollmaker killing occurs after Norman Church's death, which makes things look much worse for Detective Bosch.

It isn't long before Harry realizes that there had to have been more than one killer, despite how closely the patterns match. Now, in a struggle to keep his badge, Harry must find the copycat killer dubbed the "Follower" and bring him to justice, but this is no easy feat. Despite what has to be a short list of suspects because of the inside information the second killer possesses, especially in the beginning, Harry makes more than one mistake before finally finding his man. Believing at first that the most logical suspect is a cop who worked on the original Dollmaker killings with him, he is surprised to find out that he is wrong, and it almost costs Harry his life.

Despite being wrong about him, Harry's investigation leads him them to take the officer's badge for behavior that is unbecoming for his profession. Next, they suspect the psychologist helping them to profile both the original case and the Follower, but an alibi clears him just as it looks as though there is no hope. Finally, Harry realizes who the real Follower is, but after being wrong twice in a row, he is unwilling to share his suspicions until there is absolutely no doubt remaining. Unfortunately, it isn't soon enough to save the widow's lawyer, Honey Chandler, who he's come to grudgingly respect and admire during his trial. All this takes its toll on Harry's personal life as he tries to balance his love life with the amount of death his job brings in. Throughout it all, Harry comes to realize how important Sylvia is in his life and begins to learn how and what to let go and what to share.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

The Concrete Blonde by Michael Connelly is an exciting and fast-paced drama about Harry Bosch - a Los Angeles police detective, who at the age of forty-three is in court defending himself against the widow of a man he was forced to shoot. When he attempted to arrest the man he believes to be the Dollmaker killer, despite warnings, the man reached under his pillow. Concluding he is after a gun, Detective Bosch shoots and kills Norman Church. Now his widow is suing him for that death four years earlier. The widow hires Honey Chandler, a more-than-capable attorney, who believes Harry overstepped his boundaries as a police officer, and who is sure Harry gunned Church down in cold blood. The case is further complicated when another Dollmaker killing occurs after Norman Church's death, making things look much worse for Detective Bosch.

Outside the courtroom, Bosch has a cigarette when Lieutenant Harvey Pounds or "98 Pounds," as he is known, calls and asks him what's happening in court. Another note from the Dollmaker has been delivered, and while at first, Harry believes it's a hoax, the Lieutenant asks Bosch to meet him at the location the Dollmaker told them a body could be recovered. He tells Harry that he wouldn't put it past Deborah Church's lawyer, Honey (or Money as she was also known) Chandler to stage a spectacle like this. The courtroom doors open and Honey, Deborah Church, and the Church's two teenage daughters come out. It looks as though they're breaking for lunch. After a warning that officially he's no more than an expert witness in this new case, Harvey asks Bosch to come to Bing's on Western. The body is under a concrete slab.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Harry Bosch is a detective for the Los Angeles police department. He is defending his decision to shoot the man named Norman Church, killing him. Bosch is being sued by the widow, Deborah. Norman Church, believed to be the Dollmaker killer, was gunned down by Bosch after he reached for what Harry believed was a gun under his pillow. Later, it is revealed that a toupee was under the pillow, and Deborah, proclaiming his innocence, is suing. Outside having a smoke, Harry gets a call from his Lieutenant, Harvey Pounds. Harvey wants to see him as soon as possible. It seems that the police department received a note from the Dollmaker with a map to another body. This one is buried in the concrete of the former pool hall known as Bing's.

The courtroom doors open, and Deborah Church, her two daughters and her lawyer Honey Chandler come out. Feeling the hatred, he agrees to meet Pounds after being reminded that he is merely an expert witness in this case.



Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary

Bosch drives to Bing's, and takes his suit jacket off before climbing into a jumpsuit. He looks into the concrete hole the jackhammers have opened. Surprised, he asks where the body is, and former partner Jerry Edgar tells him it's already in the coroner's wagon. Bosch goes over to have a look, and the coroner's investigator, Larry Sakai tells him it looks like the Dollmaker's back. Larry, having worked on some of the earlier Dollmaker cases is already convinced, but Bosch needs to have a closer look. Pretending to examine the entire corpse, he unzips the bag, looks past her now-obvious implants and down to her toes for a sign of the Dollmaker's signature. An unadvertised extra, the Dollmaker always paints the toenails pink, as well as applying makeup, and then paints a small white cross on one toe. This victim is no different.

Though the body has been in concrete for years and is too shriveled for traditional prints, the concrete holds a perfect impression. Since the signature had been written about in a book after the case had been closed, the time line of the victims' death will be important in determining whether this is a Dollmaker's actual victim, or a very thorough copycat. Art Donovan, the SID crime scene tech, makes a mold out of plaster, and Harry, taking a last look at the tomb that held the victim sees something red. It is a package of Marlboros likely put in with the body. Jerry bags it, and Harry gets out of his jumpsuit. He watches Pounds talking to the media, still unaware of the smudges on his face. He waits until Harvey is finished and then goes to his car to read the note, despite the possibility that it might make him late returning to court. He reads it several times, and it grates at him. He already senses it's no copycat.

Chapter Two Analysis

Harry drives to the crime scene, meeting Pounds there. They walk together into the remains of Bing's pool hall, to get a closer look at the body. The space is empty now, the body having been taken to the coroner's van already, but the impression made by the victim is intact. In fact, it is so perfect that Art Donovan, the SID crime scene tech thinks he can get a mold made of both her face and possibly even her hands from which to get fingerprints. Harry goes with Larry Sakai, the coroner's investigator, to get a closer look at the body. A bleached blonde, she appears to have had shoulder-length hair, breast implants that look disproportionately large now, and, looking further, Harry notes that she has one other trait from the Dollmaker aside from the makeup she's wearing. She also has pink toe nails with a white cross painted on one. Harry waits for Pounds to finish with the media so he can get a look at the note that was left at the station. After reading it through several times, he has a sinking feeling that the Dollmaker is indeed back.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

The Judge instructs the jury that they will begin by hearing opening statements during which each lawyer will ask them to consider the evidence and look at the case from their perspective. This is not evidence in itself, he reminds them, and invites Honey Chandler to begin. Harry watches her, but tunes out what she is saying. At this point, she is the enemy and wants Harry to pay for the death of Norman Church. If Harry listens to her, he knows he will have a difficult time restraining his emotions, so he simply tunes her out. She tells the jury that Harry Bosch is a rogue cop who went forward without evidence and murdered an innocent man in cold blood. When she finishes her opening statement, the judge orders a break and deputy city attorney Rod Belk tells Bosch he can use the time to further prepare his opening.

Harry heads outside for a smoke, feeling clammy and uncomfortable after the hour-long opening statement from Chandler. After the first one is finished, he lights a second just as Honey Chandler pushes her way outside. She bends to light a cigarette before straightening, and seeing Bosch she offers to go back in, but Bosch tells her to go ahead. While they stand there, a homeless man walks over to look for butts in the ashtray, but seeing Honey, he turns and walks away. Honey explains that she knows him. He used to be a lawyer and is now an example of what can happen when things go terribly wrong. When Bosch asks her to explain, she tells him to ask his lawyer. Then she asks Bosch why the city didn't settle. Bosch tells Honey he insisted they don't settle, threatening to get his own lawyer if necessary. Honey is surprised that Harry is that confident, but he reminds her that Norman Church used the straps from women's purses to strangle them to death while he was raping them. Harry tells her he isn't sorry Norman is dead and in fact, he'd do it again. That, Honey tells him angrily, is why they were there.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Honey Chandler makes her opening statement telling the jury that Harry Bosch is a rogue police man who overstepped his bounds when he barged into Norman Church's house and shot him dead. She reminds the jury that Norman had no weapon, and up to that point, had not even been charged with a crime. She continues to make it sound as though Bosch is the devil incarnate, and Bosch sits with his lawyer, tuning her out so that he isn't tempted to respond in one way or another. When she finally finishes, the judge suggests a fifteen-minute recess, and while Ron Beck goes to prepare his opening statements, Bosch goes out for a cigarette. He is just lighting his second when Honey comes outside.

She doesn't see him at first, and offers to leave when she does, but Harry tells her it's alright. She asks why the city didn't settle, and Bosch tells her it's because he didn't

want to settle. Sure of himself, he tells Honey how Norman used to kill his victims and tells her he is not sorry. In fact, he'd do it again. Honey angrily tells him that is exactly why they are in court now, stubs out her smoke, and goes back inside.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Ron Belk uses only ten minutes of his allotted hour for his opening statement. Bosch is nervous about it, but Belk tells him not to worry. Harry drives back to the station and finds it empty but for Jerry Edgar, who is still trying to identify the recently-found body. Edgar is telling Bosch about the prints, but Harry isn't listening. He repeats that they got what looks like usable prints promises to let Harry know as soon as they have more. Edgar calls Harry over to the filing cabinet, carefully taking the lid off the box in front of him. Inside, a woman's face looks back in plaster. They can see that she had a swollen eye, and it gives Harry the creeps looking at her. He watches Edgar for a few minutes, thinking about the two years he spent training him and wonders how much of it actually took.

Harry goes over the binder marker Bios, where all the Dollmaker's victims are cataloged. He asks Edgar if anything else was found around the body, since the original Dollmaker always left behind their purses, but took their makeup. Edgar tells him no, finishes typing, and calls his wife as is their usual ritual. Harry thinks about Sylvia and the comfortable routine they've fallen into and picks up the phone to tell her he won't be there tonight. While they are talking, Pounds comes on television, the smear of black across his forehead making them all laugh. She asks him how court went, what his lawyer thinks, and when he will be testifying. She wants to be there, but Harry prefers she doesn't see him in an environment he can't control. He tells her he'll call her the next day and hangs up. He rereads the words of the poem that had come addressed to him from the Dollmaker. Then he drives home and sits in the carport thinking about how they'd figured out what the little cross meant after Norman was dead. It was a church steeple, Norman Church's steeple.

Chapter 4 Analysis

Harry goes back to the station after Belk's brief opening statement, feeling less than confident about Belk's performance. Inside, he finds Edgar working away, who says there is no news yet as to her identity. They talk about court briefly, and Edgar keeps telling Bosch not to worry. Edgar shows Harry the plaster face that was made from the concrete, and they can see that the woman had a swollen eye, as though she'd been punched. The whole thing looks creepy to Harry. He picks up the Bios binder on the Dollmaker's murders and pages through it, even though he knows the information by heart.

He asks Edgar if anything else had been found near the body because in the past, the Dollmaker had left behind their purses after removing their makeup, but Edgar says no. When he's finished typing, Edgar calls his wife and the action reminds Harry to call Sylvia. The news clip with Pounds, complete with smeared forehead, comes on while



they're talking, giving them both a big laugh. Bosch tells Sylvia he won't be over, wanting to review and prepare for court, and hangs up. Then he heads home. He sits in his carport for a minute, thinking about how they'd figured out what the little cross meant. It was the steeple. Church's steeple.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Harry dresses carefully for court and is just leaving as Sylvia shows up at the door. They kiss and he holds her, thinking about how he was the investigator in her husband's murder. The attraction was immediate. They'd progressed to a comfortable place in their relationship, but Harry is still afraid one day she'll leave. Sylvia wants to be in court to support Bosch, but Harry discourages her. They talk for few moments and leave, Bosch heading for court and Sylvia to her job as a teacher.

Chandler asks for sanctions against Detective Bosch and his lawyer because of an article in the Times regarding the newest body. Judge Keyes questions Belk, who claims no prior knowledge, and Harry confirms to have had no opportunity to share the information with his lawyer as yet. Chandler goes back to the bench and asks for access to the note left so Judge Keyes decides to read the note to make a decision. Then Chandler calls her first witness. Terry Lloyd takes the stand, confirms his position as lieutenant in the Robbery-Homicide Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, and they go over the assembly of the task force four and a half years earlier. Terry admits that Norman Church was only declared the Dollmaker after he'd been killed. Chandler stresses the large differences between the drawing given, and the profile wthe task force came up with. In fact, there are no traits in the suspect profile that match Mr. Church. She points out that all the court has is Harry's word that Mr. Church made a threatening gesture causing Bosch to shoot him dead. Keyes is ready to break for lunch, but Belk only has one question. He asks Lloyd if there is any doubt in his mind that Norman Church was the Dollmaker killer, and Terry answers that he has no doubt at all. Bosch asks Belk why he left it at that, but Belk wants the story to come from Bosch on the stand and tells him so. He reminds Harry that the case is all about him, and they will win or lose it with his testimony.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Harry Bosch goes to court after discouraging Sylvia from attending. Honey Chandler wastes no time taking the reins. She begins by asking for sanctions against the defense because of the new body discovered. She tells Judge Keyes that she believes evidence has been withheld, and Harry is able to talk his way around it.

The jury is called in, and Honey calls her first witness. Terry Lloyd is barely on the stand before Chandler begins to undermine the task force and its conclusions - all of which she maintains were reached after Mr. Church was killed. Honey Chandler smoothly steers the jury towards her theory that Harry Bosch killed Norman Church in cold blood, and then made the facts fit his own theories to cover up his crime. By the time she was finished with her witness, the lieutenant of the Robbery-Homicide Division looked like he covered up the crime of the century. When it was time for Belk to question Terry, he

asks only one question. He asks if Terry Lloyd is absolutely certain that they got the Dollmaker killer, and Terry tells him he is. The fact that Belk asks Lloyd so few questions bothers Harry, but Belk explains that this case rests entirely on Bosch. Bosch's testimony will make or break this case.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

During the lunch break, Harry drives to the garment district to a restaurant that serves breakfast. He sits down and picks up a copy of the Times that had been left behind. Bremmer's byline contains information about the latest body that can only have come from an inside source. Harry calls Edgar and asks him about Harvey Pounds and his behavior the day before. Edgar confirms that Pounds had spent time in his office with the door closed while on the phone. It is unusual behavior for him, as Harvey tends to be on the paranoid side and likes to leave his door and blinds open. Edgar says the media will run a likeness of the dead woman on the evening news in the hopes they can identify her, and asks if Harry will help man the phone lines afterward. They talk about the order of witnesses upcoming, and Harry goes back to court.

Deborah Church dresses in black and makes a good show of tears and emotional distress. Honey asks her about the apartment her husband had, and she claims prior knowledge of it, despite her assurances at the time that she had no idea it existed. They break, Bosch goes out for a smoke, again seeing the former lawyer scrounging for butts. He offers the lawyer-bum a whole cigarette and asks what happened to him, but Thomas Faraday is reluctant to discuss it. After the break, Chandler calls Victor Amado from the coroner's office to the stand. He testifies in detail how the make up found in Church's hideaway apartment matches all but two of the victims, and how even an eyelash had been found and identified. Chandler asks him about the rape kits collected, and the procedures involved, but trips up herself. The absence of pubic hairs linked to Norman Church gives Belk the opening to let the jury know that no pubic hairs of Church's were found because he shaved himself to avoid such cross contamination. The only reason he would have done so was to avoid detection, and that fact is not lost on the jury. Bosch feels better about today's testimony.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Harry goes out for breakfast and in reading the morning Times, realizes that the reporter Bremmer has an inside source. He calls Edgar, who confirms his suspicions that the leak might be Harvey Pounds, although neither of them can understand why he would do this. Edgar asks Harry for his help manning the phones after the evening news as they are trying to identify the blond woman and Harry agrees. He goes back to court and listens while Chandler puts the widow on the stand. Her testimony is tearful and well rehearsed, but she lies on the stand, telling the court and jury that she was aware of the hideaway apartment her husband had, directly contradicting her statements to police at the time.

In the afternoon session, after the break, Chandler calls the coroner's representative, Victor Amado to the stand. She goes over the evidence collected in painstaking detail,



believing that she's made headway with the jury when she gets him to admit that there were no pubic hairs of Norman Church's found on any of the victims. Belk is quick to jump on that mistake, able now to tell the jury the reason no hairs were found. Norman Church shaved himself in an effort to avoid detection. It is a fact that is not lost on the jury, and Bosch is feeling much better after the day's testimony.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Bosch shows up to help man the phones as he promised, in the hopes they can identify the blond victim. He puts a quick call in to Sylvia to tell her where he is, and admits he might not make it to her place at all if they get a lead. She is less understanding than he thought she'd be and reminds him that they've had this conversation before. The story begins on the news, and Harry tells her he has to open the line to outside calls and Sylvia coldly says goodbye. The airplay is good, and the phones begin ringing almost right away. Some callers are jerks claiming it is "your mother" or similar comments, but a few callers claim to recognize her. More than one caller claims she is a porn star they've seen on film, and one calls her Maggie, but beyond that, the calls reveal little about her identity.

Bosch takes two photos of the plaster likeness and drives to a video rental shop catering to x-rated clientèle. He shows the photo to the clerk, but gets nowhere, and prowls the aisles himself, finally coming across what he realizes is their victim. Her stage name was Magna Cum Loudly, and he takes the empty box to the counter asking to rent it but it is already out. He makes arrangements to buy the video instead, paying fifty dollars for it, and taking the empty box with him. The clerk tells him that she is one of the girls on a film loop that can be viewed in the back, and Bosch heads there next. After spending two dollars in quarters and watching more smut than he wants or needs, he finds her in one of the last loops. Feeling irrational guilt and sadness, he watches for a moment, confirming that she is definitely the woman they found encased in concrete.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Bosch helps to man the phones after the segment appears on the evening news, much to Sylvia's disappointment. She is frustrated with Bosch's constant cancellations and makes no secret of it. The news report turns up several tentative identifications, along with the usual jokers, and by the time they are ready to pack it in, the one detail they can agree on is that the victim is likely a pornography star. One caller even named her Maggie, although no last name was remembered. Bosch takes photos of the plaster face and drives to an x-rated video store to try to get an identification. The clerk doesn't recognize the woman, but Harry doesn't give up. He prowls the aisles and finally finds a box with her picture on it. He takes it to the front desk, and when he finds out it is already rented, he offers to buy it. The clerk sells it to him and then tells Bosch that she might also be on a loop in the private rooms. After scanning most of the loops, he finds her there as well. Feeling a sense of guilt and shame mixed with sadness, he leaves, knowing that they've now identified her.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Bosch leaves the porn shop, and drives to Sylvia's house. She answers the door and apologizes for her earlier behavior, explaining that she just misses him. He kisses her and goes in, asking if she's eaten. She has, but makes him a sandwich, while he marvels at how comfortable he is with her. She asks how court went, and how the calls played out, and Harry tells her the basics. She has been involved in police circles long enough to know not to pry too much. Harry eats the sandwich she makes, then calls Edgar to tell him what he found. He asks Edgar if he managed to reach their guy in vice, but Ray Mora was already gone. Harry offers to contact him, and Edgar easily agrees, knowing that the vice man and Harry knew each other before. Harry calls dispatch to get Ray's home number and calls him next. After a minute of catching up, Harry tells him he needs some information about a girl in the business. He gives Ray her stage name, asking him if he can get anything on her, and Ray is confident he can. He has worked vice for so long now that he can easily be considered an expert on the subject, and tells Harry that he'll have more for him the following day. Harry tells him that it will likely be Edgar who contacts him as he has court himself. Ray admits that Chandler has subpoenaed him as well. Bosch tells him not to worry about it, and Ray wishes him luck.

Harry has a smoke and joins Sylvia in the bedroom, showering and then joining her in bed. She tells Harry she loves him, and Harry is again struck by how at home he feels with her but doesn't say so. He also thinks about the fact that he loves her, but doesn't tell her that either.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Harry goes to Sylvia's after he leaves the porn shop, and she welcomes him with open arms apologizing immediately for her earlier behavior. She misses him, she explains, and makes him a sandwich while he tells her the outcome of their identification attempt. She knows enough that she doesn't press him for too many details. He eats his sandwich, and calls Edgar to let him know the stage name he discovered. He tells Edgar he is reasonably certain that this is their girl. Then he calls Ray Mora from Vice, and gives him the name he found, asking Ray to identify her with a real name if he can. Confident, he assures Harry he can do that, and then tells him that Chandler has subpoenaed him to appear in court at Harry's trial. Harry tells him not to worry.

He hangs up, has a cigarette, and after showering quickly he joins Sylvia in bed. He is surprised at the strength of his feelings for her and the degree of comfort he feels with her, although he reveals neither of these things to her, despite her declaration of love for him.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Judge Keyes admits the Dollmaker's note as evidence, and Belk commits a cardinal courtroom sin. Never ask a question to which you do not already know the answer. Chandler calls Wieczorek, who testifies he worked with Norman Church for twelve years and knew him well. He didn't believe it was possible that his long-time coworker had done the horrible things of which he was accused. He knew for a fact that the eleventh girl could not be attributed to Church as Wieczorek and Church had been at a bachelors' party together the night she was killed. He felt the police likely lied about the rest as well. Belk tries to undo the damage done and asks Wieczorek why he didn't mention the bachelor party when the police took his ninety-five page deposition, but Wieczorek says he believed the police were setting up Norman Church. He didn't realize the significance of the date of the bachelor party until the book written by the Times reporter, Bremmer, came out. Belk asks how he can be sure of the date of the party, and he reveals that a time and date-stamped video had been taken. It is a fact Chandler could not have introduced unless Belk let the information out during his questioning.

Belk attempts damage control afterward, but all he really manages to establish is that Norman Church sometimes wore a toupee that Wieczorek didn't know about, and had an apartment as well. The devastation is all the more obvious when court is finished and the reporters all gravitate to the perceived winner, Chandler, for their questions. Bremmer is the only one who follows Bosch. He wants to know if it's possible that his whole book was a lie, based mostly on police facts and information—his concern being his reputation as a reporter. Bosch angrily tells him he can just write another book, asks what he plans to write about the day's debacle and whether or not the fact that he was subpoenaed as a witness by Chandler is a conflict of interest. Bremmer admits that Chandler released him from subpoena, and Harry asks him who his source is for the Dollmakers' note. Bremmer won't reveal his sources, and while Harry knows that, he also realizes that someone is setting him up.

Chapter 9 Analysis

Belk isn't as proficient in court this day as he had been the day before. Unsuccessfully arguing against the admitting of the Dollmaker's new note, he then makes a cardinal mistake, asking a witness a question that he doesn't already know the answer to, and it bites him hard. By asking the question, he opens up a line of evidence that wouldn't have otherwise been introduced, and the damage done is significant. Harry watches the jury as they watch the video Belk had unwittingly brought into evidence himself, and knows they are now having doubts. It is a situation that worries him, and it doesn't improve when Belk tells him afterward that he'd better come up with something to help them out of this mess. The crowning touch is the cluster of reporters that gather around



Chandler afterward, as Bosch knows reporters instinctively gravitate to the winners or perceived winners in any given case.

The only reporter persistent enough to pursue Bosch is Bremmer, but his motives are purely personal. Having written the book on the Dollmaker case afterward, he wants to know now if his information had been wrong. As the book had been written primarily using police sources and files, Bremmer is now worried about his reputation as a reporter being damaged. Harry asks him who his source was for the story the day before that included the note, but Bremmer won't reveal it. Though Bosch knew that would be his answer, at the same time he realizes that he is being set up, and would really like to know by whom.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Harry goes from court to administrative vice at the Central Division station downtown. He finds Ray Mora there and waits while he finishes a telephone call before asking him what he managed to find out about Magna Cum Loudly. Her real name is Rebecca Kaminski, and she has only been dead for two years or less because of the date of her last movie. This definitely eliminates Norman Church as her killer and makes Bosch feel sick. Ray tells Bosch that Rebecca had a tattoo of Yosemite Sam on the left side of her buttocks, and when Edgar arrives at Central, he tells Bosch that he is looking into that. Bosch helps wade through a stack of missing persons reports that loosely match the description of the blonde in concrete and sees none that come close. He wades through a second stack, despite knowing that it will make him late returning to court, still without success. Then he leaves, asking Edgar to keep him posted on the results.

When he returns to court, it is already in session, earning him a dirty look from the judge and from Belk. Bosch tries to concentrate on the testimony being given by Irvin Irving, the Assistant Chief. Chandler adeptly takes him through the shooting of Norman Church, concentrating on the fact that Bosch had gone in alone, contrary to policy, and had been alone in Church's apartment for some time before other officers arrived. She is making the case that Harry could easily have planted the make up found to support his suspicions that Norman Church was the Dollmaker killer. Belk objects, but Judge Keyes allows Chandler to continue, and it gets steadily worse when Chandler brings to light the fact that Harry's mother had been raped and killed in October of 1961 in a manner very similar to the Dollmaker's killings. She easily leads the jury to see the connection and speculates as to how this might have affected Harry's performance and judgment in this case. Chandler points out that Harry was disciplined after the shooting for improper procedure, and finally asks Irving what the outcome would have been had they not found make up in the apartment.

Chapter 10 Analysis

Things go from bad to worse as Harry talks to Ray Mora at Central Division. Mora has identified Magna Cum Loudly as Rebecca Kaminski and has confirmed that she was alive at least two years earlier. It means Norman Church could not have killed her. Bosch feels sick. He helps sift through two stacks of reports of missing women about the same age as their newest victim, but finds none with close enough matching statistics. By the time he returns to court, it is already in session and Assistant Chief Irving is being questioned on the stand.

Chandler adeptly takes him through the shooting, questioning Bosch's procedure and the subsequent investigation into the death of Norman Church. Irving admits that Bosch was disciplined for violating procedure by going in alone and establishes that Bosch



was in Church's apartment alone for long enough to have planted the make up found by detectives afterward. She asks Irving to speculate as to what would have happened to Bosch if no make up had been found to support his claim that Church was the Dollmaker killer, but Irving won't bite. It doesn't matter, though. She has already scored points with the jury.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Belk tries to minimize the damage done by Irving's testimony, but doubt is there. Chandler manages to cast doubt on Bosch's motives and Church's guilt. Her next witness is Dr. John Locke, the USC psychologist and expert on sexual perversions. Chandler makes reference to articles and publications he's written and then draws attention to his last book. She asks why he chose his five subjects, and points out that he did not use Church and asks why since he would seem to be an obvious choice. Locke admits he made inquiries, but couldn't find out enough about Church's past to include him. Belk cross examines Dr. Locke, and makes sure that the jury understands that men who commit these kinds of crimes are often ordinary people on the outside. In between the aberrant sexual behavior, these murderers strive to blend in normally with everyone else. He gets Locke to admit this is a difficult science at best, and there is no sure methodology for identifying how a person will respond to psychological trauma or abuse. He further agrees that childhood trauma isn't necessarily the only root for sexual deviance. When Belk finishes, Judge Keyes calls an end to the day, and Bosch heads straight to Jerry Edgar to see what he found out from the concrete blondes' autopsy.

The prints made from the mold match Rebecca Kaminski, and the tattoo is evident. She's been missing for just over twenty-two months and was reported missing by Tom Cerrone. Edgar tells Bosch he found that the book Bremmer wrote contains all the details necessary for a copycat killer to duplicate the Dollmaker's crimes, and it was released four months before Rebecca went missing. As such, pretty well anyone who read the book could be a suspect. He tells Harry that Chandler has subpoenaed him as well, and since he had nothing to do with the original Dollmaker case, they both know that Chandler will be questioning him about the concrete blonde.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Belk does his best to soften the damage done by Irving's testimony, but Chandler has done her job well. The jury has enough reason to doubt Church was the killer and reason enough to suspect Bosch had ulterior motives because of the way his mother had been killed. Bosch is beginning to doubt himself. Next is the psychologist who helped put the original profile together on the Dollmaker. An expert in sexual perversions, Dr. Locke is believable, and his testimony is damaging. Having written and published a great deal about these kinds of criminals, his most recent book called the Black Heart is a collection of murderers that did not include Church, despite the fact that it was written three years after his death. Asked why, Dr. Locke testifies he couldn't get enough information about Church to include him, but Bosch sees that the jury is paying attention. When Belk cross examines him, he is unable to do much to nullify the damage.



As soon as court is over, Harry gets together with Edgar, who confirms the identity of the new body is Rebecca Kaminski. Reported missing by Tom Cerrone, and missing for just over twenty-two months, she disappears just four months after Bremmer's book about the Dollmaker is released. It expands the suspect list to include anyone who might have read the bestseller. Edgar admits Chandler subpoenaed him, and since he had no connection to the original Dollmaker case, the only questions she could have for him have to be about the concrete blonde.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

Bosch goes back to Robbery Homicide and types Cerrone's name into the computer. As he suspected, he was her pimp and has been busted several times since. On parole now, Cerrone has to keep his current address on file with his probation officer, so this is where Harry starts. When he finds the apartment listed for Tom, he finds a pregnant Mexican woman and her son. After questioning her, Bosch determines she is paying Tom a hundred dollars a week to live there and forward his mail. He asks if she has an emergency number for Cerrone, and she gives it to him, along with the mail accumulated since his last visit. He calls the communications department for the address that goes with the telephone number, and while he is waiting, a young girl approaches him asking if he wants a date. Bosch lets her know he's a police officer and with twenty dollars, gets Tom's current address. As soon as she leaves, the communications department confirms it.

He goes through Cerrone's mail and notes an American Express bill with several Victoria Secret purchases. When he gets to the new address, he buzzes the apartment saying he has a parcel from UPS. Then he pushes his way in and goes up to the apartment to wait for Tom. It doesn't take long, and Bosch is persuasive. Tom not only remembers Rebecca, but he recalls that the "date" she went out on also took out one of his other girls, who never returns. That is how he knew she was dead when he reported her missing. Holly Lere, (aka Nicole Knapp) was the Dollmaker's seventh victim. Tom admits that it isn't until after Rebecca hasn't returned that he realizes it was the same voice. "I have a special need tonight," the man told Tom both times. Bosch asks him if Rebecca smoked, and Tom tells him she didn't. Just before he leaves, he tells Tom the Mexican woman no longer has to pay him rent. He tells Tom he'll be checking on her, and if she moves, or isn't there, he'll return Tom to jail.

Chapter 12 Analysis

Bosch decides to investigate the man who reported Rebecca missing and finds out more than he bargained for. When he finally tracks Tom Cerrone down, he learns that Rebecca is not the first girl that Tom had go missing on him. In fact, after Rebecca went missing, he realized that it was the same man who had last been with the girl he knew as Holly Lere. Also known as Nicole Knapp, Bosch recognizes her name as being the seventh victim of the Dollmaker killer. He probes further, and Tom admits that the man said exactly the same thing to him both times. "I have a special need tonight," is all he said, and the girl Tom sent did not return. Unfortunately, he admits, he didn't recognize the voice until after Rebecca had not returned, but then he knew she was dead just like the last one. Bosch asks if Rebecca smoked and finds out she didn't.



When he has all the information he thinks he's going to get, Bosch leaves, but not before telling Tom that from now on the Mexican woman living in his legal address will no longer be paying him rent. In fact, Bosch tells Tom he'll be checking in on her frequently, and if he finds that anything has happened to her, or she's moved, he'll turn him in to the probation officer and let him finish out his time in jail. Tom is angry, but knows he can't do anything. Bosch is holding all the cards.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Bosch heads to Sylvia's and finds her reading book reports from her grade eleven class. She asks how things went, and he admits it's all going to shit. He tells her he needs her kitchen table to work, and she continues grading on the dining room table. She tells Bosch it's his turn to cook, and he tells her he'll pick up some Colonel's chicken. Sylvia complains, but only half heartedly. Harry doesn't tell her much about himself. It's a problem that worries her a lot. He goes out to get dinner and afterward, spreads out the eleven victims on the table. He stands there looking at them, hoping a connection will jump out at him that he hasn't seen before. He hardly hears Sylvia come up behind him until she has already seen the assortment of photos of the victims as they were found. He apologizes and offers to take it all home to work on, but Sylvia would rather he stay with her. She asks how he can just stand there looking at them, but he explains he has to.

Sylvia goes back to grading papers, and suddenly Bosch sees what they've all missed until now. He goes over the victims again, and it occurs to him that there has to have been two killers all along. Reading through the reports again, he understands why the descriptions given in some cases are so different from Norman Church. He calls Dr. Locke, though it is already ten o'clock, and asks him if he can come over right away. He promises to be there within the hour, and reluctantly Dr. Locke agrees. Sylvia hears him on the phone and asks if he's coming back, but he admits that he intends to go home afterward for clean clothes and to check messages. She wants to get away for the weekend, and when Harry hesitates, she tells him not to worry. She does want to stay with him while her place has an open house over the weekend.

Chapter 13 Analysis

Harry goes to Sylvia's next, and after going out to get them dinner, he uses her kitchen table to spread out the eleven victims. All of varied race and creed, some shared traits while others didn't. He stands there, staring at the victims' photos, hoping something will jump out at him and is so engrossed in thought that he doesn't hear Sylvia come in until she makes a sound. The look on her face makes Harry apologize for bringing the photos into her house and asks her if she wants him to take them back to his place instead, but Sylvia wants him to stay. She goes back to work in the dining room, and Harry suddenly sees something that until now, they'd all missed. He goes over the files again, and the more he looks, the more he realizes that he must be right. There had been two killers all along. That is why some of the descriptions given didn't match Norman Church at all.

He calls Dr. Locke at home despite the late hour, and asks to come over right away. Dr. Locke is reluctant at first, but agrees when Harry promises to be there within the hour

and take no more than an hour of his time. Sylvia hears him get off the phone and comes in as he's packing things up. She asks if he's coming back, but he admits he'd intended to go home afterward. Sylvia tells him that she wants to spend the weekend at his place while her home is having an open house, and Harry leaves.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Harry drives to Locke's home, refining his thoughts about the new pattern he's discovered. He tells Locke about the concrete blonde, shows him the note and the chronological order. Locke asks for a minute to think about it so Harry goes into the kitchen to call Amado, the coroner. He asks him what happened to the rape kits he testified about in court and whether the evidence is still viable. When Amado assures him it should be, Harry asks him to pull the kits from victims seven and eleven, and compare pubic hairs. Amado can have the comparison done in three or four days and asks why. Harry explains his theory, and Amado reminds Harry that in his testimony he mentioned the seventh and eleventh victims had extensive vaginal tearing, where the others had not, and the box of condoms from Church's apartment had nine used out of the box of twelve. It all fits.

Harry tells Locke about the video that excludes Church from the eleventh victim, and about the voice identification that Tom Cerrone made of the seventh victim. Then Harry remembers that of all the makeup in Church's apartment, none was found for victims seven and eleven. From there, he sorts out two groups and now even the dates and spaces between make more sense. Locke is excited by the growing list of evidence that another killer exists. Harry asks if it's possible, and Locke not only agrees, but helps Harry narrow down a list of suspects. Dr. Locke reminds Harry that with victims seven and eleven, the second killer had intimate knowledge of the crimes that only someone connected with the crime scenes could have before Bremmer's book was published. Harry's mind is reeling as he remembers the seventh and eleventh victims were porno actresses, as was the concrete blonde. It hits Harry then the second killer could be Ray Mora. He drives home after asking Dr. Locke to keep this all quiet for now and finds three messages waiting. Sylvia, telling him she loves him is the first, Edgar telling him he's been pulled from the case is the second, and the third is Ray Mora, who after thinking, has some things he wants to run by Harry.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Harry drives to Locke's home, and on the way he refines his theory. When Locke opens the door, Harry wastes no time laying his theory out for Locke, explaining the chronological order of most of the killings. When he finishes, Locke needs time to think about it so Harry goes into the kitchen to call Amado. He asks the coroner to pull the evidence for victims seven and eleven, and look for pubic hairs common on both. When Amado asks why, Harry explains his theory, and Amado gets excited about it as well. He reminds Harry that there were several differences between those two victims and the others. They had been handled more roughly, resulting in extensive vaginal bruising that the others didn't have; seven and eleven were the only victims for which they found no make up in Church's apartment; the time line for the killings fit better when divided into



two killers; and of the box of twelve condoms in Church's apartment - nine had been used. It all fit. Harry thanks Amado and hangs up, going back to Locke.

They talk for a while longer, and Locke reminds Harry that seven and eleven were killed with intimate knowledge of the Dollmaker's methods, and only someone extremely close to the case would know these things. It all swirls around in his brain when he leaves Locke's home, and he suddenly knows in the pit of his stomach who it is. The second killer has to be Ray Mora. It all fit. When he gets home, he finds three messages. The first from Sylvia, the second from Edgar, who had been pulled off the concrete blonde case, and the third from Mora who said he'd been thinking and had some ideas he wanted to share.



Chapter 15

Chapter 15 Summary

When Bosch gets to the courtroom, he tries to convince Belk to get a continuance, but Belk balks. He thinks Harry is trying to avoid being questioned by Chandler. Harry tries to tell him what's going on, but Belk won't listen. He tells Harry he can't control this trial, and that he'd better be prepared to get on the stand - period. Bosch gets angry and tells Belk that if they continue now, Chandler will make them both look like idiots. When Belk still won't even ask, Harry walks out for a smoke. He calls Edgar, who says RHD has taken all his files, and confirms he is still coming down at ten. A deputy marshal leans out and tells Harry they want him in court so he says goodbye to Edgar and goes in to find Belk asking the judge for a half hour recess. To Belk's surprise, Honey Chandler has decided to rest, confident that she has won her case.

Judge Keyes warns Bosch not to make them go looking for him again. Belk wants to spend the time going over Bosch's testimony, but all Harry wants is a smoke. He runs into Bremmer on his way and accuses him of feeding Chandler information, but he denies it so strongly that Harry believes he is not the leak. He walks outside and finds Chandler there. He tells her she might win, but she's wrong about him. Honey doesn't believe him. Bosch changes the subject, and asks her about Tommy Faraday, and she tells him about the case that was his undoing. He defended a man who had run from the police with no reason other than he feared them. As a result, a chase ensued and when trapped, a dog is sent after him. The damage is significant. When Tommy loses the case that seems to be a sure thing, the man went outside, retrieved a gun he hid earlier and kills himself. Justice, she tells him, is just a concrete blonde.

Chapter 15 Analysis

Things are moving quickly and Harry needs time to figure out what happened. He asks Belk to get a continuance, but Belk won't do it. He refuses to ask, telling Harry that this case will not revolve around him. Belk believes Harry is guilty and wants to get the trial over with. He doesn't care when Harry tells him that there were likely two killers. He thinks Bosch is just trying to avoid getting raked over by Chandler on the stand. Harry presses, telling Belk that they'll reveal the fact that they know about the second killer if he is made to testify, but still Belk isn't listening. All it does it complicate his case, so he isn't interested. Harry is angry and goes out for a smoke, but shortly after a deputy marshal comes looking for him. Honey Chandler has decided to rest her case, confident that she has already won.

Belk gets a half hour continuance to prepare, and Judge Keyes warns Bosch not to be late again. They clear the courtroom, and Belk wants to go over Harry's testimony, but Harry just wants a smoke. He goes out to find Bremmer hanging around and accuses him of being the leak to Chandler, which he denies so hotly that Harry believes him. He



goes outside and finds Chandler there. They talk about the case that ended the career of Tommy Faraday, and Chandler makes the comparison between that case and theirs. Bosch tells her she's wrong about him, and Chandler reminds him that justice is nothing more than a concrete blonde.



Chapter 16

Chapter 16 Summary

Harry gets on the stand, gives his history as a police officer and describes his career right up to the Dollmaker task force. Belk questions him about the night he receives the phone call that led to Church's death. He asks Harry why he went alone, and Bosch is able to field the questions comfortably. He describes how he lent little credence to the call until he met the caller and discovers she had seen a collection of make up in the bathroom. Without time or a phone to call in for back up, he went in, announcing himself as a police officer. He describes how he found Church in bed, and after being asked not to move, Church still reaches under his pillow. As a result, Harry shoots him once, and Norman Church dies. Belk asks what Church reached for, and Harry tells him it is a toupee.

When Chandler begins her cross examination, Harry tries to remain calm and answer her questions. She asks whether he has any doubts about Church being the killer, and Harry says no. Chandler asks about the eleventh victim for which Church has a video alibi, and he repeats that he is sure Church killed the nine for which they found make up. She asks him how many people he has killed as an officer and leads him through the explanation for the other two shootings in which he has been involved. In both cases, the person he shot was armed. Then Chandler brings up the supposedly-confidential psychiatrist's report and asks him to read the summary, which states that Bosch seemed comfortable with the shooting and it would not affect his performance in the future. Still Bosch is calm, but the veneer of calm cracks when Chandler brings up his mother's death. She asks if his mother's murder had anything to do with his becoming a police officer, but Bosch just doesn't know. Chandler asks if killing Norman Church stopped the killings, and Judge Keyes decides it is a good time to take a break when Belk asks for a sidebar conference.

Chapter 16 Analysis

Harry is called to the stand, and Belk competently takes him through his history as a police officer. He works his way up to the Dollmaker task force, and then specifically to the night that Norman Church is shot. Harry is a confident witness and easily explains the events that led to him going into Church's apartment without back up. He explains how Church reached under his pillow despite repeated requests to freeze and as a direct result is shot once in the chest. The toupee under the pillow had only been discovered afterward.

Chandler gets her turn, and baits Harry regularly. She uses phrases included how satisfied Harry is with the outcome, and harps on the fact that because of his history, Harry is desensitized to killing and death. She brings in a psychologist's report that is supposed to be confidential, and has Harry read aloud the summary that paints him in

an unsympathetic light. Still, Harry keeps his cool, but that breaks down when she begins to question him about his mother's death, and its affect on Harry's life. Finally, she asks him if killing Norman Church ended the Dollmaker killings, and Belk asks for a sidebar conference. Judge Keyes decides it is a good time for a break.



Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

Judge Keyes, Belk, Bosch, Chandler, the court reporter and court clerk retire to the judge's chambers. Belk objects to the line of questioning Chandler is taking, and both Belk and Harry explain that by answering her questions, they will give away that they know a second killer exists, tipping him off. Chandler objects, citing it's all speculation in an effort to cover up the fact that Harry shot the wrong man. Judge Keyes tells her that is for a jury to decide. Bosch asks what will happen if he refuses, and Keyes tells him he will be held in contempt and placed under arrest. Belk asks for a continuance and only succeeds in making the judge angry.

Harry gets on the stand and Chandler asks again. Did the killings stop with the death of Norman Church? Harry tries to minimize the damage, but Chandler prods at Harry until he finally blurts out that Church got what he deserved, and though he explains that Church's actions led directly to his death, the damage is done. Chandler accuses him of covering up the killing by planting evidence, and says the real reason that Harry killed Church is because he is reminded of his mother's killing. Despite Harry's objections, and Belk's redirect afterward, the jury is clearly impressed by Chandler's performance. He notices that Sylvia decided to come after all, and when Belk rests after Harry's testimony, Sylvia tells him she saw his true nature. She knows he's a good man, and he should have faith. Despite her assurances he should be optimistic, Sylvia is bothered by the fact that she found out about his mother's death in court instead of from Harry himself. She complains that it is the thing that will kill their relationship, but Harry can't deal with her. He is still reeling from court. She asks what he'll do, and Harry tells her that he has to find the second killer, regardless of what happens. Bremmer approaches, looking for more information, but Harry is not forthcoming. He tells Sylvia he'll try to see her later, and she leaves.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Belk tries to convince the judge that Chandler's line of questioning is a problem, but Judge Keyes isn't buying it. Both Belk and Harry try to explain the significance of tipping off the second killer, but Chandler argues that this is just another attempt to deflect the truth. Harry killed the wrong man. None of their objections work, so Belk tries to get a continuance and only manages to anger Judge Keyes further. Going off the record, he tells Belk to get his fat ass out there and do his job. Vindicated, Chandler repeats her question to Bosch. Did the killings stop when Church was killed?

Harry does the best he can to deflect the questions without revealing too much about the second killer, but Chandler is good at her job. She accuses Harry of planting evidence, making Harry look like a monster. She accuses him of shooting Church because he reminds Harry of the person who murdered his mother. Answering the



questions, Harry looks up and sees Sylvia in the back of the courtroom. When Belk is done, he rests and the judge dismisses the jury until closing arguments. Harry leaves court and Sylvia approaches him, trying to convince him that his true goodness came through, telling him to be optimistic. Despite this, she is angry with Harry because she has only just learned of his mother's death today in court. She tells him that this kind of secrecy is what will destroy them, but Harry can't deal with that right now. His intention is to pursue the second killer. It isn't what Sylvia wants to hear, but she lets it go.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Harry goes to Vice and stands for a moment to one side watching Ray Mora. Ray looks up and notices him, and tells Harry that it occurs to him that there might be another killer at work. Harry tries not to show any emotion. Ray explains his theory, telling Harry about a call he received right before Church was killed. The girl's name was Gallery, and she called in to report a man who had been watching her recently. She told Mora that the guy had been around just before two of the Dollmaker's victims had disappeared. The more Ray talks, the more creepy Harry feels listening. He wonders why Ray would offer the information, especially if he is the second killer. Then Ray tells him Gallery disappeared and has not been seen or heard from in three years.

He shows Harry a nude photo of her, and Harry is embarrassed, which seems to amuse Ray. He notes the physical similarities of Gallery to the other victims that he attributes to the second killer just as Ray observes the same thing. Harry remembers how Ray volunteered for the B shift after his wife left him and then recalls that his wife was also a well-built blonde. The pieces just keep fitting together. Harry asks Ray to do some investigation for him to find out if there are any other women in the trade of similar description who have fallen off the map. Ray asks if Harry thinks there are other women out there that they haven't found yet, and Harry admits that is his thinking. He leaves Ray after telling him to beep him if he finds out anything, and just as he's headed down the stairs, his beeper goes off. Thinking Ray forgot something, he goes back upstairs, but it isn't Ray who beeped him. He calls in, and the voice that answers identifies himself as Lieutenant Felder in Chief Irving's office.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Harry goes to Ray Mora's office to feel him out and gets a surprise. Ray offers information that he believes there is someone else as well. He tells Harry how he's come to that conclusion and tells him about a call he got right around the same time as Norman Church was killed. A woman, who identifies herself as Gallery, tells Mora that there has been a strange peeping tom hanging around. Strange because he never seems to pick any of the women up. Gallery also tells Mora that she remembers the same man had been hanging around when two of the Dollmaker victims had been taken. Harry listens to Ray and the more he hears, the more creepy it all sounds, but with an effort, he tries not to show it. Keeping his tone neutral, he agrees with Ray that there is likely another killer out there, and Ray even offers that he believes victims seven and eleven can be attributed to the second killer as well.

Harry asks Ray to find out if there are any other women from the trade missing, asking Ray to beep him if he finds anything out. As Harry is heading downstairs, his beeper goes off. Thinking Ray forgot something, he returns to find Ray staring contemplatively

at the photo of Gallery. He didn't beep him, so Harry calls in and the voice that answers identifies himself as Lieutenant Felder in Chief Irving's office.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Harry attends a private conference that includes Assistant Chief Irving, Jerry Edgar, two detectives from Robber-Homicide and Lieutenant Hans Rollenberger. Harry is the last to arrive, and Irving gets right to it. They are going to take another look into the Dollmaker killings to try to determine who the copycat is. Harry explains the reasons that led him to the conclusion another man has been involved. It takes forty-five minutes for him to lay it all out, but when he is done, there are no disagreements. Irving asks Harry who he thinks is the most likely suspect, but Harry is reluctant to blurt out Ray Mora's name yet. Irving understands Harry's hesitancy and tells him that they need to start somewhere, even if all Harry has is a hunch. Harry asks for five minutes to go through the files before answering, but all that the extra time does is confirm that Ray could have been the one. In each of the three cases, Ray is either logged out as sick, or has left early or wasn't on shift at all. Harry tells them, and explains that Ray knows everything about the new case as well and is looking into whether more women have disappeared. Rollenberger tells Harry he shouldn't have clued in Ray, but Harry explains that under the normal course of investigation, he would have done so and to deviate will tip Ray off. Rollenberger agrees, and Irving cautions them all to keep this investigation confined to those in the room. Ray Mora is now a prime suspect.

Irving asks Harry to stay behind, and once everyone else has cleared out, he steps way out of character by apologizing to Harry for the testimony he gave, and telling Harry that he doesn't care what the jury decides. He is on Harry's side. Harry is stunned by this newfound camaraderie, and even more surprised when Irving tells him that he was the patrol officer that originally found his mother. Harry realizes that if Irving was the one who found her, he likely knew his mother before that in her capacity as a working girl.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Harry is called in to a conference held by Irving to look into the new information regarding a copycat killer. Irving's demeanor is much friendlier than it has been in the past, and he openly applauds Harry's insights. He asks Harry to lay it all out for them, and forty-five minutes later, they know everything Harry knows except for his suspicions as to who the second man might be. Harry is reluctant to tell them and ruin Ray Mora's career if he is wrong, but Irving reminds him that they have to start somewhere, even if it is just a suspicion. Harry asks for five minutes with the files first, and confirms for himself that Ray had ample opportunity to commit each of the three crimes in question. He calls the team back in and tells them. They are given their assignments, and Irving asks Harry to stay behind.

When the rest are gone, Irving apologizes to Harry for his testimony the day before, citing how fortunate it was that Chandler didn't know his badge number. If she had, she



would have realized that he was the one who had found Harry's mother and the line of questioning would have been much different. Then he tells Harry that he doesn't care what the outcome of the trial is, he supports Harry's decision and he's only sorry that it took him four years to realize it. Harry is understandably stunned, and says little, but he realizes at the same time that if Irving was the beat cop on patrol in that area, he likely knew his mother before she died.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Harry leaves the building, still stunned by Irving's revelations. He sees Edgar a block and a half ahead of him and assumes Edgar's headed to a watering hole so he follows, but Edgar doesn't stop at either of the two usual places. Feeling strange about it, Harry follows him anyway. A sick feeling forms in his stomach as he watches Edgar enter the bar frequented by lawyers from the nearby law center. Harry watches from the alcove as Edgar sits down with Chandler. Stunned, Harry stands outside and waits until Edgar finally comes out. Harry calls out and Edgar reacts like he's been hit. He tells Harry he's on his way in for a drink, but Harry tells him he saw them together, and he wants to know everything right now. Edgar tries to minimize his involvement, but Harry is livid. Harry trained Edgar and thought they were friends. It is a shock to him that this is the person who is screwing him over. Edgar asks Harry what he's going to do, and Harry tells Edgar as soon as this investigation is done, Edgar is going to transfer out to the first position available elsewhere. If he doesn't, Harry will turn him in.

Bremmer joins him shortly after, but Harry doesn't want to talk. He just wants to forget, but Bremmer tells him Chandler is slick. All she has to do is get the jury to find that Harry acted improperly, and slap him on the wrist by awarding the widow as little as one dollar. If they do that, Chandler will then bill the city for hundreds of thousands for her legal services. It's all a scam, Bremmer tells him. He offers Harry a ride back to his car, and tells him on the way that his source isn't anyone that Harry would ever guess, and it certainly isn't Pounds or Edgar. Bosch just nods and shuts the door.

Chapter 20 Analysis

As Harry is leaving the building, he sees his old partner, Edgar, walking ahead of him, and presuming he's headed for a drink, Harry follows. He's a little surprised when Edgar passes their usual watering holes, and continues on until he gets to the bar that Harry knows lawyers frequent. Harry gets a sick feeling as he discretely follows Edgar in and watches him sit down with Chandler. Surprised and disappointed that his supposed friend would sell him out, he waits outside until Edgar leaves, and then calls him on it. He makes Edgar reveal everything he's told her, and then tells Edgar that he's done. At the first opportunity, he wants Edgar out of Robbery Homicide. If he doesn't transfer out to the first available position, Harry will turn him in. Then he asks Edgar to leave.

Bremmer joins his table, and tells Harry even more he doesn't really want to know. The whole trial is just a scam. He predicts that Chandler will tell the jury that they can find for the plaintiff and award as little as a dollar on principle, and as soon as they do that, she is able to bill the city for her services. That bill will amount to hundreds of thousands, he adds. Then he gives Harry a ride back to his car, telling him on the way that while he

can't reveal his source, he wants Harry to know that it isn't anyone he'd think it might be, and it certainly isn't Pounds or Edgar. Harry just nods and gets out.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Bosch gets into his car at Parker Center, puts his key in the ignition, but doesn't start the engine. He contemplates going inside for a coffee before leaving, or maybe even just staying on the couch inside, but the urge to see Sylvia is stronger. Instead, he dozes off and thirty minutes later a rookie assigned to watch the lot knocks on his window to check on him. He asks Harry if he's alright, and Harry assures him he is. The thirty-minute nap is just enough to refresh him.

He drives to Sylvia's and goes in quietly. She is already in bed, and he stands watching her while his eyes adjust, but she is not asleep. She says hello to him and asks where he's been, and he realizes how lucky he feels to have her. It's a feeling that actually has him smiling at himself in the mirror as he gets ready for bed. He climbs in with her, and they make love, and then lie there talking for a little while. He tells her that someone close to him betrayed him today, but as he's telling her the story, he realizes that Edgar really betrayed himself, and he resolves to rescind the order he gave Edgar to leave Robbery Homicide. He tells Sylvia that despite the fact that he'd said he didn't want her in court, he was glad she was there today. She tells him she loves him, and he tells her he loves her for the first time. It scares him to be so vulnerable, and though she falls asleep soon after in his arms, he lays awake until almost dawn, thinking about chasing monsters and wondering if he is becoming one. He knows that love can be good or bad, and resolves to try harder with Sylvia. Then finally he falls asleep.

Chapter 21 Analysis

When Bosch gets into his own car, he sits without turning the engine over, contemplating whether or not he should go back inside for a coffee or a nap. Instead, he dozes for half an hour before a rookie patrolman knocks on his window to check on him. Feeling better, he heads to Sylvia's.

When he gets there, she is already in bed, but not asleep. They talk for a while after making love, and he tells her he loves her for the first time. He knows how lucky he is to have her and to feel so comfortable with her, and he doesn't want to screw it up. She tells him again that she wants to know everything about him and his past, and Harry is still reluctant. He has spent years burying his past and doesn't really want to dredge it up, but at the same time, knows that if he keeps hiding so much of himself from her, their relationship will sour. He holds her as she falls asleep, resolving to try harder to open up to her, despite how much it frightens him to be so vulnerable. It is a long time before sleep comes.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Belk is unimpressed when he sees Bosch, rumpled and wearing the same clothing he wore the day before. He chastises Bosch before returning to the notes he is making for his closing. Bosch goes outside for a quick smoke, and Chandler is also there. He tells her that he wants the note she was sent. The look on her face confirms his theory, and he tells her she's withholding evidence and if necessary he'll get a warrant. She recovers quickly, telling Bosch that a judge would never grant a warrant to search her home under the circumstances, and Bosch smiles and thanks her for telling him where it is. She is rattled, and he tells her that he also knows about her meetings with Edgar. It accomplishes what he hoped for, which was to confirm the note's existence and possibly even throw her off her game a little.

They go back in, and both attorneys sum up their case for the jury. Chandler does exactly what Bremmer told Harry she would, and Belk just isn't in her league. Harry realizes it does matter to him what the jury thinks. Chandler gets one more opportunity after Belk is finished, further stacking the deck against them, but she makes a calculated mistake. She implies to the jury that since the defense called no witnesses to testify as to the character of Harry Bosch, it is in itself an admission of his guilt. The judge and Belk explode at the same time. Judge Keyes spends five minutes dressing Chandler down in front of the jury, and then tells the jury in the most sternest of terms that whether or not the defense called witnesses to testify as to Bosch's character has nothing to do with guilt or innocence, and furthermore, that Chandler can expect contempt of court charges when the trial is complete. Judge Keyes is so angry that it appears as if Chandler has just blown her own case. Properly chastised, she apologizes to the jury and the judge before finishing.

Chapter 22 Analysis

Belk is unhappy with Bosch's appearance and makes no secret of it, but Harry doesn't care. He's decided that it doesn't matter what the jury decides because he knows that if it happened again, he'd likely respond exactly the same way. He goes out for a smoke, hoping to find Chandler outside and isn't disappointed. He has a theory. He tells Chandler that he wants the note that was mailed to her. The look on her face confirms it for him and he presses on despite her quick recovery. He tells her he can get a warrant, and when she argues that a judge will never grant a warrant for her home, he knows where the note is as well. Then, in an effort to throw her off her game a little farther, he tells her he knows about her meeting with Edgar.

When they go back inside, both attorneys give their closings, and Chandler behaves as predictably as Bremmer told Harry she would, but at the end, she takes a calculated gamble that backfires. She tells the jury that Harry's guilt is obvious as they called no

character witnesses on his behalf. Both Judge Keyes and Belk explode at the same time. Judge Keyes holds her in contempt of court, and dresses her down so severely in front of the jury that it almost seems as though she's lost as a result.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

The jury is sent out to deliberate, and Keyes orders everyone to go not further than what would take no more than fifteen minutes to return to the courtroom. He sets a date for Chandler's contempt of court hearing and dismisses them. Harry heads to Parker Center and the conference room now dubbed the Follower Task Force's working area. Rollenberger and Edgar are the only ones there, and Edgar busies himself on the phone. Rollenberger fills Harry in on what little developments there are, and Harry follows Edgar out to get a coffee. In the stairwell, he tells Edgar that if he hasn't already approached Pounds, he shouldn't bother. Edgar is suspicious at first and then relieved when he realizes Harry is serious. Edgar tells him Mora's ex wife fits the profile of the other missing women, and the divorce was uncontested. Harry asks if Georgia Stern, the only survivor has been found, and Edgar tells him that since her escape from the Dollmaker, she's gone downhill. Now on the needle, she's been busted, but never spent enough time in jail to clean herself up. On one of the last busts, AZT was found, confirming she also has AIDS, but that hasn't stopped her from her life of prostitution either.

Harry goes out for a smoke just as his pager goes off, and for a minute he thinks the jury is back, but it is Mora. He drives over to Central Division, and after some small talk, Ray tells Harry that he's found four more missing women that fit the profile. Including the seventh and eleventh of the Dollmakers' victims, a total of at least eight girls can now be attributed to the Follower. All of them are "Snow White's," Ray tells him, and it is easy now to see a pattern. This killer is active every six or seven months, and since the last disappearance was eight months ago, Mora makes the assumption that their killer is primed to strike again. Harry sees a coldness in Mora that gives him the creeps.

Chapter 23 Analysis

The jury is sent out to deliberate, Keyes tells all the parties to be within fifteen minutes of returning and sets a date for Chandler's contempt hearing. Belk wants to approach Chandler about settling, but Harry knows it's a waste of time. He goes back to Parker Center and into the conference room, which has been designated the work room for the Follower Task Force. Only Edgar and Rollenberger are there, and Edgar busies himself on the phone, while Rollenberger gives Harry what little updates they have. When Edgar leaves for a coffee, Harry follows and tells him if he hasn't already spoken to Pounds, he needn't bother. Edgar's relief is so obvious that Harry feels good about his decision, and he tells Edgar to learn from it.

Edgar tells Harry that Mora's divorce was uncontested, and the one dollmaker survivor, Georgia Stern, hasn't been found. Busted several times, she's never been in long enough to get her off the needle and in one of the more recent busts, she is found with



medication for AIDS. Harry goes for a smoke just as his pager goes off. For a minute, he's afraid the jury has already come back, but it is Mora, so he drives to Central Division to see what he has. Mora found four more missing women who fit the profile, and he gives Harry the months and years of their disappearances. When victims seven and eleven are added, a pattern is clear. This killer strikes every six to seven months, and it's been eight since the most recent disappearance. Mora speculates that he is ready to strike again, and Harry sees a coldness in him that he hasn't seen before.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Harry drives out to the University of Southern California to see Dr. Locke. He finds the psychology building, and gets directions to the basement, where Locke has his offices. The student receptionist calls Locke down, and he greets Harry with enthusiasm. Harry tells him about the four new women identified as possible victims, and Locke is excited by the prospect that the killer appears due to strike at any time. He asks Harry if he can join him on a stake out, citing how it could be his ticket out of his dungeon offices, but Harry discourages him. Bosch also tells him that Mora's divorce cited lack of consortium, asking him if that fit the profile, and Dr. Locke admits that in the field of psychology, anything can be made to fit the profile, but in this case it would certainly fit. It simply meant that the killer had lost interest in normal sex and was leaving her behind.

Harry asks him if it's likely that Mora kept trophies in his home, and if so, for what should he be on the lookout. Immediately, Dr. Locke becomes animated again, telling Harry he'd be happy to go with him to Mora's and use his experience to look around while Harry kept him busy. Again, Harry tells him that there is no way that he could take a civilian on such a dangerous excursion, and properly chastised once more, Dr. Locke backs down. Harry asks if Mora might be inclined to keep the clothing of the victims that has never been found, but Dr. Locke tells him to think simply. All these victims were in the pornography industry, and it is much more likely that he kept their videos as souvenirs instead. On his way out, Harry goes to the campus bookstore and finds the book that Locke wrote about the pornography business. He takes it to the register and pays for it, embarrassed by it even more than the cashier. She asks if he's teaching a class on the subject and what the class is called when Bosch say yes. Unable to think of a title, he says it doesn't have a name yet, so she asks for his name and he identifies himself as Dr. Locke - the author. She tells him she'll keep an eye out for the class when it is offered and he leaves.

Chapter 24 Analysis

It's after two in the afternoon and Harry heads to USC to talk to Dr. Locke. Could Ray Mora really be the copycat killer? There are times when Harry believes it is entirely likely. Dr. Locke looks at the new information and is excited about the prospect that this killer is due to strike at any time. He asks Harry if he can be part of the stake out, thinking it will be his ticket out of the dungeon office. Harry is disappointed, and tells Dr. Locke that it would be legally impossible for him to be part of the investigation.

Bosch also wants to know if it's likely Ray kept trophies of any kind, and Dr. Locke says it is entirely possible, but tells Harry to think more simply. If all of these women were call girls and video porn actresses, it is likely that the killer would keep trophies such as their videos so that he could watch them again and again to relive the experience. This could



also account for his self control between killings, as six to eight months is a long time in between. He wants to go with Harry to Ray's home and while Harry distracts him, use his expertise to snoop and maybe find the trophies Mora has kept - if he is indeed the killer. Harry reminds him that this simply isn't possible. Locke apologizes and Harry notices one of the books Locke wrote deals with the pornography business, so on his way out, he stops at the bookstore to purchase it.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

By four, Bosch is back in court waiting for the judge to come and release the jury for the weekend. He instructs them not to read the papers or discuss the case and orders them to return by nine-thirty Monday morning. Dismissed, Harry catches up with Chandler on the stairs. He asks her for the note, and Chandler tells him if there was a note, it would only be a copy of the one sent to the police department, and of no use, as prints have never been recovered from the notes they've received before. Harry goes back to the conference room and updates Rollenberger on the information Ray Mora gave him, and the opinions of Dr. Locke. Rollenberger wants to double the surveillance, but Harry reminds him that Ray is likely to notice a larger police presence. Rollenberger asks the team to stay until he can update Chief Irving. When he comes back, he announces that the Chief wants to keep the surveillance the way it is and he, of course, agrees. Edgar stifles a laugh at the obvious suck up. They leave and go to the Code Seven, but Harry finds that having overindulged the day before he is not enjoying alcohol. He goes home to shower before going to see Sylvia.

When he gets to her house, she announces that she is taking him out for dinner. She tells him that the previous night was the best night they'd ever had together, and after a romantic and relaxed dinner they go back to her house and make love on a blanket in front of the fireplace. They fall asleep afterward, and an hour later Harry's beeper goes off. He calls in to find it's Edgar saying he found the survivor, Georgia Stern. He wants Harry to help him bring her in, nervous about the fact that she has AIDS. Harry agrees, and together they manage to bring her in, but it is clear that she is too high to help them at this point. They show her a collection of photos, but decide that it might be best to try again when she's come down a bit. Harry suggests they take her to the narcotics unit at Sybil, and Edgar, wanting the overtime, offers to transport her.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Judge Keyes releases the jury for the weekend shortly after four o'clock, and Harry follows Chandler out asking her again for the note. She denies having it, but tells Harry that if she did, it would only be a copy of the one the police got anyway. Harry goes back to the conference room and fills Rollenberger in on the new information that he got from Ray Mora regarding the extra victims. Then he adds the information he got from Dr. Locke, and Rollenberger is obviously excited about the prospect that the killer is due to strike at any time. They head over to the Code Seven for a beer, but Harry and alcohol aren't getting along as well as they had the night before, so he leaves after one beer and goes home to shower before heading to Sylvia's house.

She greets him with a sensual kiss, telling him the night before was their best night together. It is obvious that she is referring to an emotional connection she feels with



Harry and not the physical one. She takes him out for dinner, and Harry finds himself wondering how he can make sure that he doesn't lose this wonderful woman. They go back to her house afterward and make love on a blanket in front of the fireplace, which is where they fall asleep until Edgar beeps Harry. Edgar found the survivor, Georgia Stern, and wants Harry's help to arrest her because he's nervous about AIDS. They bring her in without incident, but she has recently shot up with drugs and is of little use. They take her to the narcotics unit to straighten out before trying again.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

Harry wakes up alone in Sylvia's bed, and when the phone rings, he tenses thinking it might be for him, but Sylvia doesn't appear so he relaxes again. He can hear her talking and thinks he hears her crying, so he gets up. He finds her still on the phone in the kitchen, and when she gets off, she tells him tearfully that one of her students has been killed in a drive by shooting. Harry can see how upset she is. They spend the day around the house, just puttering, and Sylvia offers that she might take her entire class by bus to the funeral. She decides to take a nap while Harry makes some calls, and when he looks in on her at four, she is sleeping, the pillow still wet from her tears. Later, a reporter calls Sylvia to get background information about her student, and Sylvia seems a little stronger after talking him.

Harry uses the Rover to check in and see what Mora is doing and learns he is eating out at a fast food joint. He asks the surveillance team whether Mora looks like he'll be out for a while, and they confirm that he seems to be dressed for the evening. Harry tells Sylvia he has to go and asks if she'll be alright while he's gone. She assures him she's fine, and Harry tells her that she's too good for him. Sylvia disagrees immediately.

Chapter 26 Analysis

Harry wakes in Sylvia's bed alone, and when the phone rings, he tenses thinking it's for him, but hears her talking and relaxes again. Then he thinks he hears her crying and gets up, confirming it when he sees her. When she gets off the phone, she tells him that one of her most promising students was killed the night before in a drive by shooting. They spend the day around the house, and then Harry suggests she take a nap while he makes some calls. She agrees, and when he looks in on her later, she is sleeping. A reporter calls Sylvia for background and after talking for fifteen minutes, she is stronger and more positive.

Harry calls in to get updates and then checks in on the Rover to see where and what Mora is doing. He establishes that Ray is out for dinner, and it looks like he is staying out afterward. He gets ready to go out, and asks Sylvia if she'll be alright, and she assures him she is fine.



Chapter 27

Chapter 27 Summary

While a team keeps an eye on Ray, Bosch drives to Ray's house. Using his picks, he enters Mora's house looking for evidence. The surveillance team says Ray has gone to the movies, and Harry keeps checking with them as he roams Mora's house, nervous about the amount of time passing. He finds a foot high stack of pornography magazines, and several VHS tapes, but finds they are erased. The second bedroom is like a woman's room with a four poster bed, make up on the dresser, and a sophisticated camera set up to record. He finds one video that has not been erased, and watching it for a few minutes sees that Ray is one of three participants. He knows it's time to go, and looking around the room realizes he forgot to take the last tape out of the VCR. He hits the rewind button and the surveillance team says the movie is getting out and they are watching for Mora. In that moment, Bosch knows that they didn't actually follow Ray in. The VCR clicks off and behind him he hears, "I forgot about that tape, didn't I?" He turns to see Ray standing with a gun. Harry tells him not to worry, but Ray isn't listening. The surveillance team reports they've lost him, and Bosch tells Ray he should probably call in. Right on cue, the Rover calls Harry's designation. Harry tells them he's just at the house watching television, and they ask him to join them and help. He tells them he'll be there in ten minutes and drops his arm back down to his side still holding down the transmit key.

Ray tells him to use the magnet in the top drawer and erase the tape, and Bosch does as he's asked, putting it in the machine again afterward to confirm that it's blank. Harry feels a headache coming and hopes he'll live long enough to get it. Then there is a shout in the hall. The surveillance team arrives, calling out Ray's name. Light floods the room suddenly and Harry tries to take himself out of harm's way as he hears Ray being tackled. At that moment, a shot rings out.

Chapter 27 Analysis

While the surveillance team is watching Ray, Harry goes to his house. He picks the lock and looks for any signs of trophies. He goes from room to room, looking in drawers, and finds more than he can sift through in such a short period of time. There is a foot high stack of pornography magazines, lots of VHS tapes of prerecorded porn, and an address book with lots of girls' first names, but nothing that he can definitively say is part of the Dollmaker killings. He finds blank tapes, open but erased, and the second bedroom is more like a woman's room. There is makeup, a black wig, and a professional camera on a tripod with another VHS machine. He discovers one tape that hasn't been erased, and watching it, he sees one of the two men is Ray Mora, and the girl in the film is obviously under age. He takes a last look around, remembering that he forgot to take out the last tape. He rewinds it, and hears over the Rover that the movie has let out. Harry knows something is wrong. The VHS clicks off, and behind him Mora



comments that he forgot one. Harry tells him not to panic, but Ray is holding a gun on him. He asks for Harry's gun and tells him to erase the tape with a magnet in the top drawer. Harry does and the Rover announces that the surveillance team has lost Mora. The surveillance team asks for help finding Ray, and he tells them he'll be there in ten minutes, puts his arm down and continues to transmit.

The surveillance team catches on quick, and in no time Harry hears them. Suddenly the room is full of light, and they are calling out Ray's name. Harry rolls to put himself out of the line of fire just as they are tackling Ray and a shot rings out.



Chapter 28

Chapter 28 Summary

When Bosch clears the Rover channel, Rollenberger demands a report. Calmly Bosch tells him that he should proceed to the subject's house immediately. Then he cancels the call that went out to all the task force units to report in, and asks Edgar to report to Ray's. He turns off the Rover before Rollenberger can say anything else. Within half an hour they are assembled, and by the time Rollenberger gets there, they have a plan in place. Bosch explains that "one of them" conducted an illegal search of the subject's house and was caught in the act when the subject eluded the surveillance team. Rollenberger's wants to call Irving, but Bosch points out that if he does, he'll likely never be in charge of a team again. He asks Bosch what he suggests they do. Ray is handcuffed upstairs while they conduct a search of his home, but they find nothing that makes him the Follower. Four hours later, Ray is given one choice. Claiming he knows who the Follower is, he deals his way out of prison. They tell him if he turns in his badge, they will release him without charges providing he gives them the Follower. He waffles, but Bosch tells him they will keep his little black book so if he goes back on his deal, it can be given to Internal Affairs. He tells them the Follower is the peeping tom on the various sets, Dr. Locke. Stunned, Harry realizes that it fits. They release Mora, and the surveillance team is sent to Locke's.

Bosch is too wired to sleep, and looking through the book Locke wrote, he notices that several of the victims are mentioned by their stage names including Magna Cum Loudly and Holly Lere. He takes the dust jacket off, and goes to Georgia Stern to see if she recognizes him as the man who attacked her, but she doesn't. Harry goes back to the station and finds several messages in his box. One envelope gives him a chill, and putting on gloves, he opens it to find another note from the Follower. He runs out of the station telling the duty sergeant to find Edgar and get him on the Rover.

Chapter 28 Analysis

Harry hears Rollenberger as soon as he lets go of the transmit key. Demanding to know what is going on, Rollenberger is stunned when Harry asks him to come immediately to Ray Mora's. Then Harry cancels the remaining task force call in, and asks Edgar to come to Ray's before turning off his Rover so there is no further contact from Rollenberger. When Rollenberger gets to Ray's half an hour later, they have the beginnings of a plan in place. It takes Rollenberger a couple minutes to calm down enough to see the sense in what Harry is telling him. Instead, leaving Ray cuffed to the Nautilus machine upstairs, they carefully search his home, confirming he is not the Follower. Ray tells them he knows who the real Follower is. They go up as a group and offer him a one-time deal. Ray can hand in his badge and give them the Follower, or he can go to jail. His choice comes quickly, and he tells them that the Follower is Dr. Locke,



stunning Bosch. He thinks it through and realizes that it all fits. They let Ray go, and the surveillance team is sent to Locke's.

Bosch sits in his car and goes through Locke's book finding Magna Cum Loudly and Holly Lere's name mentioned. He takes off the dust jacket and goes to see if Georgia Stern can identify Locke as her attacker, but she isn't able to. Then he goes back to the station and finds several messages. One of them is from the Follower. Bosch runs out of the station telling the duty sergeant to find Edgar and get him on the Rover.



Chapter 29

Chapter 29 Summary

Harry puts a bubble on the roof and races for Sylvia's. The note threatened to "take his precious blonde" off his hands, and Harry knows Sylvia is in trouble. Edgar radios him, and Harry tells him to send uniforms to her house immediately and then to head to the station to secure the note he left on his desk, and fill Rollenberger and Irving in. Then he radios the surveillance team to pick up Locke if he is at home and bring him in. When Harry gets to Sylvia's, a uniformed officer is standing outside. It appears no one is home, and he asks if he can be released. Bosch send him away and asks Edgar to put a "be on the lookout" for Sylvia and her Cherokee. The surveillance team tells Harry no one is home at Locke's, but they are waiting. Harry sits in Sylvia's living room for more than an hour, jumping when he hears a key in the lock. It is not Dr. Locke. He slams the man up against the wall demanding to know where Sylvia is, and all at once realizes that he has her real estate agent. His pager goes off and he recognizes his home number, knowing then that's where she is. He calls her and tells her to put the phone down and make sure all doors and windows are locked. He tells her where his gun and bullets are and insists she let in no one but him. He tells her he loves her and he's on the way. He radios Edgar to tell him where he is going and that he's found her. When he gets there, he takes her into his arms, relieved now that she is safe and tells her everything that's happened.

They leave, driving to Santa Monica and checking into the Loews Hotel. He checks in and is told that Locke was supposed to be in Vegas at the Stardust for a few days, but he hasn't checked in. They nap until it's dark, and then Sylvia tells Harry she wants him to go home. She needs time to think about what Harry does. She isn't sure she's right for him, even though he is finally sure himself. She insists he leave, and with great remorse he does, but he doesn't go home. Instead, he sits on the beach a hundred yards from the hotel with his back to the ocean, watching her room. He has no trouble staying awake.

Chapter 29 Analysis

Things are moving too fast and too slow at the same time. Information in the note leads Harry to believe that Locke is on his way to Sylvia, and panicked, Harry can't get there fast enough. He tells Edgar and asks him to send a uniform to her house, secure the note he left behind and inform Rollenberger and Irving what is going on. The uniform is standing outside her empty house when Harry gets there, and he lets the police officer go, letting himself in. He sits in the living room for over an hour before he hears a key in the front door. He has a man up against the wall before he realizes that it is her real estate agent, and at that moment, his pager goes off showing his home number. Then he knows where she is. He calls her and tells her to lock the windows and doors and tells her where to find his gun and bullets. Telling her not to let anyone but him in, he



tells her he loves her and is on his way. He radios Edgar, letting him know he's found her. When he gets there, he finally relaxes and tells her everything that's happened.

They decide to go to the Loews Hotel in Santa Monica. Harry checks in when they get there and is told that Locke had plans to go to Vegas, but never checked into his hotel. They are still looking for him. Harry and Sylvia nap until dark, and then she asks him to go home. Frightened and unnerved by the day's events, she wants time to think, telling Harry that she isn't sure she's the one for him. Oddly, it has taken this long for Harry to realize that he doesn't want to be without her. Still, she insists, so he leaves, but he doesn't go home. He sits on the beach with his back to the ocean so that he can keep an eye on her and make sure she stays safe.



Chapter 30

Chapter 30 Summary

Bosch is late getting into court having waited until Sylvia was on her way to school. He is surprised to see neither the judge nor Chandler is there. Harry gets up to make a phone call, but the judge comes in, calls in the jury and asks if they have any questions. Keyes tells the jury Chandler had a scheduling conflict, but they are to continue deliberations. As soon as the judge is gone, Harry heads for the door. He tells Edgar to meet him at Chandlers' house explaining that she is blonde. Edgar gets it right away. Just as Harry reaches the freeway, he is paged that the jury is back, so he turns around asking Edgar to continue on alone. Chandler still isn't there, and Harry has a really bad feeling. The judge calls the jury in, reads the verdict to himself and asks the clerk to read the verdict for the record. The jury finds for the plaintiff and awards damages of one dollar for compensatory damages, and one more dollar for punitive damages. Belk is thrilled, but Harry doesn't care. Bremmer congratulates him, and Harry calls Edgar, who tells Harry he'd better come on out. By the time Bosch gets there, one helicopter is already flying over the house, and two other channels are on the ground. Edgar points him upstairs, and though Harry has seen all the Dollmakers' victims, it is difficult for him to look at Chandler's corpse.

The Follower is changing patterns. He is biting and burning the victim now before killing her. Harry finds the note, which is a photocopy of the one received at the station. Edgar tells him the front door was unlocked. From downstairs, someone calls Harry's name and tells him that Dr. Locke is asking for him, and Harry tells him to let him through. They ask him where he was, and he tells them he was in Vegas, but on the way back heard about the new victim. He is less cordial when he realizes that he is a suspect, and he explains that he was with his graduate student all weekend, and she confirms it. Harry tells Locke he can still go upstairs if he wants to, and goes out to his car, letting Bremmer catch up with him. He asks for a smoke, and Bremmer hands him one from a pack of Marlboro's in his pocket. He lights up with his left hand.

Chapter 30 Analysis

Harry is late getting to court, but Chandler isn't there either. He is about to go out to make a phone call when the judge comes out and tells him to sit down. He sends them out to continue deliberations. As soon as they are gone, Harry calls Edgar, asking him to meet him at Chandler's house. Edgar asks why, and all Harry has to tell him is that she didn't show up in court and is also blonde. Edgar catches on right away. Harry is just getting to the freeway when he gets the page that tells him the jury is back, so he turns around asking Edgar to continue alone. He gets to court, the verdict is read out and Belk is elated. They award Church's wife two dollars, meaning that while they agreed that Harry violated procedure by going in alone, he is not ultimately responsible for



Church's death. Harry gets outside and calls Edgar, who tells him he should come. Bremmer follows him out and congratulates him, but Harry is not in the mood to chat.

Harry has seen all the Dollmaker and Follower's victims but seeing Chandler like this is difficult. He takes note of the fact that the Follower is changing his pattern. This time, there are multiple bite marks and burn marks on the body, consistent with her having been alive at the time. Harry finds the note just as Dr. Locke shows up at the crime scene. Harry takes him into the house and reads him his rights before finding out that the doctor has an airtight alibi. Harry tells Locke he can go up to look around and heads outside. Bremmer follows him, asking questions and Harry makes a show of looking in the glove box before asking Bremmer for a smoke. He pulls out a soft pack of Marlboro cigarettes and lights one with his left hand.



Chapter 31

Chapter 31 Summary

Bosch sleeps for a couple hours before going in and getting everything he thinks he'll need. Then he stakes out the garage in which the reporters from the Times all park. When Bremmer comes out, Harry follows him, watches while he picks up groceries and then follows him home. When no lights came on five minutes later, Bosch goes up the driveway carefully. Feeling vulnerable, he calls out Bremmer's name and hears a footfall behind him. Bremmer is standing there and Harry talks to him about the verdict, trying to appear normal. Bremmer tells him that with the newest murder, that story has taken a back seat. Harry invites himself in for a beer, and Bremmer tells him to go ahead into the living room. Harry stashes a recorder turned on between the grates of the radiator before Bremmer comes back; Harry swaps his full gun clip out for an empty one, hoping he isn't making a mistake. Then Harry confronts Bremmer. It takes a couple of minutes, but Bremmer lunges at him, pinning him down and disarming him. Then, he is almost bragging. Harry tries to get him to admit how many women he's killed, but Bremmer says Harry will never know and that will be his torture. He raises the gun and pointing it at Harry's chest, pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. One click after another. Harry pulls the full clip from his pocket and lunging at Bremmer he hits him square in the jaw. Bremmer goes down hard, while Harry retrieves and reloads his weapon. Still, Bremmer thinks he's going to get away with it, despite the mountain of evidence against him.

Harry keeps baiting him until finally Bremmer comes right out and admits that he did it, but tells Bosch he has no proof. He believes he'll be out of jail by morning. Bosch agrees that would be true, if not for the fact that he'd taped Bremmer's confession. Finally the defiance goes out of Bremmer, and handcuffed, he knows it's the end.

Chapter 31 Analysis

Bosch grabs a quick nap, and goes to the station to get the supplies he needs. He doesn't tell anyone his suspicions, deciding to handle it himself. He stakes out the garage where Bremmer parks, and when he finally comes out, Harry follows him to the grocery store and then home. After waiting five minutes for lights that never come on, he nervously gets out and walks up the driveway calling Bremmer's name. He hears Bremmer behind him, and small talks himself into the house, suggesting they have a beer to toast his latest story due to appear on the front page. While Bremmer is in the kitchen, Harry sets up a tape recorder and hides it in Bremmer's radiator. Then he swaps out his full clip for an empty one, and tells Bremmer he knows everything. He lays out the evidence, one bit at a time, while Bremmer calmly explains it away. Then he lunges at Bosch and disarms him. Harry tries to look frightened while Bremmer thinks he has the upper hand, all the while talking to him to get him to admit that he's the one. It takes a while, but he confesses, still thinking he has the upper hand. Harry asks him how many women he's killed, but Bremmer won't tell him. He says not knowing will be



the worst, as he brings the gun up to Harry's chest and pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. The gun clicks again and again on empty chambers, and while Bremmer comes to the realization that he's been had, Harry takes the full clip in his right hand and smashes Bremmer in the face with it. While he's down, Harry reclaims his gun and puts the full clip back in. He handcuffs Bremmer, who still thinks he can beat this as it will just be his word against Bosch's. With a need to brag, Bremmer confesses, but still isn't worried until Harry tells him that he's recorded him. Then all the fight goes out of Bremmer once and for all.



Chapter 32

Chapter 32 Summary

The next morning Harry enjoys the irony of reading the murder story above the fold on page one, written by the murderer himself. He manages to keep the press off by calling Chief Irving on a land line and filling him in after booking Bremmer on a no-bail hold just before midnight. By nine, Harry is sitting with the filing deputy, watching him as he carefully goes over the details of the arrest and then plays the tape. The quality isn't perfect, but the important parts are clear. The filing clerk is young, fresh out of law school and after hearing it all tries to tell Harry how it's going to be, beginning with the fact that he intends to wait until they have more evidence before filing. He tells Harry that from a defense standpoint, all they really have is a lot of coincidences that could apply to a lot of people. Then he adds that since Bremmer searched him for a wire, the tape could be seen as entrapment, so he doesn't want to use that at all. Harry loses his temper and sets him straight, reminding him that he is merely a filing clerk, and that Bosch expects him to do his job and file, nothing more, nothing less.

Harry goes back to the conference room where again assignments are divided, but the mood is much lighter. An application for a search warrant is filed, as well as for teeth, hair, blood and saliva. Bremmer is less than cooperative about all of it, requiring that he be given a shot of sodium pentothal to make him more malleable. A few hours later, they have more than they need. Bremmer's teeth are a match to the bite marks on Chandler, and hair samples are a match to hair found on victims seven and eleven. Harry goes to see Bremmer, planting the idea that it is in his best interest to deal, but as yet, Bremmer is uncooperative. Harry tells him it doesn't matter, and in eight or ten years when they strap Bremmer in, he'll be there to watch, and to tell the reporters how little courage he had when he died.

Chapter 32 Analysis

Harry reads the paper in the morning, enjoying the irony of a murderer's story printed on page one about the murder he committed. He keeps it quiet by telling only Irving the night before and booking Bremmer just before midnight on a no-bail hold. By nine, he is sitting with a young filing clerk, laying out the entire case, and then playing the tape again. The clerk is hesitant to file the charges at first, and Harry has to set him straight as to his place in the legal system before he sees the light, reminding him that he is merely a clerk, and he should leave the defense to the trial lawyers.

Later, with warrants secured, they collect teeth, hair, blood and saliva samples, and after testing get matches for all. The teeth are a match to the bite marks on Chandler, and his hair matches hair samples taken from victims seven and eleven. Bremmer is sunk. Harry can't resist going back to Bremmer to suggest that he try to deal his way out of a death sentence by confessing and revealing where the rest of the bodies are, but

the reality of his situation hasn't hit Bremmer yet. Harry promises him that in eight or ten years, when it is time to strap him in, he'll be there to watch and to tell reporters afterward how little courage he had at the end.



Chapter 33

Chapter 33 Summary

Harry takes a week off in compensation of all the overtime he banked during the case and spends the time fixing the railing on his deck, doing odd jobs and relaxing. He drives by the high school a couple of times hoping to see Sylvia through the windows, but doesn't call her, even though he misses her terribly. It is her move, and he can do nothing but wait and hope. He reads the articles in the Times, but knows more about the case than he wants to already. The one interesting story is done on Bremmer's background. It includes a picture of him and his disciplinarian mother. She is a bleached blonde with large breasts with too much makeup. One more piece that fits.

One day, after returning from an aimless drive, the message light is blinking on his phone, and hoping it's Sylvia, he answers it to hear Edgar's voice instead. Harry returns the call, and Edgar tells him that with all the publicity, a woman recognized Bremmer as the man who rents a storage unit from her under the name of Woodward. They get a warrant and find not only his murder kit, including gun, knife, belts and gags, but also video tapes of the women he's killed. There are seven others including Chandler, aside from the two they originally attributed to the Dollmaker. They are working on identifying them, he continues, but it looks like the girls that Ray Mora had come up with. The big development is that Bremmer caved. He makes a deal that will allow him to live in exchange for telling them where the rest of the bodies are and letting the shrinks talk to him. Harry decides the deal doesn't bother him. At least this way, the families could put their loved ones to rest. Later Harry is standing on the deck, and Sylvia steps out onto the deck with him. He suppresses the urge to go to her, but notes that she is wearing the shirt he bought her and takes that as a good sign. She explains she needed the time to think things through, but despite the hard life he leads, she loves him and wants to make it work. He goes to her then and holds her for a long time. He asks if she wants to go away for the weekend to Lone Pine. She reminds him that cabins are hard to get last minute, but he admits that he already has one on reserve. She asks if he knew all the time that she'd come back, but he's honest. He didn't know. He just hoped.

Chapter 33 Analysis

Harry takes a week off instead of collecting pay for the overtime hours he accumulated over the duration of the case. He spends it mostly at home, doing odd chores and going for long drives to nowhere. He even passes the high school a couple of times hoping to catch sight of Sylvia, but resists the urge to call her, knowing instinctively that the next move has to be hers, despite how much he misses her. The Times runs multiple stories about Bremmer, and one of them includes a photo of him and his mother when he was a young boy. It strikes Bosch that she is a bleached blonde with large breasts and wearing too much makeup. Another puzzle piece fits.



Returning home after a drive, a message from Edgar is on his machine. When he returns the call, Edgar tells him a woman recognized Bremmer from all of the publicity as a man named Woodward, who rents a storage locker from her. With a warrant, they find everything they need to seal his fate. Videos of the women he killed including Chandler, the two women attributed to the Dollmaker, and the girls Ray Mora thought were possible victims are all there. When confronted, Bremmer decides to deal to save his life. In return, he reveals the locations of the other women, and allows the shrinks to get into his head. It's a deal Harry can live with, as it gives the families peace. Later, standing on the deck in the afternoon, Sylvia joins him. He waits, letting her explain herself first, but after she does, she tells him she loves him and wants to make things work. He goes to her then and holds her for a long time. Finally, he invites her to Lone Pine for the weekend, but she reminds him they might not be able to get a cabin so late. He tells her he has one on reserve, and she asks him if he was sure she'd come back. He admits that he wasn't sure at all.... just hopeful.



Characters

Hieronimus (Harry) Bosch

A Los Angeles police detective, Harry Bosch is one of the good guys. Harry Bosch is being sued in US Court by the widow of a man who died reaching for his toupee while Bosch is trying to place him under arrest. At forty-three years of age, Harry is still in good shape. His stomach is flat, and his body still well defined and muscled. His body hair is going gray at a rate that is faster than the hair on his head, but he is not the type to let vanity determine how he looks. He has a tattoo from his tour in Vietnam, and a bullet wound scars his right shoulder.

His mother, Marjorie Phillips Lowe, was raped and strangled in October of 1961. Honey Chandler uses this information in court to infer that Harry shot Norman Church with malice of forethought, as his crime so closely paralleled the killing of his mother. Harry is rattled by this. He is a private man, who tries to keep his personal life personal. He hasn't even told his girlfriend Sylvia Moore this sensitive information, and when she hears it for the first time in court, she is angry with Harry. His tendency to not communicating is his largest failing in her opinion. He won't open up all the way, keeping his past carefully buried even from her. It is one of the few things that might cost him his relationship with her. Despite this, Harry is an honorable man, who only wants the truth and justice. He's an honest cop, and though Chandler paints him as reckless, he has only ever killed two others in the line of duty. Both had been armed and about to cause him harm. While Harry is on trial defending the action that causes the death of Norman Church, another killing comes to light, making it seem as though he shot the wrong man. Second guessing himself, Harry takes the entire Dollmaker file back to Sylvia's with him in an effort to sort out the inconsistencies. In a sudden flash, he sees what was missed by everyone before. It is obvious now that a second killer was involved. The more he digs, the more evidence he finds to support his new theory. He tries to get his lawyer to obtain a continuance in court so he can sort out the new evidence before he is required to take the stand himself. Harry is concerned about tipping off the killer still at large that they know he exists, but Harry's lawyer is convinced he's guilty, and his only concern is to get the trial over with. In his lawyer's opinion, Harry should have settled out of court a long time ago, but Harry insisted on this trial. It is his opportunity to prove his innocence.

When the jury is sent out to deliberate, another note is sent to Harry. It is a poem in the Dollmaker's usual style, and it tells him that the killer is planning to take a blonde off his hands. He believes for one horrifying night that the new target is Sylvia, but after making sure she is safe, he returns to court to find that the opposing council is not there. The realization that he was mistaken churns his stomach, and as soon as he can get clear of court, he calls Jerry Edgar asking him to meet him at Honey Chandler's home, but unfortunately it is too late.



Jerry Edgar

Harry Bosch's former partner before Harry's demotion after the Norman Church shooting, Jerry is also a part-time real estate agent. Though the market has been a little soft for the past couple years, Jerry still dresses better than anyone else in the unit and manages to get through even the dirtiest crime scenes without a smudge. The market is soft of late, though, and that leaves Jerry ripe for the picking. After falling behind by two mortgage payments, he is more than vulnerable to Honey Chandler's offer of cash for information. While he now has temporary financial relief, he has sold out his former partner, Harry. Each day, he sees Honey Chandler and gives her information, updating her to the point where she is burying Harry in court. Once he has given her information the first time, Chandler is able to force him to continue by threatening his exposure thus far. Filled with shame, he continues to feed her information that makes Harry's life hell.

When Harry follows him one day after court, thinking Edgar is headed for a drink and intending to join him, he instead tumbles onto a meeting Jerry has with Chandler. It rocks him because he considered Jerry a friend, and when Edgar comes out of the bar, Harry confronts him. At first Jerry tries to deny it, but confronted with overwhelming evidence, he breaks down and confesses. Harry tells him as soon as things die down, Jerry is to put in for the first available transfer, and, reluctantly, he agrees. The next day, Harry changes his mind, much to Jerry's relief.

Jerry continues to work on the new case, dubbed the Follower and helps Harry nail down each suspect. Working as much overtime as he can, Jerry chases down leads in an effort to redeem himself in Harry's eyes. In the end, Jerry is the one who finds Chandler dead in her home.

Honey Chandler

Attorney hired by Deborah Church to sue Harry Bosch for shooting her husband. Known as Money Chandler by most police officers and court personnel, Chandler is relentless and enjoys seeing her name in the paper, which makes this a perfect case for her. Sure of herself and intelligent, she has a quick mind and a confident manner. Everything she does in court is choreographed to put her in the best light possible with the jury, even at the expense of her professional standing with the judge. To make a point to a jury, she has no problem sidestepping the judge's instructions, even when it costs her a contempt citation, so long as it has a favorable outcome with the jury. To Honey Chandler, winning is everything. This is likely the reason she lost her life in the end.

A blonde, good looking woman, she fearlessly admits a reporter into her home, who turns out to be the Follower killer. Bravely, though, in an effort to help the police identify her killer, she refuses to reveal the location of the note sent to her, despite torture by the killer, in the hopes that something about the note will give him away.



Harvey '98' Pounds

Lieutenant and Harry Bosch's superior, Harvey '98' Pounds got his name from his small stature. Having worked his way up through the ranks by brown nosing and taking tests instead of via practical experience, Harvey has seen few actual crime scenes. The only ones you were likely to find him at were the ones most likely to have live media attention. It was just who Harvey Pounds was. When he fell inside the Bing's wreckage and smoothed his hair back with dirty hands, Bosch saw smudges but said nothing. It looked good on him.

Harvey Pounds is the type of policeman who only shows up at a crime scene when he thinks there is a chance the TV media will show up. He is not interested in print media, where it is more important to make sense for more than two sentences in a row, realizing that once his words were attached to paper it can haunt you forever.

Ray Mora

A vice cop, Ray was on the original Dollmaker's task force with Harry Bosch. He is about the same size as Harry, with straight brown hair that he keeps trimmed short. He has brown eyes and a deep bronze skin tone with no facial hair. Casual in appearance, Ray dressed most often in jeans and an open shirt with cowboy boots. He wears a gold medallion with an imprint of a dove with its wings open, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. A religious statue of the Infant of Prague sits on his desk, but he has a way of mingling his religion with the gutter talk that comes from being a vice cop.

Once it has been established that there is a Follower to the Dollmaker killer, Ray Mora becomes the first suspect. His behavior and access to the case makes him a likely candidate, but after a botched surveillance attempt, he catches Harry Bosch in his house searching without a warrant. Agitated and aware that the things Harry has found will cost him his badge, he almost shoots Harry, but fortunately Harry manages to hold the transmit key down on his radio long enough to receive assistance. In an effort to avoid jail, Ray makes a deal. After surrendering his badge, promising to ignore the illegal search, and giving them the name of the person he believes to be the Follower, they let him go.

Norman Church

Accused of being the Dollmaker killer, Norman Church is shot dead while Harry Bosch is trying to effect his arrest. He is as bald as a baby and wears a toupee occasionally. Norman Church keeps an apartment in town of which his wife and children were unaware. Harry Bosch found him in this apartment and shot him dead after he refused to stop reaching for something Bosch assumed was a gun under his pillow. It turns out to be his toupee, but after he dies, Harry feels justified in the shooting having found multiple brands of makeup that match what was taken from the Dollmaker's victims.



Norman Church is responsible for nine Dollmaker victims. He chose them randomly and shaved his pubic hair entirely in an effort to avoid detection. After raping his victims, Norman Church used their purse straps to strangle them and their makeup to do over their faces, earning him the moniker Dollmaker. His victims were always found naked; none of their clothing was ever recovered, but he kept their makeup in his hideaway apartment.

Rodney Belk

Bosch's lawyer, Rodney Belk, is the city's deputy attorney. He fought hard during pretrial motions to have another judge assigned but failed. Belk is a large man, almost eighty pounds overweight, who sweats profusely when he becomes nervous. He is assigned the case, but deep down believes Harry is guilty, and as such, does very little to accommodate Harry's request for a continuance, even though Harry explains that his testimony might tip off the Follower that they are on to him. Despite believing his client is guilty, he does a reasonably good job defending him, and in the end, the verdict costs Harry only a total of two dollars.

Judge Alva Keyes

Judge Keyes is a big man, who wears the judicial robe well. He has a big barrel chest, and large forearms with big hands that give the impression of power. He has a balding, sun-colored head that seems almost perfectly round. His remaining hair is gray, and he has the overall demeanor of a man who is full of legal knowledge and perspective. Appointed to the bench by Jimmy Carter, Judge Keyes has held court as a guardian of civil rights in court room number four ever since. His demeanor in the courtroom is all professional, and his guidelines with attorneys are rigid.

A fair man, he is clear about the expectations he has regarding behavior in court, and when either lawyer crosses those boundaries, he is quick to set them straight. He has a strong character, important in his position, and has little patience for games. When Belk wants a continuance for Harry and is refused, Harry asks what will happen if he pleads the fifth amendment preventing self incrimination, Judge Keyes tells him that if he takes that route, he will be left with no choice but to charge him with contempt and throw him in jail.

Joel Bremmer

A reporter for the Times, Bremmer is thirty five, with brown and thinning hair. He is overweight and wears a beard to cover the fact that his hair is thinning. The result makes him look older than his years. Bremmer wrote the book about the Dollmaker killer, largely using his sources at the police department and public records for its information. Worried about his reputation, he is less than pleased when things begin to go against Harry Bosch in court as it reflects badly on him. Still, he honorably refuses to reveal the source that is setting Harry up.



Joel Bremmer is the reporter who covered the Dollmaker killings, and who had intimate knowledge of the killer's methods. Perhaps seeing the victims laid out the way they were is the trigger that sets off his "Follower" behavior. His victims, unlike the Dollmaker Norman Church's, are all bleach blonde's, have large breasts and are carefully chosen. They all worked in the pornography industry, making films and doing out call work; whereas, the Dollmaker's victims were victims of chance.

Having grown up with a controlling and dominating mother, who was bleach blonde, heavy chested and wore too much makeup, it is evident that by making his victims resemble her in death, he is killing his mother over and over again. After he kills Honey Chandler, Harry realizes it's Bremmer that's the perpetrator, but unwilling to make a mistake, he goes on surveillance of Bremmer alone. Prepared for anything, however, he tapes the entire encounter.

Sylvia Moore

Sylvia and Harry have been a item for at least a year, seeing each other three or four nights a week. She loves Harry and makes no secret of it. She is an attractive woman with shoulder length, dark blonde hair that the sun can make look like gold. She had lost her husband, a narcotics officer, to an apparent suicide, which Bosch had been assigned to investigate, and their relationship develops from there. Bosch still sometimes feared that she would wake up one day and realize that he was just a substitute for the husband she'd lost. Her body is tanned and young looking, thin with small breasts. She has a flat stomach, and her chest is freckled from overexposure to the sun. At thirty-five years old, she is a teacher who is well liked by all who know her.

Her problem with her relationship with Harry is that he has difficulty opening up to her about his past. In fact, she only finds out about Harry's mother's murder because she chose to attend court the day the information was disclosed by Honey Chandler. Worried that it will impede their ability to be together, she brings the subject up frequently.

When Harry believes she is to be the next victim of the Follower, he begins to understand just how much Sylvia means to him, but she takes a giant step backward to re-evaluate her relationship with him. Knowing that his job will always come first, she knows just how hard their lives as a couple might be, but in the end decides that Harry is worth the gamble.

Dr. John Locke

A gray-bearded, bald man with glasses, Dr. Locke is the picture of a university professor. He is a researcher of aberrant sexual behavior, conducting wide-ranging studies on psycho sexual dynamics. As a founder of this unit of study, he is an expert on sexual behavior considered to be unacceptable by society. He has also contributed several articles and multiple books on the subject. His office is located in what he refers



to as the dungeon of the Southern California University, and he is eager to find a way into an office upstairs with an appearance of respectability.

Dr. John Locke is the man that Ray Mora believes to be the Follower killer. He is briefly investigated by Harry Bosch after Honey Chandler is killed, but an airtight alibi clears him almost immediately. His latest book, "Black Hearts," is a look into the nature vs nurture debate regarding aberrant behavior.

Lieutenant Hans Rollenberger

Promoted to the Robbery Homicide Division shortly after Harry Bosch was demoted following the Dollmaker shooting, Rollenberger is a cookie-cutter bureaucrat. He is a climber and avoids controversial or career-threatening decisions. In RHD, he quickly earned the moniker "Hands Off" as a result. Rollenberger is brought in to lead the team of investigators looking into the Follower killings, and when Bosch conducts his illegal search of Ray Mora's home, Rollenberger is beside himself with the thought of the consequences. Therefore, instead of informing Assistant Chief Irvin Irving, he allows Harry Bosch to creatively get them out of the close call.

Rollenberger would often make comments, and when he realized they were wrong or ill thought out, he would back track and suck up to Irving instead of trying to defend his own actions.



Objects/Places

Dollmaker

Name given to the serial killer who killed prostitutes and left them naked but painted their faces before leaving.

LAPD RHD

Los Angeles Police Department, Robbery Homicide Division in California.

Bing's

A pool hall that burned to the ground during the riots, and the scene where the concrete blonde is found.

Silverlake

District in which Norman Church kept a secret apartment where he was eventually killed.

187

The California penal code for murder.

The Code Seven

Barroom and dining room within walking distance of the office workers from Parker Center where Bosch liked to eat.

Gorky's

A Russian restaurant and alternative to The Code Seven located in the garment district that served breakfast all day.

Trojan Enz

Name of the condoms used by the Dollmaker killer, and found in Norman Church's apartment.



Ad Vice

Administrative Vice department worked in by Ray Mora and located on the third floor of the Central Division station in downtown.

X Marks The Spot

Built by Harold Barnes, it is a front for the Chicago outfit that grossed a legitimate million dollars a year via the rental of pornography and an assortment of encounter rooms at the rear of the store. Bosch goes there to identify the concrete blonde.

Ritenbaugh Realty

The name of the realty firm that is looking after the sale of Sylvia's house.

IAD

Internal Affairs Division. Established to police the police.

Black Hearts: Cracking the Erotic Mold of Murder

Latest book written by Dr. John Locke, detailing the Dollmaker murders.

USC

University of Southern California where Dr. Locke works.

Paraphilia

The name given to what the public would commonly refer to as sexual perversions or sexual behavior generally considered to be unacceptable by society and Dr. Locke's expertise.

Grandview Apartments

Apartment buildings on Sepulveda Boulevard in Sherman Oaks where Tommy Cerrone lives.

Grant High School

School where Sylvia teaches eleventh grade English, located in the Valley.



Laurel Canyon

A winding cut through the Santa Monica mountains that connects Studio City with Hollywood and the Sunset Strip and the area where Dr. Locke lives.

Sybil Brand Institute

Name of the county's holding jail for women, half of which is equipped to deal with narcotics addicts.



Themes

Dollmaker vs Follower

The Dollmaker killer, Norman Church, is the first killer. He randomly picks his victims from the sex trade, and followed a deliberate thought pattern, although he was likely unaware of it himself. Each of his victims was left out in the open, where they could easily be found. He left them naked, disposing of their clothing. Each victim had their purse strap wound around their necks as the method of strangulation. After they were dead, the Dollmaker went to elaborate efforts to put on extensive amounts of make up, which earned him his moniker originally, and as a last touch, he painted a small, white cross on one toenail. Norman Church takes great pains not to be discovered. His victims follow no real pattern, other than that they are all part of the sex trade or pornography profession, and he shaves his pubic hair in an effort to avoid detection. In all likelihood, he would have continued to kill had one prostitute not escaped and called the police, setting the events in motion that would end his life.

The Follower, Joel Bremmer, got the idea to copy the Dollmaker after reporting on the first few victims. At first blush, his killings were identical, but on closer inspection there are several differences. All of Bremmer's victims were carefully chosen - not random. They were all big chested and bleached blonde's; all were pornography actresses at one time, and worked as prostitutes on the side. While Bremmer took great pains to copy details such as the purse strap around the neck, and the cross painted carefully on one toenail, he didn't leave his victims out in the open. He buried them or left them indoors. While the Dollmaker selected his victims randomly, the Follower deliberately chose the same type of victim again and again. After the original killer was killed himself, the Follower risked exposure. At first, he punishes Harry Bosch for killing his "blind" and making it more difficult for him to continue by sending notes such as the original during Bosch's trial for killing Norman Church. Once it becomes clear a Follower is involved, there is less need for him to be as particular. In fact, a part of him craves the attention that the Dollmaker killer received. He begins making mistakes that inevitably expose him and seal his fate.

Nature vs Nurture

The age-old debate of nature vs nurture is clearly represented in several ways in the Concrete Blonde. The Dollmaker killer, Norman Church spawns a Follower in the Times Reporter, Joel Bremmer, but the question is if Bremmer had not covered the original Dollmaker killings, would he have ever gone over the edge on his own? Despite the fact that his mother was controlling and a disciplinarian in her treatment of Joel as a child, Joel seemed to rise above it and make a niche for himself as a reporter, right up until Norman Church came into his life. Once Joel saw the victims Norman Church left behind, he is inspired to copy the Dollmaker's signature in order to act out a fantasy of his own, hoping all the victims will be attributed to the Dollmaker. For a while, that



works, but there are enough inconsistencies to bring his involvement into the light eventually.

Was this dormant in his nature all along? Was it inevitable that he lash out against the woman who raised him in the controlling and often unforgiving manner that she did, or did the sight of the Dollmaker's victims push him over the edge? Dr. John Locke makes his living studying this very question, having written several books on the subject of aberrant sexual behavior. His theory maintains that childhood trauma or abuse is the root of most sexual behavior considered to be unacceptable by the general population. It is a debate that still rages. Does the environment make the person, or is the personality so ingrained that regardless of the upbringing, the outcome is inevitable? Can a person break free of their upbringing and change the path before them, or are children born into abuse destined to repeat their abuse elsewhere eventually?

Prosecution vs. Redemption

Harry Bosch faces prosecution for the killing of Norman Church. Deborah Church, Norman's wife, is suing him for the wrongful death of her husband, and as the courtroom drama plays out, several incidents occur leading Harry to even begin doubting himself. Setting aside the fact that he had gone into Norman Church's apartment alone and without backup, which is against department policy, as the case unfolds there are other discrepancies. There is no makeup found in Church's hideaway apartment for victims number seven and eleven, although makeup can be linked to all the other victims. There are no hairs or fibers that can be linked to Norman Church, and while it is revealed that he completely shaved his pubic hair in an effort to avoid detection, it still casts doubt on the case. The one surviving victim recalls a man who looks nothing like Norman Church. There is also the fact that Harry's mother had been killed many years earlier, and Deborah Church's lawyer, Honey Chandler, is quick to pick up and point out the similarities between the victims in this case and Harry's mother's victimization. When Chandler lays it all out for the jury, it looks bad for Harry. So bad, in fact, that he is compelled to take the entire file apart again, looking for reasons that the pieces don't fit.

Spreading all the victim's pictures out on a table, Harry realizes what was missed before. The discrepancies are not due to the fact that he shot the wrong man. They are instead directly indicative of a second killer, working in the shadows of Norman Church to avoid detection himself. The Follower, as he is later dubbed, uses Norman Church as a blind to kill victims seven and eleven, explaining why there was no makeup belonging to them in Church's apartment and why there are pubic hairs found on these two. The survivor escaped from the Follower - not the Dollmaker killer, explaining the fact that the sketches were so different. The most damning evidence against the Follower came after the discovery of the blonde in concrete. Because the police department receives the note detailing where she is after the trial has begun, and Norman Church is long dead, it is logical to presume that the initial killer is still out there. The similarities are damning, but Harry perseveres, and narrowing down a small suspect list, manages not only to find the Follower, but redeem himself in the process.



Style

Point of View

In the *Concrete Blonde*, Michael Connelly employs a first person perspective from the viewpoint of the main character, Harry Bosch. The author has a good grasp of police procedure and policy and easily draws the reader into life of a Robbery Homicide detective. Though much of the story focuses on Harry's desire to discover the truth behind the killings dubbed the Dollmaker's and then later the Follower's, the author also manages to blend in the difficulties that having such a career can have on friendships and relationships in general. Because of the type of job Harry Bosch has, he is reluctant to share too much personal information with his girlfriend, Sylvia Moore, feeling that most of it is dark and depressing and better left buried where it is. Despite that, Sylvia manages to convey that unless Harry can reveal more of himself personally, their relationship is doomed before it begins. The trouble with that is that homicide is all Harry knows, and there is little of that world he would be willing to seep into his personal time with Sylvia, a world where he admits he feels a degree of safety and love. His desire to keep them separate almost costs him what is arguably the best part of his life.

His friendships don't fair much better. He has few friends to begin with, but the ones he does make are tied to his job. Jerry Edgar, the man he trained and became friends with, causes him substantial grief when he is hoodwinked into feeding the opposing council information that makes it harder on Harry in court. His disappointment is so great that at first Harry insists that Edgar take the first available transfer out of the department as Harry no longer feels they can work together. The feelings of betrayal fade quickly, though, and within twenty-four hours, Harry changes his mind, telling Jerry instead to learn from his mistake.

Setting

Set entirely in California, *The Concrete Blonde* takes the reader on a tour of the seedier sides of life. Beginning with the trial of Harry Bosch for killing Norman Church, the author adeptly weaves a story that has the reader feeling empathy and sympathy for the detective who was merely doing his job. In an effort to arrest Norman Church for the Dollmaker killings, Harry inadvertently shoots him dead as Norman makes a move for something under the pillow. In a twist that mimics the unpredictability of real life, Norman Church is not reaching for a weapon as Harry suspects he is. Norman is merely trying to get his toupee out from under the pillow. As a result, the widow Deborah Church sues Harry for wrongful death, employing Honey Chandler, who believes that Harry acted with total disregard and recklessness. Honey Chandler is so good at her job that she actually has Harry second guessing himself for a short time, but when another "Dollmaker" note is sent to the police station, Harry knows that there can only be one explanation. There has to be more than one killer.



Now, looking again through fresh eyes, Harry sees the pattern that they all missed four and a half years earlier.

Language and Meaning

Written in straight forward English, *The Concrete Blonde* is a story that revolves around court and police procedures. Beginning with the trial of Harry Bosch, the courtroom drama plays out using descriptives that include arraignments, deliberations, sanctions and legal terms that, while out of the usual conversational English, are not difficult to understand or follow. Courtroom drama takes the reader through a full range of what a trial might contain and gives a good overview of legal tactics by both lawyers.

From there, the reader is whisked through the Robbery Homicide world in Los Angeles. Throughout the story, references are made to police procedure, radio protocols and terminology (such as the use of Rovers, which are the mobile radios used by police), and we are also given a glimpse of the less than glorious life of call girls, pornography, and prostitution. While much of it is out of the mainstream for most people, Michael Connelly manages to blend a smooth tale that never loses the reader with superfluous language or description. Right up until the final arrest, this book is easy to understand and follow, though some terms given by Dr. Locke require explanation as he delves into his research into aberrant behavior.

Structure

This novel is composed of thirty-three chapters of average length. There are several stories told within the story, beginning with the courtroom drama that has Harry fighting for his badge and career as a result of the fatal shooting of the Dollmaker killer, Norman Church. In a surprising twist, though the killer is dead, the murders continue and have their affect on the possible outcome of this trial, as Harry is accused of killing the wrong man. Harry Bosch is a competent detective, however, and soon realizes that two things are happening simultaneously. There is a second killer at play, and someone is feeding the opposing council information that is doing him damage.

Throughout it all, Harry tries to nurture a relationship with Sylvia Moore, a high school teacher, who, while not new to this kind of violence as she'd been married to a cop before, she is wary of her ability to accept the darker side that comes with this job. She wants Harry to open up to her more, but Harry knows that the darkest part of himself and his past are best left buried.

In the search for the second killer, Harry is led in several directions, one after another. At first believing Ray Mora is the Follower killer, he initiates an illegal search of his home and is caught in the act and almost shot by the suspect. While Ray's behavior can easily be described as aberrant, he is not the killer they are looking for, but the investigation costs Ray his badge, anyway. Ray points them to Dr. Locke as the next suspect, having identified the doctor as the man who had been seen skulking around the sets of several pornography film studios. When Locke is quickly ruled out as a result of an airtight alibi,



Harry is now reluctant to share his last insight into who the killer might be. Instead, he arms himself with a tape recorder, and in a quirk of fate, finds himself alone with the killer again, which is the same scenario that brought Harry into court in the beginning. Fast paced, interesting, and dramatic, this novel is a good read all the way through.



Quotes

"If you hear shots, or if I'm not back here in ten minutes, you start knocking on doors and get some cops out here." Pg. 2 Chp 1

Harry Bosch to the surviving victim of Dollmaker killer, Norman Church, just before he goes in to effect his arrest.

"The writer says he's the real Dollmaker and that the body count continues. Says you killed the wrong guy." Pg 11 Chp 1

Pounds to Bosch after the discovery of the concrete blonde.

"If the Dollmaker is dead, who told you where to look?" Pg 23 Chp 2

Larry Sakai to Bosch at the scene of the concrete blonde.

"Words are beautiful and ugly, all on their own." Pg 33 Chp 3

Judge Keyes to Chandler as he admonishes her for pointing to Bosch in an attempt to inflame the jury.

"This case is about you, Harry. We either win it or lose it with you." Pg 65 Chp 5

Belk to Harry after Harry complains about the lack of questions Belk asks Lieutenant Lloyd.

"We could have settled this six months ago for fifty grand. Way things are going, that would have been nothing." Pg 110 Chp 9

Belk to Bosch when he feels the trial going against them.

"Ms. Chandler is laying the groundwork to make a case that the evidence in the apartment was fabricated." Pg 124 Chp 10

Judge Keyes to Belk after he objects to Chandler's asking Asst Chief Irving to speculate as to the outcome of the shooting of Norman Church.

"You may win - you probably will win, but ultimately you're wrong about me." Pg 126 Chp 11

Bosch to Chandler outside the courtroom when it appears she has the jury in the palm of her hand.

"Two killers working independently of each other but using exactly the same methodology." Pg 166 Chp 14

Dr. John Locke to Harry Bosch after Harry runs his theory of a second killer by him.

"Justice, Detective Bosch, is just a concrete blonde." Pg 184 Chp 15

Honey Chandler to Harry after she tells him about the case that finishes Tommy Faraday.

"Great mystery of life, he had been reaching for a toupee." Pg 189 Chp 16

Harry Bosch's testimony regarding the shooting of Norman Church.



"Justice is happening." Pg 207 Chp. 17

Harry's answer to Tommy Faraday after Belk rests and Faraday asks him what's happening.

"Even if all you have is a hunch, then you must tell us." Pg 225 Chp 19

Chief Irving to Harry Bosch at their first 'Follower' conference.

"I want to know everything. You are going to tell me what you did." Pg 238 Chp 20

Harry Bosch to Jerry Edgar after he discovers Edgar is leaking evidence to Chandler.

"You have to take me without a past... I've let it go and don't want to go back to examine it, to tell it, to even think about it." Pg. 251 Chp 21

Harry's response to Sylvia when she insists that she wants to know everything about him, and that ignoring this could damage them.

"I keep picturing this cuckoo clock, only it's him that comes out and says, 'Great idea, Chief! Great idea, Chief!'" Pg 271 Chp 23

Jerry Edgar to Harry Bosch, referring to Hans Rollenberger.

"I forgot about that tape, didn't I?" Pg 323 Chp 27

Ray Mora to Harry Bosch when he catches him illegally searching his house.

"Hell of a city we live in, Harry, isn't it?" Pg 368 Chp 30

Joel Bremmer to Harry Bosch outside Chandler's house after the discovery of her body.

"I did it. I'm the man. And, yes, I will walk. You wait and see. And when I'm out there you'll think of me every night for the rest of your life." Pg 380 Chp 31

Bremmer to Harry, still smugly believing that he will get away with the Follower killings after Harry confronts him in his home.



Topics for Discussion

Why is Harry Bosch forced to defend his actions in court where the shooting of Norman Church is concerned?

How did this shooting incident affect Harry's career?

What is the correlation between the shooting of Norman Church and the killing of Harry's mother when he was eleven? How could this have impacted Bosch's behavior on the day Church was shot?

What factors play into Harry's realization that there must have been two killers? Which victims could be attributed to the second killer and why?

Who does Harry think is responsible for the second set of victims, and what makes him think he is the one?

Harry's relationship with Sylvia is strained. Why? What is he unable to do?

Who is the leak that is feeding information to Chandler? What does Harry do when he finds out?

What does Dr. Locke want from Harry that Harry is unable to provide? Why does he want it so badly, and what are the reasons that Harry can't comply?

What mistakes does the Follower make that expose him and inevitably seal his fate?

Who does Harry Bosch suspect before he finally figures out who the Follower really is, and what evidence in each case makes him suspect them?

Why does Harry effect the final arrest on his own? How does he manage to outsmart the Follower?

What is ironic about Sylvia's response to the danger she finds herself in, and why is it ironic?