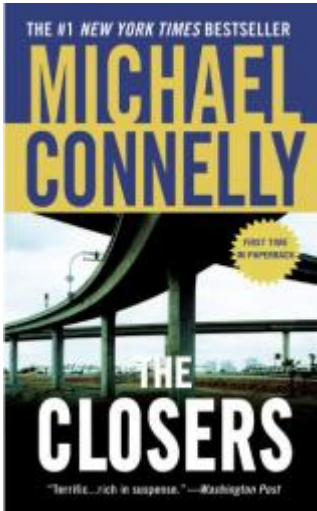


## The Closers

by Michael Connelly

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### About the Book

In Los Angeles in 1988, a sixteen-year-old girl disappeared from her home and was later found dead of a gunshot wound to the chest. The death appeared at first to be a suicide-but some of the evidence contradicted that scenario, and detectives came to believe this was in fact a murder. Despite a by-the-book investigation, no one was ever charged.

Now Detective Harry Bosch is back with the LAPD with the sole mission of closing unsolved cases, and this girl's death is the first he's given. A DNA match makes the case very much alive again, and it turns out to be anything but cold. The ripples from this death have destroyed at least two other lives, and everywhere he probes, Bosch finds hot grief, hot rage, and a bottomless well of betrayal and malice.

And it's not just the girl's family and friends whose lives Bosch is stirring up afresh. With each new development, Harry Bosch finds increasing resistance from within the police force itself. Old enemies are close at hand. Even as he pushes relentlessly to find the truth, Bosch has to wonder if this assignment was intended to be his last. Digging up the past may heal old wounds-or it may expose new, searing ones.

From the mind of the man GQ has called "the best mystery writer in the world," *The Closers* is a masterpiece of thriller writing that is as sharp and immediate as the greatest fiction.

### Discussion Guide

#### 1. *Welcome Back Roy*

In Michael Connelly's novel, **The Closers**, Harry Bosch rejoins the ranks of the LAPD after three years in retirement. Harry has a hard time suppressing his excitement at being back. At one point, he says to his partner, Kizmin Rider, "The point is I need the gun. I need the badge. Otherwise I'm out of balance. I need all of this." Why do you think Harry needs to be a cop?

#### 2. *The Oldest Living Boot*

The new chief of police welcomes Harry back but at the same time he warns him that he is on probation. Harry can't screw up or he'll be out. Later, Harry has a run in with an old adversary, Deputy Chief Irvin Irving, who also welcomes him back with a warning, calling him "a retread." So Harry has to prove himself all over again while watching his back. What do you think Harry's reputation is within the LAPD? What does Irving think of Harry?

#### 3. *Forget Closure*

Harry's new boss, Abel Pratt, warns him that closing cases is not the same thing as closure. He warns that

there is no such thing as closure—that all the police can do is provide answers. Do you agree with that? Can there ever be closure for the victims of crime? Is justice the same thing as closure? How about revenge?

#### 4. *The Ripples*

**The Closers** focuses on the toll of violence over time. What effect did Becky Verloren's murder have on her mother and father? Can you think of other examples from the book that show the ripples of crime?

#### 5. *High Jingo*

Throughout the book, Kizmin Rider fears that Harry's actions will somehow backfire and hurt the chief. Do you think Kiz was dedicated to solving the case or more concerned about helping the chief? In the end, Harry thinks he was set up by the chief to bring Irving down. Is Kiz implicated in that?

#### 6. *The City Of Angels*

"It was a city full of haves and have nots, movie stars and extras, drivers and the driven, predators and prey." Michael Connelly's novels are, in a way, a love letter to Los Angeles. They describe the good and the bad, the highs and the lows, of this "destination city." How does he reflect that in Harry Bosch's take on the city?

#### 7. *A Black Hole*

Think about Robert Verloren's actions at the end of the book. Do the terms justice, satisfaction, or closure apply in any way? Why do you think Harry felt guilty about Robert Verloren?

#### 8. *One Coming, One Going*

Do you think Irving will just walk away? How can he get back at Harry and the chief?

#### 9. *Red Herrings*

A red herring is defined as something that draws attention away from the central issue. In crime fiction, a red herring is often put there to fool or distract you. Were you fooled by anything in **The Closers**? Were you surprised by the killer's identity?

#### Author Bio

Michael Connelly is the author of such #1 *New York Times* bestsellers as *THE BURNING ROOM* and *THE GODS OF GUILT*. His books, which include the *Harry Bosch* series and *Lincoln Lawyer* series, have sold more than 60 million copies worldwide. Connelly is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for his journalism and his novels and is the executive producer of "Bosch" starring Titus Welliver. He spends his time in California and Florida.

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