

Book Talk

The Wrong Side of Goodbye by Michael Connelly
Little, Brown and Company, 2016

Reviewed by Ken Wilkins

Beach reading

The Wrong Side of Goodbye is the 23rd book in Michael Connelly's acclaimed Harry Bosch series. Bosch is an LAPD detective who has a knack for solving complicated cases. He is single, with a daughter, and is usually involved with a woman somewhere along the way. A typical motif is his on-again, off-again relationship with the Los Angeles Police Department. He seems to find a way to upset the powers that be, usually while working diligently to solve his latest homicide.

This book is an exception, as Harry is no longer with his department, but rather on the permanent outs with them after he sued, alleging wrongful termination. (The case was settled, and money is not an urgent problem as a result.) He is working part time for the San Fernando police in a non-paying position, and spends some of his time doing private investigation. He manages to have a tough time with one of the higher-ups in San Fernando as he does in Los Angeles.

His private gig sets up the plot for the current novel, as a wealthy man hires Harry to look for a "possible" heir to his money. It turns out that as a young man, Whitney Vance had a girlfriend who got pregnant, and his family made the problem go away. Vance wants Harry to discover whether she had the child, and what happened to his potential heir. He is ill, elderly, and has had no other children.

Meanwhile, Harry and his San Fernando partner are looking for a serial killer who gains access to his victims' homes by cutting through a screen door. Bosch inches closer to resolution of each case as the book unfolds.

Fans will appreciate Harry's love of jazz and of Los Angeles. Connelly always manages to plug his favorite jazz artists, and never fails to take Harry (and us) on drives through and around the city.

Readers of earlier works in the series will recall that Harry is a Vietnam veteran, and that he was a "tunnel rat" there. *The Wrong Side of Goodbye* starts in Vietnam, and takes Bosch back to memories of his time there. That experience significantly helps in tracking down Vance's child.

The Harry Bosch novels are simply remarkable. Connelly has created an unforgettable detective, and he bows to previous giants of the genre. Perhaps the most impressive accomplishment is that this, the 23rd rendition, is every bit as good as earlier works. Connelly has not fallen into the trap of churning out books to meet some publisher's deadline.

No one would argue that these novels are fine literature, but they do have points to make. Mostly, however, they make interesting, enjoyable reading, with an imperfect but likable character that the reader begins to care about. It's not the best season for the beach, but to help remember those warm days on the sand, curl up with *The Wrong Side of Goodbye*.



**Yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk . . .
It's the courteous thing to do,
and it's the law.**

The Country Club of the Crystal Coast

...where friends connect

By Bill Knecht

I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed holiday season. Happy New Year—and I hope you achieve at least one of your New Year's resolutions during 2017. Hopefully, that includes taking advantage of some of the social, dining, educational, artistic, health improvement and a variety of athletic activities that are available at the club. The County Club of the Crystal Coast has so much to offer, including tennis; golf; soccer golf; tennis and golf lessons and clinics; water aerobics; swimming; bridge; yoga classes; exercise classes; massage therapy; Bible study; plays; beach bingo; book clubs; author book reviews; an artisan show; burger night; steak night; seafood buffet; pasta night; wine and tapas nights; special holiday celebrations for Valentine's Day, Easter, July 4, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Eve; a beautiful wedding venue overlooking Bogue Sound; and many more activities.

If you are looking for a place to have a party, a meeting (with or without lunch or dinner), a wedding or any other special event or activity in 2017 or later, for more information, please contact Assistant Manager and Director of Sales Barb Costanza at 726-1034, ext. 16.

Congratulations to club member Susan Thomas, who had a hole in one on the par three 10th hole on December 4.

Congratulations also to Susan and Tommy Toms, who recently won the club's Flight "A" mixed doubles tennis championship and Janet and John Furman, who won the Flight "B" mixed doubles tennis championship. Both couples went undefeated in their respective four-team round robin format. Congratulations also to Wes Singleton and Jim Tanner for winning the Club's Flight "A" men's doubles tennis championship on December 11 and Paul Becton and Steve Dunlap, who won the Flight "B" men's doubles championship. Also, congratulations to the winners of the Club's Flight "A" women's doubles tennis championship, Susan Toms and Sue Dunlap, and the Flight "B" women's doubles champions, Kathleen Boykin and Emily Hinkle.

At the annual meeting on November 18, Mariana Goldstein and Donald Grant were elected to their first three-year terms on the Board of Directors and John Ferguson was reelected to his second three-year term. Congratulations to the winners, and a special thank you to Sandy Hale and Bonnie Ferneau for their many years of dedicated service on the board. Also serving on the board for 2017 are Bill Knecht, Mike King, Carl Ragsdale, Jason Wordsworth, Sylvia Brodman and Greg Patterson. Newly elected officers for 2017 are President Bill Knecht, Vice President John Ferguson, Secretary Sylvia Brodman and Treasurer Carl Ragsdale.

The club's first open house in 2017 for prospective new members is on March 10 from 5 to 6 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. Bring a friend and come see what the club has to offer.

From all of us at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast, thank you for your support and friendship in 2016. We are looking forward to seeing you at the club in 2017, where friends connect.

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