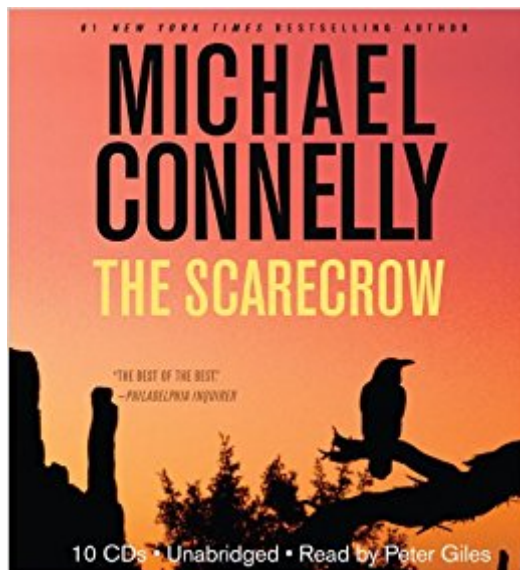


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The Scarecrow



Synopsis

Forced out of the Los Angeles Times amid the latest budget cuts, newspaperman Jack McEvoy decides to go out with a bang, using his final days at the paper to write the definitive murder story of his career. He focuses on Alonzo Winslow, a 16-year-old drug dealer in jail after confessing to a brutal murder. But as he delves into the story, Jack realizes that Winslow's so-called confession is bogus. The kid might actually be innocent. Jack is soon running with his biggest story since The Poet made his career years ago. He is tracking a killer who operates completely below police radar--and with perfect knowledge of any move against him. Including Jack's.

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Customer Reviews

Book Description Forced out of the Los Angeles Times amid the latest budget cuts, newspaperman Jack McEvoy decides to go out with a bang, using his final days at the paper to write the definitive murder story of his career. He focuses on Alonzo Winslow, a 16-year-old drug dealer in jail after confessing to a brutal murder. But as he delves into the story, Jack realizes that Winslow's so-called confession is bogus. The kid might actually be innocent. Jack is soon running with his biggest story since The Poet made his career years ago. He is tracking a killer who operates completely below police radar--and with perfect knowledge of any move against him. Including Jack's. Michael Connelly and Janet Evanovich: Author One-to-One In this exclusive, we brought together blockbuster authors Michael Connelly and Janet Evanovich and asked them to interview each other. Find out what two of the top authors of their genres have to say about their characters, writing process, and more. Janet Evanovich is the bestselling author of the Stephanie Plum novels,

including Finger Lickin' Fifteen, twelve romance novels, the Alexandra Barnaby novels, and How I Write: Secrets of a Bestselling Author. Read on to see Janet Evanovich's questions for Michael Connelly, or turn the tables to see what Connelly asked Evanovich.

Evanovich: So dude,... Okay, you're back in Florida. Do you ever get to the beach? And when and if you get to the beach...is Harry Bosch with you? And what kind of beachwear are you guys sporting? Flip-flops? Crocs? Speedo? Board shorts? Connelly: I go to the beach often on weekends. Board shorts are required and I wear flip-flops with the built in bottle opener. Comes in handy. In Florida we rarely have waves, unless there is a hurricane in the Gulf. So I have taken up paddle-boarding, which essentially involves a big surfboard that you stand on and paddle. Still a balancing act, but easier than surfing, and you don't need waves.

Evanovich: What will a bookstore look like in 2020? Will we all be downloading? Connelly: Good question. Since it is only eleven years from now, I think there will still be a solid population of "old school" readers who need the book in their hands. The question is, will they get it at a bookstore or will we have a Kindle 9.0 device that manufactures a book for you at home, complete with photo of author in a bomber jacket.

Evanovich: If everybody is downloading in 2020 what the heck will we be signing on book tour? Body parts? Kindle cases? Connelly: I signed two Kindles yesterday. One person asked me to leave room for signatures from you and Dennis Lehane. So next time you're in Seattle she'll be in your line.

Evanovich: Do you eat when you write? Beer nuts? M&Ms? Just coffee? What keeps you from falling out of the chair in a narcoleptic stupor? Connelly: Have you ever seen what eating Cheetos can do to a keyboard? I have to say I am addicted to Coke. I always have a glass of it nearby. I eat a lot of candy, too. Keeps me going. Smarties are a great writing tool. I often need to raid my daughter's stash and then there is trouble on the home front.

Evanovich: Are you a messy guy or a neat guy? Do you keep clutter on your desk? In your head? Are there soda cans and crumpled fast food wrappers rolling around on the floor of your car? Connelly: I keep a clean car but a desk that gets progressively messier as I write a book. When I am finished with the book, I clean up the desk and eat all the stray Smarties found under the paperwork. The clean desk then promotes the start of the next book.

Evanovich: The new book, The Scarecrow sounds terrific, and I know it's followed by Harry Bosch in Nine Dragons in the fall. Does your publisher prefer one series over another? And do you find one series to be more commercially viable than another? Connelly: They let me do what I want. I like writing about Harry Bosch and he's pretty popular, but usually when I write a standalone it widens the audience a bit.

Evanovich: Want to meet me in a bar in Ft. Myers? Is that halfway? Connelly: Name the place. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Starred Review. Connelly hits it out of the park with one of the best thrillers of the year. Seasoned reporter Jack McEvoy has just been laid off from his job at the Los Angeles Times and to add insult to injury is assigned to train his replacement, a precocious young woman who will work for half his salary with none of his experience. But McEvoy will not go gently into the land of the downsized: he still has one last story to cover featuring a killer who dumps his victims in the trunk of a car. Peter Giles brings a skilled and intimate feel to his reading without losing the chilling momentum; at one point he relays a beautifully built scene that contains one of the best gotcha moments in some time. A Little, Brown hardcover (Reviews, Mar. 30). (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I have read every novel about Harry Bosch, Terry McCaleb, and now Jack McEvoy. Each protagonist is different but they all share the mind of their creator and that is where the stories begin and end. Connelly is superb. He worked for the LA Times before becoming a novelist so he knows the paper and how reporters think and act. Jack has just been given his two weeks notice. The Times is reducing its workforce to cut money and while Jack is one of their best reporters, he is also one of their costliest. He is not pleased. On the day he is notified of his departure, he received a call from an irate woman complaining about an article Jack had written about her grandson or maybe son. His article taken from the police records, indicates that the 16 year old boy is guilty of murdering a white woman in the projects and leaving her body in the trunk of her car. The grandmother/mother says he didn't do it. She says Jack's article is a lie and asks him 'whatcha gonna' do about it?' Jack is introduced and being an investigative reporter, he goes to the attorney defending the boy and finds that the facts aren't exactly as clear cut as the police made it sound. He is also introduced to his replacement on the crime beat, Angela Cook, a young thing with no experience who he is supposed to mentor to take his place. He realizes it is not her fault so he attempts to teach her. He takes her over the Cop Central and introduces her around. He also includes her in his investigation into the 16 year old's arrest. While investigating the body in the truck, they discover there is another murder with the body left in the trunk, where the ex-husband was arrested (body was his wife and found in the trunk of his car in his garage) and now serving time in a prison in Nevada. Obviously, the killer is not the husband or the 16 year old kid. Who is the killer? Jack calls his former lover, Rachel Walling, and asks her to help him but she says she can't. The plot continues to spin with attempted murders of Jack. The FBI gets involved and Jack and Rachel team up again on the case and in real life. Connelly has the skill to pull off such a twisted and macabre story, keeping the reader in suspense right up to the last half hour. I am in awe of his

writing skill. Bosch is my favorite. His new series due out in May has a female lead. He needs to start with a younger lead since Harry has retired and can't continue to hunt the bad guys from a contract job. I have faith that Connelly won't let us down.

Michael Connelly drew on his experience as a newspaper journalist from years past. This one involves Jack McEvoy and his old flame, FBI Agent Rachel Walling coming together to solve a double murder involving some dark and horrific methods. Jack is about to be RIFed (Reduction in Force) by his paper, the LA Times, and he's been given two weeks notice. He is to train and mentor his replacement, Angela Cook. However, circumstances intervene and his life is in the hands of a hacker that empties his bank account, and cancels all of his credit cards. Coincidence? He gets a call from a very angry woman who accuses him of writing a piece that points the finger at her 16 year old (grand)son and she is livid. He begins to look into the case and finds another, eerily similar murder involving another woman whose body was found in the trunk of her husband's car. McEvoy takes up the challenge. There is no way the two victims crossed paths, so what was the common denominator. Rachel Walling believes him, and together they figure out who the mastermind and who the minions are. The mastermind, the Scarecrow, is able to hack into remote camera databases and basically knows what they are doing as soon as they do.

As a complete duffer in our modern electronic world I stuck with Bosch and his investigations as this was a world I did know, having been a criminal lawyer-British-for 39 years. This book follows the investigation of the perverted murders of women and the hunt for those responsible by a tenacious reporter and his partner in detection-and other things-who is also an FBI Agent. Both carry luggage with them which rather adds to the flavour of this tale, which others describe as twisting and turning. Somehow I found it hard to warm to the FBI lady and wondered why Jack was so keen on her but this did not in any way detract from the problems they encountered or their means of overcoming them. Set in the bleak - for me- landscape of America I was as gripped as any by this complicated story and was glad that a book of reduced price was still a good read by a good author. I promptly read another about Jack McEvoy, tough newshound!

The fields and crops this scarecrow protects are of a quite different nature than what you might have in mind! While this scarecrow defends his turf, who is watching the watchman? A novel for the present time, it will unnerve and terrify you. When you realize how little you truly comprehend the lack of control you and I have against these malicious entities lurking behind the scenes in our lives.

I've been an avid reader all my life. I first became addicted to Crime / Legal Fiction when my Grandmother bought me my first Travis McGhee novel. I was aware of Mr Connelly before the Lincoln Lawyer book that pushed him up into a common name among Popular Fiction writers. Having read All his Books to date, I can proudly say that I've never put down one of his Books with a sense of disappointment, or regret. I'm a Fan who would be hard put to choose whether I like Mickey Haller or Harry Bosch the Best ? Can't wait for the rest of " Wrong side of Goodbye" to come out !

This book is a perfect follow up to "The Poet."I love Connellys Harry Bosh books, and this is a great off shoot of those. I truly hope he continues with the Jack McAvoy character in a series.This book had a great flow. While reading it I kept thinking the depicted conversations, events, and scenarios were believable. It didn't jump from "A-J," without hitting B, C, etc. as several books do.I hope Connelly comes out with more books about McAvoy and Agent Walling, as was hinted, as a Private Investigators team. No this is not a spoiler.

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