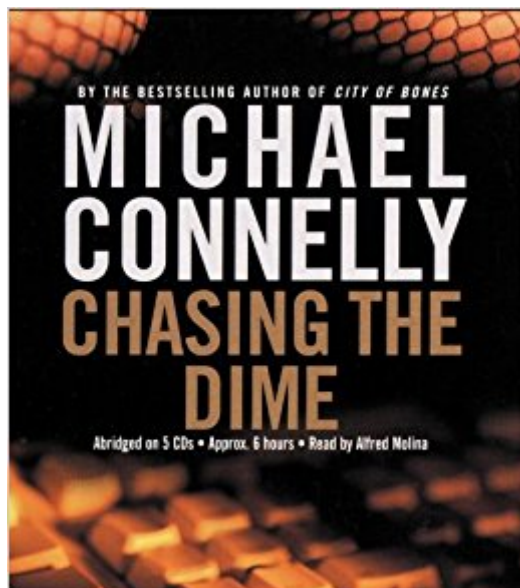


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Chasing The Dime



Synopsis

From #1 bestselling author Michael Connelly, a searing thriller about a simple wrong number that opens a line into terror. Henry Price has a whole new life--new apartment, new telephone, new telephone number. But the first time he checks his messages, he discovers that someone had the number before him. The messages are for a woman named Lilly, and she is in some kind of serious trouble. Price is inexorably drawn into Lilly's world, and it's unlike any world he's ever known. It is a nighttime world of escort services, Web sites, sex, and secret identities. Price tumbles through a hole, abandoning his orderly life in a frantic race to save the life of a woman he has never met. But every step into Lilly's past takes Price deeper into a web of inescapable intricacy--and a decision that could cost him everything he owns and holds dear.

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Customer Reviews

Henry Pierce is about to become very rich--as soon as his firm, Amedeo Technologies, gets an infusion of capital from a big backer. But the brilliant chemist's workaholic habits are disrupted when his lover, the former intelligence officer of his company, breaks up with him. Lonely and dispirited, he moves into a new apartment and gets a new phone number that attracts a lot of callers, but not for him. His new telephone number seems to have previously belonged to one Lilly Quinlan, an escort whose Internet photo arouses Henry's curiosity, especially when L.A. Darlings, whose Web page features the beautiful young woman, can't tell Henry how to find her. With the same single-mindedness that made him a high-tech superstar, Pierce pursues his search for the missing girl, motivated by his guilt over the disappearance years earlier of his own sister, who, like Lilly, was

also a prostitute (and ultimately the victim of the Dollmaker, a serial killer from Connelly's 1994 novel *The Concrete Blonde*.) But that motive is too thin to support Pierce's sudden abandonment of his career at such a critical juncture, even if forces unknown to him are setting him up for a fall. Despite those holes in the plot and a less than compelling protagonist, the novel succeeds due to Connelly's literary and expository gifts and his more interesting secondary characters. --Jane Adams --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The copy on the galley of Connelly's slick new thriller doesn't mention Hitchcock, but most reviews probably will, with the novel's many surprises and "wrong man" plot line. Even the opening echoes Hitch's *North by Northwest*, in which Cary Grant's mistaken interception of a bellboy's page leads to disaster; here it's nanotechnology entrepreneur Henry Pierce's getting a phone call that triggers the trouble. The call is for a prostitute, Lilly, and it's the first of many; turns out that the Web site on which she advertises, *L.A. Darlings*, has Pierce's new home phone number next to a photo of gorgeous Lilly. But when Pierce visits the Web site's offices, he learns that Lilly has vanished. Where has she gone? His search to find the missing woman-prompted by his insatiable curiosity and by memories of his tragic, long-ago hunt for his sister, also a prostitute-draws Pierce into mortal danger. It also pushes him into conflict with the law, for when the cops cotton to Lilly's disappearance, Pierce becomes the number one suspect-serious bad news for this scientist whose company is being visited by a major investor in just a few days. Connelly's plotting is shrink-wrap tight, his characters-particularly Pierce, whose impulsiveness is balanced by his measured applications of the scientific method to analyze his plight-are smartly drawn. It's the rare reader who will be able to finger the villain behind all the mayhem. While very entertaining, however-this is the perfect book for a long airplane ride-the novel lacks the moral resonance and weight of Connelly's most impressive works, such as *City of Bones*. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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A wrong number leads to the main character, Henry Pierce, to begin a welfare check on the mystery woman whose phone number he was assigned. His hunt begins with delving into the underbelly of digital sex and leads him right into a very clever and devious trap, but why and who did this and why him? Chasing the dime means basically doing nothing but going after scientific research which leads to producing the results and getting the funding to do it with. This is what caused Henry to lose the woman he loves. However, the mystery of the missing woman begins to take over and becomes his new obsession. I was expecting a novel about Michael Haller, and it wasn't. This one is

full of deceit, anger, murder, violence, and betrayal in the nanotechnology field. Yes, even geeks have intrigue. I am not a techie, so a lot of this was boring to me, and I just skipped those parts. Henry Pierce is a genius, but rather pathetic when it comes to trying to redeem his relationship with his soon-to-be-ex girlfriend. Many years before, his sister, Isabella, a runaway, was brutally murdered by who had been known at the time as The Dollmaker. He feels connected to this missing woman, and although he is not a detective, or in law enforcement in any way, he feels compelled to follow through and find this beautiful young woman, whose picture he has found on a sexually oriented website. Apart from there being too much technology-speak, this book is fast paced, brutal, and I could hardly put it down.

I was angry with the author over this one and tried to quit reading it several times. The protagonist was such a putz, so incredible, that I almost couldn't believe it was Connelly...but I still turned the pages to see how this putz was going to survive. That page-turning push is classic Connelly. Not a believable story at all, contrived and far-fetched. But an ok read for the beach.

Honestly, I could not bring myself to finish reading the book. That's saying something since I've read most of Connelly's novels more than twice and am anxiously awaiting the second season of Bosch. Now, why couldn't I finish reading it? Henry Pierce is supposedly a very bright person. Yet he cannot avoid blundering into situations that a slow witted child would know to avoid. Once this behavior pattern is established, the novel becomes maddeningly predictable. Why did he hire an attorney and not heed her advice or call her to investigate a situation before he blunders into it? A complete failure of common sense. Lastly, based on the copyright date and the uncomfortable, almost anachronistic, mixture of technology, this novel is not new. It actually flies in the face of life as it is conducted during the second decade of the 21st century. I mean, who actually has a land line in their home anymore? Senior executives of large multi-national corporations conduct most, if not all, of their business on their smartphone today. Oh, and the bad guys are cliché; unbelievable. Either Connelly or his agent must have been running short of cash to re-release this novel. Chasing the Dime

First of all, I am a huge Michael Connelly fan. I preorder all his books months in advance and never wait for early reviews because I don't care what others think of his work - I am entertained by it. After a good start, the pace of Chasing the Dime slowed too much to keep my attention, and I never became involved with the story after that. At times I found myself shaking my head saying, Michael

Connelly didn't write this. It isn't the usual seamless, flawless narrative and realistic dialogue I know him capable of. It was in some ways a surprisingly amateurish effort. I looked it up on and saw that he had written this book back in 2002 and I was fascinated by the contrast with his current work. Even after all the years he spent as a journalist, and having already written a few books before CTD, Connelly still hadn't hit his stride by this point. Obviously he continued to improve in the subsequent years until he became the Michael Connelly whose work I can pick out from reading the first paragraph. I once read of an experiment conducted by Anais Nin, where she submitted a manuscript to her editor under a different name. As soon as he started reading it he called her and let her know he was on to her. We don't include Michael Connelly in the same class with Nin, but if you are a solid diehard Connelly fan, you may have to be forgiving while reading CTD, but you'll eventually hear his voice in there. I continued on through Chasing the Dime for the sole purpose of picking out the parts that rang hollow, or wimped out, were clunky, or just went totally off the credulity meter for me, and thought about ways the author would probably write it today, if he ever did a rewrite. In a way I enjoyed the book as much as any other Connelly because for me it was an interactive experience! Okay, we get our kicks where we find them. Not his best, obviously, but still worth the read whether you are a fan or not. Because Connelly couldn't write a bad book if he tried.

I give up...I've made it to chapter 14 or 15 and just can't bring myself to read any more of this book. These few chapters have been a fumbling, bumbling mess of following a protagonist who is just too unbelievable to get behind. I've read all of the Bosch novels (to date) which, although being formulaic, I found immensely enjoyable and readable. One thing I've noticed about the Bosch series is that, from first to latest, Mr. Connelly is present in great, if not perfect, form in character development, plot structure and story telling. This book seems as if it was possibly his first manuscript which was shelved until Mr. Connelly made his name, much the same as Battlefield Earth was shelved until Travolta was enough of a market draw to support the film. If this is your first Connelly read, please don't judge his other books by this one. He really is capable of telling a fantastic story. He simply, for whatever reason, missed the mark on this one.

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