

Harry Bosch Chronology Information

Slide 1: Harry Before Book #1

Slide 2: Why I say That *The Black Echo* Happened in 1990

Slide 3: My Book Numbering Scheme

Slides 4 & 5: The Eleanor & Maddie Chronology

Slide 6: What is Harry's Birthdate (Month and Date)?

Slide 7: Calculating Dates for *Trunk Music*



**Spoiler
Alert**



There are TWO slides here that cover the Bosch story as it relates to Eleanor Wish and Maddie over 23 books. If you are reading the books in order for the first time, DO NOT READ **SLIDE 5** until after reading *Nine Dragons*. Alternatively, JUST DO NOT USE THIS HANDOUT until after reading *Nine Dragons*.

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For the Bosch sub-group of the Mystery Book Club

At Manchester Public Library, Manchester, MA

Harry (Partial) Timeline Before *The Black Echo*: (Book #1) [SLIDE 1](#)

	YEAR	AGE
Born 1950 [<i>Black Ice Book #2</i> , ch 19 #]	1950	0
HB discovers who his father is, visits his deathbed, observes the funeral	1970	20
Joined LAPD, entered police academy † *	1971	21
“From patrol to detective to RHD” within 8 years. Pg 77	1972	22-30
Got his detective’s badge. **	1977	27
Promoted to RHD, assigned to Frankie Sheehan, 1 st RHD partner**	1981	31
Bought house in 1982 (8 years before age 40) - Pg 56. Continuing at RHD.	1982	32-39
Bosch-Sheehan work Skyler case (“one of 1 st they handled as lead investigators”)**	1987	
Period of “superstar” at RHD (TV fame), but also an outsider. Dates unclear.		
The “Fall.” Killed a killer. Suspended for 10 months beginning Labor Day weekend 1989. Pg 78, 87	1989	39
THE PRESENT – <i>The Black Echo</i> (his age is stated in the book, pg 9)	1990	40

At the county courthouse he found “The 1950 birth records of Hieronymous Bosch at Queen of Angels Hospital...”

† In *The Black Ice* (last 2 pages of chapter 19) we learn this happened the summer –August– following the time he met his dying father.

* In *The Closers* (Pg 3) Harry got his badge at the academy in 1972

** *Two Kinds of Truth*, 43

Why 1990 as the Year for *The Black Echo*? (Book #1) [SLIDE 2](#)

- First, so much of the story seems connected to *real* places. It seems reasonable that the story's timeline would also be *real*. Meanwhile, the story is told in long chapters with each chapter telling us the DAY on which it occurs. So the first day is "Sunday May 20" and the book ends with events on "Monday May 28" which is Memorial Day. Now, go back and look at actual calendars for 2-3 years before and after 1990. **Only in 1990 does May 28 fall on a Monday**, etc. Again keep in mind the realism for so much else in the book.

May 1989							May 1990							May 1991							May 1992						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6																					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

- Also, the book was first published on January 21, 1992. We know from interviews and such from Michael Connelly that he did NOT whip up this book in 6 months like he can do now. In fact it was *much* longer than a year, especially when you add (1) the fact that he was writing the book after hours while working full-time as an LATimes reporter, and (2) the process of finding an agent and a publisher for the first time out. That means that he had begun the writing process for *The Black Echo* considerably before 1991, ie., during 1990 or even a little before that. In fact, as the series progresses, more and more it is obvious that MC is writing *just before* the year of and frequently *in* the year of publication. He writes as he was trained, as a journalist, recounting current events. Again 1990 makes sense for events in *The Black Echo*.
- Also, on page 9 of *The Black Echo*, we are told he is 40 years old. From Book #2, *The Black Ice*, we are told in Ch 19 that his birth record is for 1950. Add 40 years and you get 1990 as the year for the events in *The Black Echo*.
- His birth in 1950 and subsequent age is mentioned in a number of the books that follow.

The Harry Bosch Series: My Numbering Plan SLIDE 3

1. The Black Echo (1992)
2. The Black Ice (1993)
3. The Concrete Blonde (1994)
4. The Last Coyote (1995) ← 4B The Poet (1996) [no Bosch, but impt future characters]
5. Trunk Music (1997) ← 5B Bloodwork(1998) [introduces McCaleb, but no Bosch]
6. Angels Flight (1999)
7. A Darkness More Than Night (2001)
[includes Terry McCaleb]
8. City of Bones (2002)
9. Lost Light (2003)
10. The Narrows (2004)
[sequel to The Poet, includes Rachel Walling & Terry McCaleb]
11. The Closers (2005) ← 11B The Lincoln Lawyer (2005) [introduces Mickey Haller; no Bosch]
12. Echo Park (2006)
[includes Rachel Walling]
13. The Overlook (2007)
[includes Rachel Walling]
14. The Brass Verdict (2008)
[includes Mickey Haller]
15. Nine Dragons (2009)
[includes Mickey Haller]
16. The Reversal (2010)
[includes Mickey Haller]
17. The Drop (2011)
18. The Black Box (2012)
19. The Burning Room (2014)
20. The Crossing (2015)
[includes Mickey Haller]
21. The Wrong Side of Goodbye (2016)
22. Two Kinds of Truth (2017)
23. Dark Sacred Night (2018)
[includes Renee Ballard]
24. The Night Fire (2019)
[includes Renee Ballard]

Madeline- Daughter of Harry Bosch/Eleanor Wish: SLIDE 4

- 1990 - Harry works with FBI agent Eleanor in Book #1 *The Black Echo*. Harry “falls for Eleanor” but the romance is stymied by circumstances.
- 1995-96 -Several years later they re-connect and get married in Book #5, *Trunk Music*. Eleanor is now a beginning professional poker player.
- In the year following their marriage , Eleanor lives with Harry in his house on Woodrow Wilson.
- In Book #6, *Angels Flight*, two years after *Trunk Music*, Eleanor has already left him and been gone an indeterminate amount of time; Harry keeps trying to understand why. Likely it is her pregnancy which she obviously hid from Bosch.
- 1998 is Maddie’s apparent birth year (based on, among other things, the fact that in *Echo Park*, she is 8 years old [Page 76] and *Echo Park* clearly takes place in 2006.)
- It isn’t until Book #9, *Lost Light* (probably 2002), Harry runs into Eleanor in Vegas & discovers that he has a little girl. Eleanor says that Maddie is “almost four.” (Last Chapter) He tries to visit them in Las Vegas periodically after that.
- In Book #10, *The Narrows* (2005?), HB reads to her - she is “just five years old” (start of CH5)
- In Book #11, *The Closers*, (2005?) Maddie is *almost 6* and Wish has moved to Hong Kong where she has a 1 year contract [CH 26 / Pg 266]

Madeline- Daughter of Harry Bosch/Eleanor Wish: SLIDE 5

- Maddie is briefly referred to in #12, *Echo Park*, as being 8 years old. ... [Page 76] Echo Park clearly takes place in 2006.
- Book #13 is *The Overlook* (2007); Book #14 is *The Brass Verdict* (2008 ?).
- In Book #15, *9 Dragons* (2009 ?), Maddie is 13 [Page 138]. Bosch gets a call from a Chinese bad guy saying that Bosch's daughter has been kidnapped. He goes to Hong Kong & teams up with Eleanor to rescue their daughter. Eleanor is killed and Harry brings Maddie back to LA.
- In Books #16 (2010) and #17 (2011) and #18 (2012) , Maddie is a growing teenager, adjusting to living with her father, and showing an interest in becoming a police officer, over which Harry has misgivings.
- Michael Connelly, in an interview: "Harry's in his early 60s now, and pretty soon he's going to have to retire, and so his daughter is getting an increasingly bigger part in these stories. At some point things will shift and she will become the main focus of my writing." [March/2013]
- In Book #19, *The Burning Room* (2014), Maddy is 17 [Page 54].
- In Book 22, *Two Kinds of Truth* (2017), Maddie is in 2nd year of college. [Page 99]
- We can assume that Maddie is in 3rd year of college in *Dark Sacred Night* (2018).

What is Harry's Birthdate (month and day)? SLIDE 6

- For birth *year*, see slide #2.
- The only real clue is in *The Black Box* which takes place in 2012 (it says so in the book's Section Headings).
- The book begins with a scene in a preface with Harry and J Edgar working the street on May 1, 1992, the third night of the 1992 Rodney King related "race riots." (Pg 3 & 5) Here they briefly work the crime scene of a white woman, later ID'd as Jespersen.
- **What month is his birthday?** The present day 2012 story opens on Harry's birthday (Ch 4, pg 65 - that day's events are told in chapters 3-6). He was born in 1950, so he is turning 62. It's here in *The Black Box* that we read about Maddie making him a birthday dinner (Ch 6).
- April 29 - May 4, 2012 is the 20 year anniversary of the Rodney King related "race riots."
- The present day 2012 story is a result of a push by "the media savvy chief of police" directing the LT of the Open-Unsolved Unit to take a fresh look at all unsolved murders of the 1992 unrest. The chief wanted to be ready for the expected "twenty years later stories" that the press would be asking. It is likely that such a request would be made in late Dec 2011 at the earliest. At the outset, Bosch requested the unsolved Jespersen case.
- It then took 3 months to get the Firearms Unit to analyze the bullet casing from the crime scene storage box (Pg 36). Therefore, the main story of this book which begins (1) after the receipt of the Firearms report, and (2) on **Harry's birthday must be sometime in March or April, 2012.**
- Beyond that, the only thing more specific is that **in 2012, his birthday fell on a Tuesday.** (Because Ch 7 begins: "Bosch got to his cubicle on Wednesday morning, ...")

Calculating Dates for Trunk Music Book #5

SLIDE 7

The events in Trunk Music take place over a ten days period. It starts with Aliso's murder and ends with the Harry-Eleanor marriage. My own notes say that the book begins on Sunday evening of Labor Day in 1995. We also know there is a 2 year gap between the end of Trunk Music (pub '97) and the start of Angels Flight (pub '99).

The wiki timeline statement "Bosch returns to work under Grace Billets, partnered with Kiz Rider" is wrong on several counts. And the following can be garnered from Pages 6-7 approx in Trunk Music (I only have the Kindle version for that book): (1) When he comes back to work, Billets assigns him to Burglary, not homicide. He is being tested, paying his dues for his screw up with Pounds. He is at the Burglary "table" for 8 months. Then, (2) in September (so that's Sept 95), Billets brings him to the homicide "table" making him the "3" or senior guy (3) with two partners -not just Kiz- but also J Edgar (AKA Jerry in this & other books, Jed in other books).

Working backwards, he "returns to work" in January 95. For more context: There is also a two year gap between The Last Coyote (pub 95) and Trunk Music (pub 97). The action in The Last Coyote takes place over 12 days in mid April of 1994. [That date is calibrated because of the book references to the Northridge Earthquake.]

Bosch says at the start of Trunk Music that it had been 18 months since he had done an official homicide investigation. Let's say his last official investigation took place in February-March of 1994 (prior to the events of his suspension in The Last Coyote). From February 94 to September 95 is 18 months.

If Trunk Music starts in Sept of 1996, the "18 months since..." doesn't work. It would 18 + 12 more months= 30 mons. Two years from Sept 96 is Sept 98.