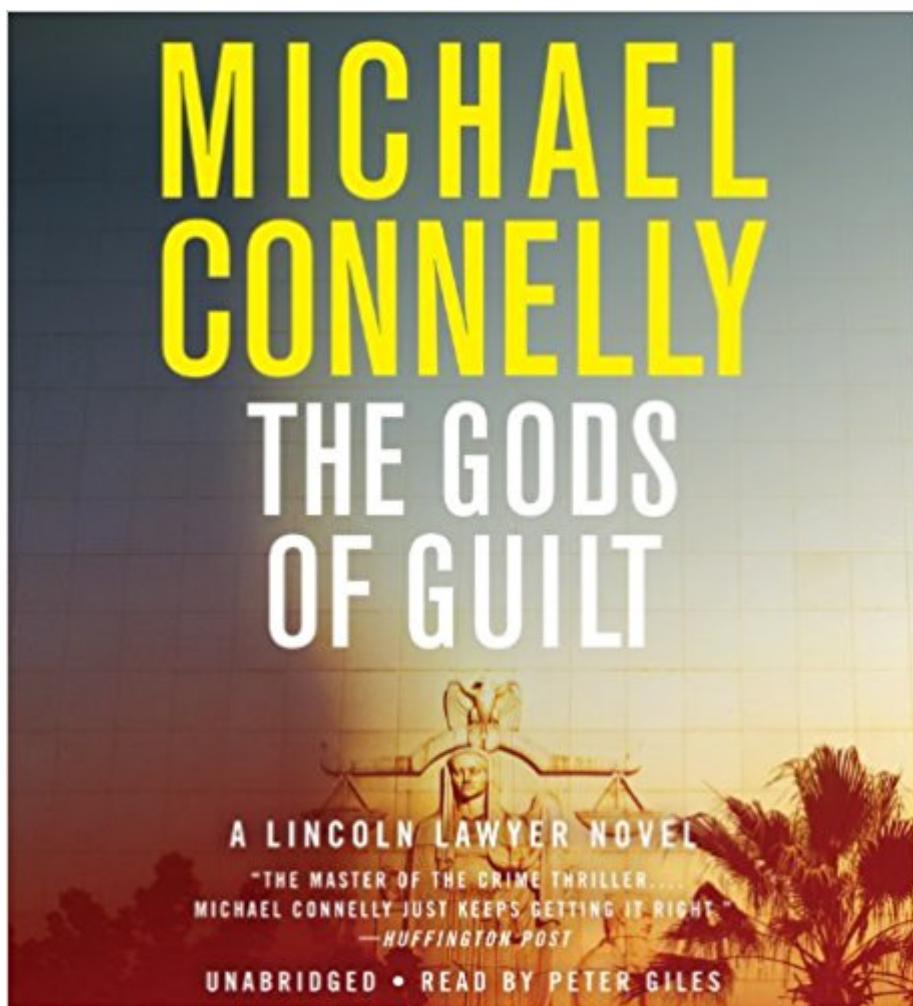


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# The Gods Of Guilt (A Lincoln Lawyer Novel)



## **Synopsis**

Defense attorney Mickey Haller returns with a haunting case in the gripping new thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Michael Connelly. Mickey Haller gets the text, "Call me ASAP - 187," and the California penal code for murder immediately gets his attention. Murder cases have the highest stakes and the biggest paydays, and they always mean Haller has to be at the top of his game. When Mickey learns that the victim was his own former client, a prostitute he thought he had rescued and put on the straight and narrow path, he knows he is on the hook for this one. He soon finds out that she was back in LA and back in the life. Far from saving her, Mickey may have been the one who put her in danger. Haunted by the ghosts of his past, Mickey must work tirelessly and bring all his skill to bear on a case that could mean his ultimate redemption or proof of his ultimate guilt. The Gods of Guilt shows once again why "Michael Connelly excels, easily surpassing John Grisham in the building of courtroom suspense" (Los Angeles Times).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

An Best Book of the Month, December 2013: What distinguishes Connelly's Lincoln Lawyer books from the average legal thriller (in the same way his Harry Bosch series transcends "cop story") is the complicated likeability of his flawed hero, Mickey Haller, a criminal defense lawyer who works mostly from the backseat of a chauffeured Lincoln Town Car. In The Gods of Guilt, Haller agrees to defend a former client's pimp on a murder charge, and his messy past comes back to taunt him--an ideal introduction to Haller for newcomers, and catnip for fans. As a former newspaper court

reporter, I've always appreciated Connelly's attention to the messy particulars of the legal system, and his ability to convey real courtroom drama, the humanity and inanity of bringing criminals to justice--or not. (The title refers to the imperfect judgment of a jury.) Like his peers, Laura Lippman and George Pelecanos, Connelly writes crime fiction verging subversively on literature, and Haller is becoming an increasingly complex literary figure, cruising LA's darkest corners in a style that feels like a modern twist on Chinatown. (Think Clint Eastwood-Dirty Harry-San Francisco, but in LA, and without the big guns and the unresolved anger.) Incredibly, Connelly just keeps getting better. --Neal Thompson --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** When we last saw Mickey Haller (*The Fifth Witness*, 2011), the hot-shot maverick attorney who works out of his Lincoln Town Car was fed up with defending bad guys and had decided to run for district attorney. Well, that didn't work out. Too much politics. Now Mickey's back with the bad guys, defending a high-tech pimp accused of killing one of his "girls," who happens to be a former friend of Mickey's. Naturally, the case has multiple levels, involving a bent DEA agent and requiring an unholy coalition with a drug lord. As he's done throughout the Haller series, Connelly shows a remarkable ability to bring the courtroom alive—not just the details of the case at hand and the procedural machinations but also the personal drama simmering below the surface of the thrust and counterthrust of legal strategy. There is tragedy along the way to a verdict this time, and Mickey must confront his personal "gods of guilt" just as he does the jury in the courtroom.

Connelly's Harry Bosch series has typically dug deeper into personal demons and questions of existential identity than the Haller novels, but this time the fast-talking attorney is forced to look inward, where his tricks of the trade do him little good. A gripping novel, both in the courtroom and outside of it, and a testament to the melancholy maturing of Mickey Haller.

**HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** As always, a national media campaign will support the launch of Connelly's latest, as it climbs best-seller lists. Connelly's books have sold more than 50 million copies worldwide. --Bill Ott --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

The Gods of guilt are us. We, who have a conscience, a sense of morality, a sense of humanity, and everything that makes us compassionate. Mickey lost his election bid for DA and this is months later. He has become estranged from his 15 year old daughter. She still sees life in black and white, right or wrong, nothing in between. To make matters worse between them, Mickey is called on to defend a digital pimp who is accused of killing one of his girls. He had defended that same girl

several years ago and she had a special place in his heart. He had helped her out of the life, or did he? Clearing this client might clear up several crimes from years before and he has his usual antagonists who don't want to stir the pot. He is accused of muddying the water by bringing in evidence and witnesses from seemingly unrelated cases. However, the judge gives him the leeway he needs and things get done, but not before there is collateral damage. I like the method of story telling that leads me to believe that trials are actually conducted in the manner this book talks about. Defense attorneys are the scum of the earth, but, like vultures, they do have their place in society...making sure that their clients are represented and treated fairly in all things related to law.

Criminal defence attorney Mickey Haller is back doing what he does best - running his small legal practice from the back of his Lincoln Town Car. He is still recovering from a time when switched sides to be a successful prosecutor, and he nearly became Los Angeles County District Attorney before disaster struck when a defence case went badly wrong and impacted his career and his relationship with his daughter and first wife. Mickey is always on the lookout for cases with the highest stakes and biggest paybacks and the top of the line are murder cases. One day Andre La Cosse, an internet "pimp" who designs and manages websites for call girls, asks Mickey to defend him on a murder charge. This case is different because the victim, Gloria Dayton, was a former client, a prostitute Mickey thought he had rescued and put on a straight and narrow path - but unknown to him she was back on the game. It is also different because just before Gloria's death she had told Andre he should contact Haller if he ever needed legal assistance. Andre also has the means to pay for his defence - in gold bullion! What starts off as a straightforward case of providing a good defence for a guilty person quickly changes when Mickey realises that Andre may not be guilty. The case quickly brings back the ghosts of Mickey's past which can have a serious impact on his professional and personal future. As this case develops it will encompass a potentially corrupt DEA agent, a shady Investigator for the District Attorney, a cartel thug and a disbarred lawyer, all with their own personal interests in Mickey's future. To top all of this off Mickey is being watched and followed and he doesn't know who it is. Mickey needs all the help he can get to try to find another killer to tie to Gloria's murder. In this he is helped by his strange but very effective team of associates. His second wife, Lorna (still a very good friend), acts as his receptionist; her mountain of a husband, Cisco, is his investigator; and a young female attorney, Julie Aronson, is his very smart legal associate. Mickey's father (a lawyer too) told him that the jurors were the "Gods of Guilt" but from experience Mickey knows that the gods of guilt are judging us every day of our lives and in every move we make. Michael Connelly has moved Mickey Haller on from the days when he was

seen as a "sleazy" lawyer in the first Lincoln Lawyer novel. While Mickey is still prepared to do courtroom tricks, he has matured into a skilled courtroom performer and morphed into a relentless pursuer of getting to the truth. This case tests him to the limit with one of the best courtroom finales I have read for a long time. Connelly is still at the top of his game and this is an entertaining page-turner that will satisfy Connelly's many fans and will undoubtedly be part of their Christmas reading wish lists.

Being a sucker for Mickey Haller (and any Michael Connelly book) I hate to say a bad word, but in Gods of Guilt I had trouble (a) keeping track of who the characters were and (b) caring about the case. Haller once knew and had feelings for the murdered prostitute ... but did I read about that in an earlier book? I don't remember, so hard to get emotionally involved. The guy he's defending, on trial for her murder, is a pimp and not a character you can like very much. The connections between the drug king in prison and the DEA agent and the investigator Lankford with a longtime dislike for Haller. Did I read about that in an earlier book? I don't remember so hard to recall why he dislikes Haller, hard to figure out (even by the ending) what Lankford had to do with the DEA guy, the drug king, and the prostitute ... Haller's personal life and sort-of estrangement from his young daughter isn't explored enough to get the reader emotionally involved -- once again, the whole story of his ex wives and his daughter played out in earlier books ... and while I DO remember all that, the personal story is not woven very deeply into this book. So once again, it's hard to get emotionally involved in the story -- let alone keep the characters and plot points straight. THE BRIGHT SPOT is that the last few chapters really come to life with edge-of-your-chair events unfolding during the (at last) trial of the pimp, with a rousing and satisfying ending (and possible reconciliation of Haller and his daughter ... which may play out in future books. Which I will certainly read. In spite of this one sagging in the middle, I'm hooked on Mickey Haller and all Connelly books.)

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