

stay close harlan coben

Stay Close Harlan Coben: A Gripping Thriller That Keeps You on the Edge

If you're a fan of suspenseful thrillers that keep you guessing until the very last page, then **Stay Close Harlan Coben** should undoubtedly be on your reading list. This compelling novel, part of Coben's acclaimed series, masterfully weaves a story of secrets, lies, and unexpected twists. Whether you're a longtime admirer of Harlan Coben's work or new to his novels, *Stay Close* offers a perfect blend of suspense and emotional depth that will leave you captivated from start to finish.

In this article, we'll explore the key themes of *Stay Close*, provide a detailed overview of its plot, introduce the main characters, and highlight why this book is a must-read for thriller enthusiasts. Plus, we'll delve into the author's signature style and what makes Harlan Coben a standout figure in contemporary crime fiction.

Overview of Stay Close by Harlan Coben

Stay Close is a psychological thriller that revolves around the intertwined lives of several characters hiding dark secrets. The story is set in a seemingly quiet suburb, where beneath the surface of normalcy lies a web of deception and danger. Coben's storytelling prowess shines as he gradually reveals the hidden truths that threaten to destroy the characters' lives.

The novel is widely appreciated for its intricate plot, well-developed characters, and unpredictable twists. It's a quintessential example of Coben's ability to combine domestic drama with high-stakes suspense, making it a compelling read for anyone who loves a good mystery.

Main Themes in Stay Close

Understanding the core themes of *Stay Close* enhances the reading experience, as it provides insight into the novel's deeper messages and motives.

Secrets and Lies

- The novel explores how secrets can fester and destroy lives.
- Characters are forced to confront their past mistakes and hidden truths.
- The narrative demonstrates that no one is truly innocent, and everyone has something to hide.

Family and Loyalty

- The importance of family bonds is central to the story.
- Characters grapple with loyalty to loved ones versus their own moral compasses.
- The tension between personal happiness and familial duty adds complexity to the plot.

Redemption and Forgiveness

- Many characters seek redemption for past sins.
- The story examines whether forgiveness is possible or if some mistakes are too great to undo.
- The theme underscores the possibility of change and the human capacity for growth.

Justice and Revenge

- The pursuit of justice drives many of the characters' actions.
- Revenge acts as a catalyst for the unfolding events.
- The novel questions whether true justice can be achieved or if revenge only breeds more chaos.

Plot Summary of Stay Close

While avoiding spoilers, a brief overview of the plot provides context for understanding the novel's appeal.

The story centers around three main characters:

- Megan Pierce: A woman leading a seemingly perfect suburban life, hiding a tumultuous past.
- Broome: Megan's brother, who is entangled in dangerous activities and secrets from his own past.
- Jay Becker: A detective investigating a mysterious disappearance linked to the town's dark history.

As the story unfolds, Megan's carefully constructed life begins to unravel when a long-buried secret resurfaces. The reappearance of her past threatens her current life, and she must navigate a treacherous path to protect herself and her family. Meanwhile, Broome's involvement in illicit dealings complicates matters further, and Jay Becker's investigation uncovers a web of deception that stretches back years.

Throughout the novel, Coben masterfully shifts perspectives, revealing clues from different characters' viewpoints. This narrative technique keeps readers guessing and creates a sense of suspense that intensifies with each chapter. The climax delivers a series of shocking revelations that reframe the entire story.

Characters in Stay Close

Strong, multi-dimensional characters are a hallmark of Harlan Coben's novels. Here's a closer look at the key figures in Stay Close:

- **Megan Pierce:** A woman torn between her past and present, striving to protect her family at all costs.
- **Broome Pierce:** Megan's brother, whose hidden life and criminal activities threaten to expose family secrets.
- **Jay Becker:** A dedicated detective haunted by his own past, working tirelessly to uncover the truth.
- **Valerie Anderson:** Megan's best friend, whose loyalty is tested as secrets come to light.
- **Ray Mackenzie:** A shadowy figure connected to the town's dark history, whose motives remain ambiguous.

Each character's development adds depth to the story, and their intertwined fates create a layered narrative that keeps readers engaged.

Why Stay Close Is a Must-Read

There are several compelling reasons why Stay Close stands out among Harlan Coben's works and in the thriller genre as a whole:

Expertly Crafted Twists and Turns

- Coben is renowned for his unexpected plot twists, and Stay Close is no exception.
- Readers are kept guessing until the final page, with surprises lurking around every corner.

Relatable Characters and Emotional Depth

- Despite the suspenseful plot, the characters' personal struggles resonate deeply.
- Themes of love, betrayal, and redemption add emotional weight to the story.

Fast-Paced, Engaging Narrative

- Coben's tight pacing ensures the story remains gripping from start to finish.

- Short chapters and cliffhangers encourage continuous reading.

Timely and Relevant Themes

- The novel explores issues such as family secrets, identity, and morality.
- Its themes are relevant to modern readers navigating personal and societal complexities.

Critically Acclaimed and Popular

- Stay Close has received praise from critics and audiences alike.
- It's a bestseller that has been adapted into other media, highlighting its widespread appeal.

Harlan Coben's Signature Style

Harlan Coben's writing is characterized by several distinctive features that make Stay Close a quintessential Coben novel:

Concise and Pacey Prose

- Coben's economical writing style keeps the story moving swiftly.
- Short, punchy sentences heighten tension and urgency.

Multiple Perspectives

- The narrative often shifts between characters' viewpoints, enriching the story.
- This technique reveals secrets gradually and builds suspense.

Realistic Dialogue

- The dialogue feels authentic, adding credibility and emotional resonance.
- Characters' voices are distinct and memorable.

Engaging and Unexpected Twists

- Coben masterfully plants clues that lead to surprising revelations.
- The twists often challenge readers' assumptions and expectations.

Where to Find Stay Close and Related Media

If you're eager to dive into *Stay Close*, it's readily available in various formats:

- **Print:** Hardcover and paperback editions from major bookstores.
- **E-book:** Available on Kindle, Apple Books, and other digital platforms.
- **Audiobook:** Narrated by talented voices, perfect for listening on the go.

Additionally, *Stay Close* has been adapted into a popular Netflix series, bringing the story to life on screen. The adaptation retains the novel's suspenseful essence while adding visual depth to the characters and plot.

Final Thoughts on Stay Close by Harlan Coben

For anyone seeking a thrilling read that combines suspense, emotional depth, and plot twists, *Stay Close* by Harlan Coben is an excellent choice. Its intricate storytelling and compelling characters make it a standout in contemporary crime fiction. Whether you're a seasoned Coben fan or new to his work, this novel promises an immersive experience that will keep you hooked until the very last page.

Don't miss out on discovering the secrets lurking beneath the suburban surface—pick up *Stay Close* today and immerse yourself in a world where nothing is as it seems.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Stay Close' by Harlan Coben?

'*Stay Close*' follows Megan, a woman hiding her past, who becomes entangled in a series of mysterious events involving a missing person and long-buried secrets in her suburban neighborhood.

Who are the main characters in 'Stay Close'?

The novel features Megan, her husband Ray, their daughter Paige, and detective Harry Pritchard, among others. Each character has a complex background that unfolds throughout the story.

Is 'Stay Close' part of a series by Harlan Coben?

No, '*Stay Close*' is a standalone novel, but it shares themes and atmospheric elements common in Harlan Coben's standalone thrillers.

When was 'Stay Close' published?

'Stay Close' was published in 2012 and has since become a popular thriller in Harlan Coben's bibliography.

Has 'Stay Close' been adapted into a TV series?

Yes, 'Stay Close' was adapted into a six-part Netflix original series released in 2021, bringing the suspenseful story to a wider audience.

What are the main themes explored in 'Stay Close'?

The novel explores themes of secrets, deception, the impact of past actions, and the fragile nature of suburban life.

Is 'Stay Close' suitable for readers new to Harlan Coben's work?

Absolutely, 'Stay Close' is a gripping standalone novel that can be enjoyed without prior knowledge of other Coben books.

What makes 'Stay Close' a popular read among thriller fans?

Its intricate plot, well-developed characters, and suspenseful twists keep readers engaged and eager to uncover the truth.

Where can I find reviews or reader reactions to 'Stay Close'?

You can find reviews on platforms like Goodreads, Amazon, and Book Riot, where readers share their thoughts on the book's plot and execution.

Are there any similar books to 'Stay Close' by Harlan Coben?

Yes, books like 'The Stranger' and 'Gone for Good' by Harlan Coben share similar suspenseful themes and plot twists, making them great follow-up reads.

Additional Resources

Stay Close Harlan Coben is a compelling and intense addition to the author's extensive catalog of thrillers and mysteries. Known for his ability to craft intricate plots filled with twists and emotionally charged characters, Harlan Coben's "Stay Close" stands out as a gripping exploration of secrets, lies, and the lengths people go to protect themselves and their loved ones. For fans of psychological suspense and layered storytelling, this novel offers a mesmerizing journey into the darker corners of suburban life and the hidden dramas lurking beneath seemingly idyllic surfaces.

Introduction to "Stay Close" by Harlan Coben

"Stay Close" was published in 2012 and quickly garnered praise for its compelling narrative and complex characters. The novel revolves around three main protagonists, each harboring their own secrets, whose lives intersect in unexpected ways. The story delves into themes such as deception, redemption, and the pervasive impact of past mistakes on present lives.

Harlan Coben's mastery lies in his ability to balance multiple viewpoints while maintaining suspense, and "Stay Close" exemplifies this skill. The novel combines elements of domestic drama with crime thriller, creating a layered reading experience that keeps readers guessing until the final page.

Plot Overview and Key Themes

The Main Characters

- Megan Pierce: Once a high school cheerleader, Megan now leads a seemingly perfect suburban life as a wife and mother. However, her past and present collide when her former life as a party girl resurfaces, threatening everything she holds dear.
- Ray Levine: A once-successful photographer who has fallen into obscurity, Ray is haunted by a mysterious past. His journey to uncover the truth about his own history leads him into dangerous territory.
- Joe Brody: A detective with a complicated personal life, Joe is investigating a cold case that unexpectedly connects to the other main characters, revealing buried secrets.

Central Themes

- Secrets and Deception: At its core, "Stay Close" explores how secrets—both small and devastating—shape the characters' lives. The novel suggests that everyone has something to hide, and that these hidden truths can have dangerous consequences.
- Redemption and Forgiveness: Several characters grapple with past mistakes, seeking redemption or reconciliation. The narrative examines whether true forgiveness is possible and what it takes to move forward.
- The Illusion of Perfect Lives: The suburban setting appears idyllic, but beneath the surface lies chaos and darkness. Coben highlights the disparity between appearance and reality.

The Structure and Narrative Style

Harlan Coben employs a multi-layered narrative, switching perspectives among the protagonists and weaving their stories into a cohesive whole. This technique allows readers to see the story from different angles, building suspense and deepening character development.

The novel's pacing is brisk, with short chapters that favor quick reading and heightened tension. Coben's prose is accessible yet sharp, emphasizing psychological insight and plot twists.

Major Plot Twists and Climax

"Stay Close" is renowned for its unexpected twists. Some of the key revelations include:

- Megan's clandestine past as a party girl and her involvement in dangerous activities.
- Ray's uncovering of a dark secret linked to his early career.
- Joe Brody's relentless pursuit of justice, which uncovers disturbing truths.

The climax combines these revelations into a tense showdown, where characters' loyalties are tested, and the truth is finally exposed. Coben masterfully maintains suspense, ensuring that no reader can predict the ending.

Analysis of "Stay Close" in Coben's Literary Canon

How It Fits Within Coben's Work

"Stay Close" exemplifies Coben's signature style—blending domestic suspense with crime and thriller elements. It shares thematic similarities with his other works, such as the exploration of hidden pasts and the moral ambiguities faced by characters.

Compared to standalone novels, "Stay Close" offers a more layered exploration of suburban life, making it a quintessential example of Coben's ability to depict ordinary people caught in extraordinary circumstances.

Character Development and Psychologically Rich Stories

Coben excels at creating relatable characters with flaws and vulnerabilities. Megan's struggle to reconcile her past and present resonates with readers who understand the desire to reinvent oneself. Ray's quest for redemption underscores themes of loss and hope, while Joe's dedication highlights the pursuit of justice.

The depth of character development elevates the novel beyond simple thrillers, transforming it into a commentary on human nature and resilience.

Why "Stay Close" Continues to Captivate Readers

- Universal Themes: Its exploration of secrets, betrayal, and redemption are universally relatable.
- Engaging Plot Twists: The unpredictable nature of the story keeps readers hooked.
- Complex Characters: Multi-dimensional characters evoke empathy and investment.
- Realistic Setting: The suburban backdrop makes the story more relatable and chilling.

How to Approach Reading "Stay Close"

For new readers or those revisiting the novel, consider the following tips:

- Pay close attention to character backstories as they are crucial for understanding motivations.
- Keep track of minor characters and their connections, as Coben often uses subtle clues that become

significant later.

- Be patient with the pacing; the novel's tension builds gradually before erupting in the climax.
- Reflect on the themes of deception and truth—how appearances can be deceiving and the importance of confronting the past.

Critical Reception and Impact

"Stay Close" has been praised for its intricate plotting and well-rounded characters. Critics highlight Coben's skill in creating suspense without sacrificing emotional depth. The novel has also been adapted into a Netflix series, further cementing its popularity and cultural impact.

Fans of Coben appreciate how "Stay Close" exemplifies his talent for weaving complex narratives that explore the darker side of human nature while offering moments of hope and redemption.

Final Thoughts

"Stay Close Harlan Coben" is a quintessential read for thriller enthusiasts seeking an emotionally charged, suspenseful story. Its masterful storytelling, layered characters, and unexpected twists make it a standout in contemporary crime fiction. Whether you're a longtime fan of Harlan Coben or new to his work, "Stay Close" promises an engaging journey into the secrets lurking beneath suburban serenity.

Recommended Reading and Next Steps

If you enjoyed "Stay Close," consider exploring other Coben novels such as:

- The Stranger
- Caught
- The Woods
- Tell No One

Additionally, for those interested in the TV adaptation, watching the Netflix series can provide a new perspective on the story, highlighting how the narrative translates to screen.

In summary, "Stay Close" by Harlan Coben exemplifies his mastery in blending domestic drama with suspense, crafting a story that is both emotionally resonant and thrilling. Its examination of secrets and the human capacity for deception makes it a must-read for fans of psychological thrillers, and its enduring popularity underscores Coben's status as a master storyteller.

[Stay Close Harlan Coben](#)

stay close harlan coben: *Stay Close* Harlan Coben, 2013-02-12 A bored suburban wife, a documentary photographer-turned-paparazzo, and a detective who cannot let go of a cold case hide secrets from their loved ones only to have the past return in dangerous ways.

stay close harlan coben: *Stay Close (Movie Tie-In)* Harlan Coben, 2021-12-07 NOW A NETFLIX SERIES AND A NETFLIX BOOK CLUB PICK! The bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix drama *The Stranger* proves that the past never truly fades away in this shocking thriller. Megan is a suburban soccer mom who once upon a time walked on the wild side. Ray used to be a talented documentary photographer, but now finds himself in a dead-end job posing as a paparazzo. Broome is a detective who can't let go of a cold case. Each is hiding secrets that even those closest to them would never suspect. When the terrible consequences of long-ago events threaten to ruin their quiet suburban lives, they will come to the startling realization that they may not want to forget the past at all. As Megan, Ray, and Broome are faced with the excitement of temptation and the desperation and hunger that can lurk behind even the prettiest facades—they will discover a hard truth: the line between one kind of life and another can be as whisper-thin as a heartbeat.

stay close harlan coben: *Stay Close* Harlan Coben, 2019-12-31 NOW A NETFLIX SERIES! The bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix dramas *Fool Me Once* and *The Stranger* proves that the past never truly fades away in this shocking thriller. Megan is a suburban soccer mom who once upon a time walked on the wild side. Ray used to be a talented documentary photographer but now finds himself in a dead-end job posing as a paparazzo. Broome is a detective who can't let go of a cold case. Each is hiding secrets that even those closest to them would never suspect. When the terrible consequences of long-ago events threaten to ruin their quiet suburban lives, they will come to the startling realization that they may not want to forget the past at all. As Megan, Ray, and Broome are faced with the excitement of temptation and the desperation and hunger that can lurk behind even the prettiest facades—they will discover a hard truth: the line between one kind of life and another can be as whisper-thin as a heartbeat.

stay close harlan coben: *Run Away* Harlan Coben, 2019-03-19 A perfect family is shattered when their daughter goes missing in this brilliantly executed New York Times bestselling thriller from a master storyteller (Providence Sunday Journal). You've lost your daughter. She's addicted to drugs and to an abusive boyfriend. And she's made it clear that she doesn't want to be found. Then, by chance, you see her playing guitar in Central Park. But she's not the girl you remember. This woman is living on the edge, frightened, and clearly in trouble. You don't stop to think. You approach her, beg her to come home. She runs. And you do the only thing a parent can do: you follow her into a dark and dangerous world you never knew existed. Before you know it, both your family and your life are on the line. And in order to protect your daughter from the evils of that world, you must face them head on.

stay close harlan coben: *Don't Let Go* Harlan Coben, 2017-09-26 FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND CREATOR OF THE HIT NETFLIX DRAMA *THE STRANGER* With unmatched suspense and emotional insight, Harlan Coben explores the big secrets and little lies that can destroy a relationship, a family, and even a town in this powerful new thriller. Suburban New Jersey Detective Napoleon "Nap" Dumas hasn't been the same since senior year of high school, when his twin brother Leo and Leo's girlfriend Diana were found dead on the railroad tracks—and Maura, the girl Nap considered the love of his life, broke up with him and disappeared without explanation. For fifteen years, Nap has been searching, both for Maura and for the real reason behind his brother's death. And now, it looks as though he may finally find what he's been looking for. When Maura's fingerprints turn up in the rental car of a suspected murderer, Nap embarks on a quest for answers that only leads to more questions—about the woman he loved, about the childhood friends he thought he knew, about the abandoned military base near where he grew up, and mostly about Leo and Diana—whose deaths are darker and far more sinister than Nap ever dared imagine.

stay close harlan coben: Peripheral Locations in European TV Crime Series Kim Toft Hansen, Valentina Re, 2023-10-17 This book is a comprehensive study of peripheral locations in contemporary European TV crime series. Ambitiously, it covers the complete geography of Europe, and offers a nuanced image of a changing, dynamic, and unfinished continent. The chapters include analyses of the practical, creative approach to producing crime series in European peripheries and rural areas, evaluating a continent marked by an internal crisis between urban and rural Europe. The study includes readings of crime series such as *Shetland*, *Bitter Daisies*, *Trom*, *Pagan Peak*, and *The Border*, but presents such representative cases within broader tendencies on the European TV market, including challenges from streaming services, the influence of Nordic Noir, and changes within the cognitive geography of Europe. The authors position peripheral European crime series in a complex relationship between universal appeal and local recognisability and offer a comprehensive theoretical approach to the aesthetics of peripherality. Grounded in desktop production studies, the book presents an original scholarly approach to analysing European crime series from a continental point of view. Despite local differences, the spatio-generic orientations scrutinized in the book – Nordic Noir, Mediterranean Noir, Country Noir, Eastern Noir, and Brit Noir – show remarkable aesthetic similarities in series from territories otherwise normally unconnected in television production. Consequently, television crime series reveal a common tongue and voice for dialogue on a continent in a deepening crisis.

stay close harlan coben: Caught Harlan Coben, 2010-03-23 The bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix drama *The Stranger* delivers a twisted #1 New York Times bestseller about a man who—with the best of intentions—opens the wrong door... Reporter Wendy Tynes is making a name for herself, bringing down sexual offenders on nationally televised sting operations. But when social worker Dan Mercer walks into her trap, Wendy gets thrown into a story more complicated than she could ever imagine. Dan is tied to the disappearance of a seventeen-year-old New Jersey girl, and the shocking consequences will have Wendy doubting her instincts about the motives of the people around her, while confronting the true nature of guilt, grief, and her own capacity for forgiveness...

stay close harlan coben: Nabokov's Favorite Word Is Mauve Ben Blatt, 2017-03-14 Data meets literature in this “enlightening” (*The Wall Street Journal*), “brilliant” (*The Boston Globe*), “Nate Silver-esque” (*O, The Oprah Magazine*) look at what the numbers have to say about our favorite authors and their masterpieces. There’s a famous piece of writing advice—offered by Ernest Hemingway, Stephen King, and myriad writers in between—not to use -ly adverbs like “quickly” or “angrily.” It sounds like solid advice, but can we actually test it? If we were to count all the -ly adverbs these authors used in their careers, do they follow their own advice? What’s more, do great books in general—the classics and the bestsellers—share this trait? In the age of big data we can answer questions like these in the blink of an eye. In *Nabokov’s Favorite Word Is Mauve*, a “literary detective story: fast-paced, thought-provoking, and intriguing” (Brian Christian, coauthor of *Algorithms to Live By*), statistician and journalist Ben Blatt explores the wealth of fun findings that can be discovered by using text and data analysis. He assembles a database of thousands of books and hundreds of millions of words, and then he asks the questions that have intrigued book lovers for generations: What are our favorite authors’ favorite words? Do men and women write differently? Which bestselling writer uses the most clichés? What makes a great opening sentence? And which writerly advice is worth following or ignoring? All of Blatt’s investigations and experiments are original, conducted himself, and no math knowledge is needed to enjoy the book. On every page, there are new and eye-opening findings. By the end, you will have a newfound appreciation of your favorite authors and also come away with a fresh perspective on your own writing. “Blatt’s new book reveals surprising literary secrets” (*Entertainment Weekly*) and casts an x-ray through literature, allowing us to see both the patterns that hold it together and the brilliant flourishes that allow it to spring to life.

stay close harlan coben: Fade Away Harlan Coben, 2025-07-01 EDGAR AWARD WINNER • “What sets Harlan Coben above the crowd are wit and . . . an entertaining plot.”—Los Angeles Times

Book Review ONE OF TIME'S 100 BEST MYSTERY AND THRILLER BOOKS OF ALL TIME In novels that crackle with wit and suspense, Harlan Coben has created one of the most fascinating heroes in suspense fiction: the wisecracking, tenderhearted sports agent Myron Bolitar. In this gripping third novel in the acclaimed series, Myron must confront a past that is dead and buried—and more dangerous than ever before. The home is top-notch New Jersey suburban. The living room is Martha Stewart. The basement is Legos—and blood. The signs of a violent struggle. For Myron Bolitar, the disappearance of a man he once competed against is bringing back memories—of the sport he and Greg Downing had both played and the woman they both loved. Now, among the stars, the wannabes, the gamblers, and the groupies, Myron is embarking upon the strange ride of a sports hero gone wrong that just may lead to certain death. Namely, his own.

stay close harlan coben: Back Spin Harlan Coben, 2025-07-01 “Another winner . . . Pungent observations, indelibly drawn characters and a twisting, surprise-laden plot.”—Atlanta Journal and Constitution Kidnappers have snatched the teenage son of super-star golfer Linda Coldren and her husband, Jack, an aging pro, at the height of the U.S. Open. To help get the boy back, sports agent Myron Bolitar goes charging after clues and suspects from the Main Line mansions to a downtown cheaters’ motel—and back in time to a U.S. Open twenty-three years ago, when Jack Coldren should have won, but didn't. Suddenly Myron finds himself surrounded by blue bloods, criminals, and liars. And as one family's darkest secrets explode into murder, Myron finds out just how rough this game can get. In novels that crackle with wit and suspense, Edgar Award winner Harlan Coben has created one of the most fascinating and complex heroes in suspense fiction—Myron Bolitar—a hotheaded, tenderhearted sports agent who grows more and more engaging and unpredictable with each page-turning appearance. “Sharp plotting and emotional density, as well as nonstop wisecracks.”—Publishers Weekly

stay close harlan coben: Home Harlan Coben, 2017-05-30 Ten years after the high-profile kidnapping of two young boys, only one returns home in this gripping #1 New York Times bestselling Myron Bolitar thriller from the bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix drama *The Stranger*. A decade ago, kidnappers grabbed two boys from wealthy families and demanded ransom, then went silent. No trace of the boys ever surfaced. For ten years their families have been left with nothing but painful memories and a quiet desperation for the day that has finally, miraculously arrived: Myron Bolitar and his friend Win believe they have located one of the boys, now a teenager. Where has he been for ten years, and what does he know about the day, more than half a life ago, when he was taken? And most critically: What can he tell Myron and Win about the fate of his missing friend? Drawing on his singular talent, Harlan Coben delivers an explosive and deeply moving thriller about friendship, family, and the meaning of home.

stay close harlan coben: Bestseller Robert McParland, 2018-12-15 Whether curled up on a sofa with a good mystery, lounging by the pool with a steamy romance, or brooding over a classic novel, Americans love to read. Despite the distractions of modern living, nothing quite satisfies many individuals more than a really good book. And regardless of how one accesses that book—through a tablet, a smart phone, or a good, old-fashioned hardcover—those choices have been tallied for decades. In *Bestseller: A Century of America's Favorite Books*, Robert McParland looks at the reading tastes of a nation—from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day. Through extensive research, McParland provides context for the literature that appealed to the masses, from low-brow potboilers like *Forever Amber* to Pulitzer-Prize winners such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Decade by decade, McParland discusses the books that resonated with the American public and shows how current events and popular culture shaped the reading habits of millions. Profiles of authors with frequent appearances—from Ernest Hemingway to Danielle Steel—are included, along with standout titles that readers return to year after year. A snapshot of America and its love of reading through the decades, this volume informs and entertains while also providing a handy reference of the country's most popular books. For those wanting to learn more about the history of American culture through its reading habits, *Bestseller: A Century of America's Favorite Books* is a must-read.

stay close harlan coben: Deal Breaker Harlan Coben, 2024-09-17 Sports agent Myron Bolitar is poised on the edge of the big time. So is Christian Steele, a rookie quarterback and Myron's prized client. But when Christian gets a phone call from a former girlfriend, a woman who everyone, including the police, believes is dead, the deal starts to go sour. Trying to unravel the truth about a family's tragedy, a woman's secret, and a man's lies, Myron is up against the dark side of his business—where image and talent make you rich, but the truth can get you killed. In novels that crackle with wit and suspense, Edgar Award winner Harlan Coben has created one of the most fascinating and complex heroes in suspense fiction—Myron Bolitar—a hotheaded, tenderhearted sports agent who grows more and more engaging and unpredictable with each page-turning appearance.

stay close harlan coben: Drop Shot Harlan Coben, 2024-09-17 In the second Myron Bolitar novel from Edgar Award winner Harlan Coben, a young woman's tragic death spirals into a shattering drama of menace, secrets, and rage. Suddenly Myron is in over his head—and playing the most dangerous game of all. "Coben is simply one of the all-time greats."—Gillian Flynn Once, Valerie Simpson's tennis career skyrocketed; now, the headlines belong to a player from the wrong side of the tracks. But when Valerie is shot dead in cold blood and dropped outside the stadium at the U.S. Open, sports agent Myron Bolitar investigates the killing and uncovers a connection between the two players and a six-year-old murder at an exclusive mainline club. As Myron is drawn into the case—along with a dirty U.S. senator, a jealous mother, and the mob—he finds himself caught between a killer and the truth.

stay close harlan coben: Fool Me Once Harlan Coben, 2016-08-09 DON'T MISS THE NETFLIX SERIES FOOL ME ONCE—NOW AVAILABLE TO STREAM A widowed veteran gets the shock of her life in this impossible-to-put-down thriller from the bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix dramas *The Stranger* and *Stay Close*. In the course of eight consecutive #1 New York Times bestsellers, millions of readers have discovered Harlan Coben's page-turning thrillers, filled with his trademark edge-of-your-seat suspense and gut-wrenching emotion. In *Fool Me Once*, Coben once again outdoes himself.... Former special ops pilot Maya, home from the war, sees an unthinkable image captured by her nanny cam while she is at work: her two-year-old daughter playing with Maya's husband, Joe—who was brutally murdered two weeks earlier. The provocative question at the heart of the mystery: Can you believe everything you see with your own eyes, even when you desperately want to? To find the answer, Maya must finally come to terms with deep secrets and deceit in her own past before she can face the unbelievable truth about her husband—and herself.

stay close harlan coben: The Mystery Writers of America Cookbook Kate White, 2015-03-24 Enjoy over 100 recipes and murderously fun facts from legendary mystery authors like Sue Grafton, Louise Penny, Harlan Coben, and James Patterson! With art deco embellishments and stunning photos, this heirloom cookbook is the perfect gift for book lovers and mystery fans. Whether you're planning a sinister dinner party or whipping up comfort food for a day of writing, you'll find plenty to savor in this cunning collection of recipes from bestselling mystery authors! Discover hard-boiled breakfasts, thrilling entrees, and cozy desserts, including: • Mary Higgins Clark's Celebratory Giants Game Night Chili • Harlan Coben's Myron's Crabmeat Dip • Nelson DeMille's Male Chauvinist Pigs in a Blanket • Lee Child's Coffee, Pot of One • Gillian Flynn's Beef Skillet Fiesta • Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone's Famous Peanut Butter and Pickle Sandwich • Charlaine Harris's Very Unsophisticated Supper Dip • James Patterson's Grandma's Killer Chocolate Cake • Louise Penny's Madame Benoit's Tourtière • Scott Turow's Innocent Frittata Featuring full-color photography and intriguing sidebars on the surprising—and sometimes deadly—links between food and foul play, this is the ultimate cookbook for crime fiction aficionados.

stay close harlan coben: Six Years Harlan Coben, 2013-03-19 The bestselling author and creator of the hit Netflix drama *The Stranger* explores the dangers of obsession in this #1 New York Times bestselling masterpiece of modern suspense. Six years have passed since Jake Fisher watched Natalie, the love of his life, marry another man. Six years of hiding a broken heart by throwing

himself into his career as a college professor. Six years of keeping his promise to leave Natalie alone, and six years of tortured dreams of her life with her new husband, Todd. But six years haven't come close to extinguishing his feelings, and when Jake comes across Todd's obituary, he can't keep himself away from the funeral. There he gets the glimpse of Todd's wife he's hoping for...but she is not Natalie. As Jake searches for the truth, his picture-perfect memories of Natalie begin to unravel. Mutual friends of the couple either can't be found, or don't remember Jake. No one has seen Natalie in years. And soon, Jake's search for the woman who broke his heart puts his very life at risk as he uncovers the secrets and lies that love can hide....

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