



The Final Detail

Harlan Coben

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In this sixth novel in the award-winning Myron Bolitar series, Harlan Coben delivers a riveting powerhouse thriller—a twisting mystery of betrayal, family secrets, and murder.

Myron Bolitar's colleague at MB SportsReps, Esperanza, has been arrested for the murder of a client, a fallen baseball star attempting a comeback. Myron is determined to prove Esperanza's innocence—even if she won't speak to him on the advice of her lawyer, who warns Myron to keep away from both the case and his client. But Myron is already too close, too involved, and has too much at stake. And the closer Myron gets to the truth, the more the evidence points to the only viable suspect besides Esperanza: Myron himself.

The Final Detail Details

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Author : Harlan Coben

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Jonetta says

Myron Bolitar decided to leave town after the last investigation when started falling in love with the woman he was hired to protect and who didn't fare so well. He ends up on a private Caribbean beach with a woman he barely knows who is also looking for an escape. Meanwhile, all hell is breaking loose back at home and Win shows up to bring him home to face the carnage. Esperanza and his business are both in trouble and someone has obviously targeted Myron for ruin.

This was one of the best of the stories to date as we not only get Myron's brain but his heart. We finally get some insight into his personal background beyond basketball, including why he and Jessica Culver parted the first time. The case he returns to is problematic and Esperanza isn't talking. Myron's been in trouble before and he's been able to rely on Win to save the day but this time he finds himself relying on his own wits, skill and downright good luck.

As with all of the stories in this series, I didn't figure out who was responsible for everything until it was revealed, though I did come close. Myron's turned a corner in this story, having to do some soul searching and making a final decision about his relationship with Jessica. This is an excellent installment in the series.

Mark says

Here is a series I discovered through the people I have encountered on this particular website, who sang their individual praise over the Myron Bolitar series. Which in itself is good enough reason to purchase some of the books and have a read.

Myron lay sprawled next to a knee-knockingly gorgeous brunette clad only in a Class-B-felony bikini, a tropical drink sans umbrella in one hand, the aqua clear Caribbean water lapping at his feet, the sand a dazzling white powder, the sky a pure blue that could only be God's blank canvas, the sun as something and rich as a Swedish masseur with a snifter of cognac, and he was intensely miserable

The sports agent Myron Bolitar has left his agency in the capable hands of his now partner Esperanza and has run off with a lovely news presenter with an amazing derriere to some remote Caribbean isle where they enjoy themselves with sex and beach. Myron has run away after what happened in the last book, After three weeks of their sun filled fling Win comes to get Myron. Vacation is over as his partner Esperanza has been arrested for the murder of one of his clients.

When he returns he is told very solidly that he cannot contact his business partner / good personal friend and that she has requested this. All the evidence seems to point towards her as Myron did leave town for so many weeks. It is up to Myron and Win to untangle the murder and all its traces that make seemingly no sense at all. It also means that Myron has to find out why the client who a friend of his since college has been killed and find the motive for his murder. It also means that some secrets will come to the light which were best put away. We will learn what grief can make people do. We will learn that some of the less hetero cultures have some impressive muscle that know how to do this. And once again F.J. tries to buy the sports agency when he is not busy stealing clients.

A decent mystery with an ambiguous ending once again, one that will make grown ups ponder about right and wrong. Well written and great dialogue makes this a pleasure to read.

Cathy says

my first Myron Bolitar. I definitely came in in the middle of the series. In this outing, Myron has been sequestered in the Caribbean following something from a previous book that I'm not sure of. But while he is gone a fraternity brother from Duke is killed, a baseball player he managed. His former secretary/business partner is arrested. Good writing, witty repartee but hard to come in in the middle of a series. I'd like to try an earlier one.

Gary says

The 6th book in the Myron Bolitar series by Harlan Coben,
A very good read from one of my favourite writers.
Fast paced and at times humorous but always a great read.

Maureen DeLuca says

I love Myron!!! A 4 star book but adding another star 'just because' I hope this series never ends!!

Steven Belanger says

Still had a bad headcold, so I read this one after I'd read his newest, Home. Interesting, because like most long detective series, you both do, and do not, have to read the books in order. The mysteries themselves don't change with time, so that's not the problem, which is why you can read them out of order. The problem is what you know about the characters. In Home, for example, Terese and Zorra play a larger role than they do here, but in The Final Detail you meet them for the first time. Well, Zorra, anyway. When Bolitar found himself in a cross-dressing bar, I thought, This might be where he meets Zorra. (Female Zorro, get it?) And, indeed, it was. So there's a lot of that kind of thing here for me, though I still don't know who Brenda is/was.

The book itself was a very quick read, and a pleasure to read, though more for the characters than for the mystery. The problem was that we are led to believe that Esperanza, who is in jail for a murder she did not commit, would rather take the rap for that murder, and the prison sentence, than let Bolitar get involved and maybe learn something distasteful about himself and his past. To this end, she does not help him to help her, and barely speaks to him at all, except to tell him to get lost. This is, of course, ridiculous. I've got some very close friends, and I like to think that I'm a helluva good guy for them, as they are for me, but I'm not going to do a few decades in prison for them, for a murder I have not committed, just so I can protect them from learning perhaps an unsavory facet to their lives and personalities. That just ain't happenin', and I'm sure they would feel the same way about me. Totally understandable.

But there's no mystery if she tells him anything, so we have to just bite down on that bitter pill and move on.

That this book is a quick pleasure to read at all despite this is testimony to the odd way Coben can tell a quirky story with otherwise believable characters, including a 3rd person narrator who has opinions and breaks the fourth wall, and a psychotic financial specialist who cannot let himself be seen in a busy place (in *Home*) and yet who runs his own business in a busy office in a Manhattan highrise. Again, you have to shrug your shoulders and move on, but the cool thing here is that you'll want to, and you're okay doing so. Normally you can't do that with so many things breaking that suspension of disbelief, and yet you do, as many people have with Coben, as evidenced by his string of national bestsellers.

Very odd. Also strange was that Coben used the New York Yankees as a vehicle for one of his characters, who ends up being rather unsavory herself, and yet makes up a few ballclubs (like the New Jersey Dragons) for the mystery man to play minor league ball in. It's okay for a vengeful killer to own the Yankees, but not for a drunk young guy to get in a bad car accident while playing for a real minor league team? Did the Yankees give him the okay to use their name, but not the Yankees minor league teams? Strange. As a former bad ballplayer, I was just right on that. Don't know why.

At any rate, you'll see Bolitar emotionally regretting his recent escape and isolation, and how he is with his elderly parents really hit home with me. Who amongst us doesn't have regrets about how we behaved with our now-elderly or now-deceased parents? Coben handled this honestly and well.

Bolitar's ring of friends are too outlandish to take completely at face value. You'll have to just go with their strangeness and sometimes unrealness if you're going to finish this. You'll want to, as I did, but you'll wonder why and marvel at that strangeness, as I also did. But you'll do it anyway.

Matthew says

Bolitar is back, and this time it is baseball!

As always, a great combination of mystery and sarcastic humor. As the books are never all that long, Coben gives me a quick, fun reading fix every time I come back to the adventures of Myron and Win. If you are a fan of funny mystery series with outlandish characters and great twists, this is the series for you!

One thing about Coben, too, is that his mysteries are always so shocking in their revelation, you cannot discuss too much without spoilers. So, I will just say that this is a great entry in the series. If you liked the previous novels in the series, you will like this. If you like sports combined with your mystery, you must check the Bolitar series out! No, really, do it now!

Do not pass GO!

Do not collect \$200!

Phrynn says

Number 6 in the series and still going well! Poor Myron is in a bad place in this one and he has to fight back as his life unravels around him. Of course the amazing Win is there to help him. The mystery in this one is good. I absolutely failed to guess whodunnit largely because of all the false leads along the way. I also read

the whole thing in one day which always indicates a very good book!

Corey says

I just can't get enough of the Myron Bolitar series, it's like a very powerful magnet, and I'm the metal object trying to pull away from the magnet, HAHA!

The Final Detail picks up shortly after the conclusion of One False Move, Myron Bolitar is on a mini vacation on a tropical beach with a woman he hardly knows which is going just about perfectly, until unexpectedly Win arrives to tell him that Esperanza is in trouble. Esperanza has been accused of killing one of Myron's sports clients, and when Myron questions her about it, she isn't talking. So now Myron, along with Win, must clear Esperanza's name and solve another dark mystery.

The ending just blew me away, and in a way it gives you a sense of right and wrong.

Nancy Ellis says

What's not to like about Myron Bolitar?! Another terrific story, maybe not quite as good as the previous book, but still great, with a very convoluted plot and no shortage of funny lines. Always enjoyable!

Priyam Gopani says

'The Final Detail' will keep you awake at nights and wake you up early in the mornings. It will make you push out people from your house so you can be alone and just immerse yourself deep into the book without any interruptions. Experience says so.

The story goes as such: Myron has run away with Terese to some unknown place and nobody knows where, not even his best friends Win and Esperanza. Sometime soon, Win arrives (even though he really didn't know where Myron was, he somehow knew - go wonder!) and lets Myron know of the developments back home during his runaway stint. Esperanza, now his business partner, is arrested for the murder of Clu Haid. Clu is their client, fast on the road of self-destruction with drugs and women. There's two hundred thousand dollars missing from his account. There is a murder weapon and blood found in Myron and Esperanza's office and company car. Myron wants to do everything...anything...to help Esperanza but she strictly tells him to buzz off. As we all know Myron, this just makes him more adamant in staying on the case.

The story on the surface goes like this. But as you read the book, it takes you far into past and brings out connections that you could have never imagined. Very cleverly executed, each chapter has a twist, leaving you wanting more.

The characters are simply fascinating. Clu Haid is not alive in the book, and yet you know his character completely. Esperanza is ever so lovable. So dignified is she even in the prison orange jumpsuit. As I said - lovable. There's Clu Haid's wife Bonnie, there's Sophie Mayor, there's Frank Ache Jr. - all wonderfully sketched characters.

There's Cyndi. She likes to be called Big Cyndi. And boy-oh-boy, is she big! The paragraphs that Harlan Coben spends describing her physique, her looks, her clothes, her mannerisms are just so funny and totally worth it! It's a challenge to not laugh when it comes to Myron's internal dialogues when around Big Cyndi.

Hester Crimstein makes an appearance yet again. Snappy as she always is, you either hate her for being arrogant or you just love her for being intimidatingly clever.

There's Myron's parents, Ellen and Al. They are funny. Smart. Intelligent. Wise. Witty. A pain in Myron's ass. Well, they are Myron's parents. Period.

And then there's Myron and Win. As Espranza puts it "For you Myron, Win is a cold dose of reality, and Win, on the other hand, seems to view you as his humanity." One is not complete without the other. Both question the other's way of life but never judge. Myron can be such a tender-heart sometimes, that you need a Win to balance him. And Win can be so dark, that you need a Myron to show you hope.

When Coben keeps referring to Myron, Win and Esperanza as 'his best friend' and 'her best friend', it leaves such a childish impact - considering they are 30-something adults. But when you see the friendship and the innocence and the unconditional love for each other, you just end up wishing you too had such a 'best friend'.

The one chapter between Myron and his dad is very beautiful.

Somewhere in the book, Myron has one whole chapter dedicated to the thrills of baseball. I have no inclination towards baseball, but the passion with which the chapter is written, now makes me wonder. Sophie Mayor and Myron's conversation about hunting is thought-provoking.

Myron and Thrill's discussion on sexuality at Take A Guess deserves an applause.

The last 20 pages left me speechless. Such deep thoughts. Such introspection. Degrees of guilt. Degrees of innocence. Friendship. Love. Belongingness. These last twenty pages have overpowered the first 300-something pages of excellent writing.

I am totally in awe of Harlan Coben for creating characters that grow so close to you as if you have known them forever and whatever they do or feel, affects you too.

Suzanne says

I bought this book on iTunes while camping as I couldn't wait till I got home to read it. I did try the library. I spent \$13 on it!

Unfortunately this review is in the making one and a half months after the event as I was camping at the time. These are more my thoughts, as I have this book and #7 to review too long after reading.

Myron is such a complex character, and in this instalment we learn so much more about him. Being my favourite fictional character, I am very happy about this. Jessica was always a little 'off' in my opinion, and I was not surprised to see Myron fall for another so openly, and devastated for him that this also, was not meant to be.

Myron does a complete flip to what one would expect of him and runs away, spending time with yet another unexpected party. Win is left holding the fort as the business and Esperenza also seem to be falling apart.

Always *Harlan Coben's* characters are maddeningly likable and off the wall and this was a sense of amusement of course. Big Cyndi is cool, as are they all. I love how Win found Myron after his disappearance and asked no questions - well he never needs to really, they know each other so well. Myron deserves a happy ending, and I look forward to finding out how he goes.

.. but rolling was good. Myron liked to roll.

"You think the police are going to give a rat's ass?" "Not even one cheek"

He's such a superstar.

Olivermagnus says

The Final Detail is the sixth book of the popular Myron Bolitar series and begins with Myron and a beautiful woman on a small Caribbean island. After the emotional events that occurred in the last book, One False Move, Myron was unable to cope with his life or career as the owner of MB SportsReps, a Manhattan-based sports agency. His best friend and confidant, Win arrives by yacht to tell him that Esperanza Diaz, Myron's partner in MB SportsReps, has been arrested for murder.

She's alleged to have killed New York Yankees pitcher Clu Haid, Myron's first client. Myron and Haid were fraternity brothers years before at Duke University. Myron knows Esmeralda is innocent, despite the fact that the murder weapon was found in Myron's office. There's also the fact that Clu had withdrawn \$200,000 from his investment account and his blood has been found in Myron's car, the car that was being driven by Esperanza.

I really enjoy this series and it's turned into one of my favorites. While the book starts a bit slowly, it picks up it's pace after a few chapters and becomes a page turner. This is a series that continues to get better the further you go. It's got humor, and there's always a lot of wisecracking dialogue between the main characters. Win is an especially fascinating character who is handsome, wealthy, and a bit of a psycho. Esperanza takes a back seat in this book but Big Cyndi, her friend and former wrestling tag team partner, gets a chance to really shine. It's a great mystery and also explores how Myron feels about facing up to who you are and how you make the most of the rest of your life.

Julie says

The Final Detail by Harlan Coben is a 1999 Island Books publication.

This sixth installment picks up pretty much where the last book left off, with Myron nursing a broken heart and spirit, and finding comfort on a Caribbean Island. But, when Win locates him and shows up in person, Myron knows something terrible has happened. Sure enough, Esperanza has been arrested for the murder of one their clients, and needs Myron's help, even though she doesn't want it.

By now I've begun to recognize the formula Mr. Coben uses in this series, but it never fails to suck me in. The dire circumstances Esperanza faces immediately grabbed my attention, and from there, Coben took me on a wild, and often hilarious journey, before the tone turns very serious, as all the pieces begin to click into

place.

Naturally, there are emotional highs and lows, and some shocking twists along the way, and ends with the usual moral conundrum for Myron, who will close the case with more weighing on his conscience, adding to his emotional war wounds, but creating a deeper bond between him and the reader.

This is another entertaining installment in the Bolitar series, and I'm really having a lot of fun reading through the series.

4 stars

Vicky says

Really interesting and an easy read.
