Nightshade

 Michael Connelly

Michael Connelly’s latest book features a new character, Detective Stillwell of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Due to office politics, Stillwell has been assigned to Catalina Island off the coast of California. Not much happens there, but a poaching incident involving a bison and a woman’s body wrapped in a sail case and anchored at the bottom of the harbor livens things up for Stillwell.

Stillwell has to hand over the murder case to the detectives on the mainland, which rankles him as the detectives assigned to the case he cannot stand, and they are part of the reason he was assigned to Catalina. He decides to do a little sleuthing on his own concerning the murder of the woman found in the harbor. His investigation takes him to a private all-male sailing club where the murdered woman used to work. In the meantime, the poaching of the bison takes on a more sinister context involving the development of Catalina Island.

Another murder occurs, and then Stillwell’s girlfriend is kidnapped as Stillwell gets closer to the truth of both crimes. Stillwell makes an interesting detective dealing with contentious co-workers from the mainland and making the most of his career on the island, which he is steadily enjoying more.

For those who like the Harry Bosch series, you may find a worthy replacement in Detective Stillwell. Harry is growing older, and his health is declining, much to my displeasure, as he is one of my favorite detectives of all time.

Give Nightshade a try and see what you think. I believe more stories will follow featuring Detective Stillwell.