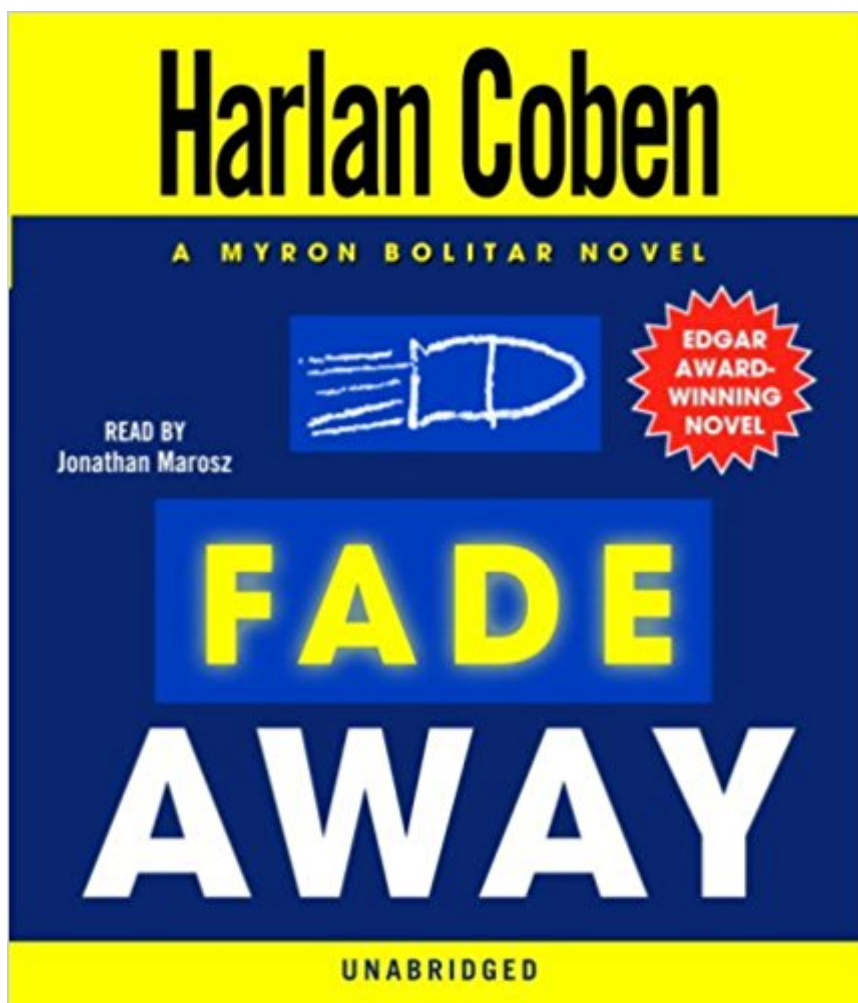


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Fade Away: A Myron Bolitar Novel (Myron Bolitar Mysteries (Audio))



Synopsis

The home was top-notch New Jersey suburban. The living room was Martha Stewart. The basement was Legos--and blood. For sports agent Myron Bolitar, the disappearance of a man he'd once competed against was bringing back memories--of the sport he and Greg Downing had both played and the woman they both loved. Now, among the stars, the wanna-bes, the gamblers and groupies, Myron is unraveling the strange, violent life of a sports hero gone wrong, and coming face-to-face with a past he can't relive, and a present he may not survive. In stories 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 appearance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Wisecracking sports agent Myron Bolitar returns with style in his third mystery (after Deal Breaker and Dropshot). This time, Myron is given a chance to return to professional basketball after being sidelined by a heartbreaking injury 10 years ago. No, the owner of the New Jersey Dragons doesn't want Myron to play. He wants him to use his skills as a onetime FBI undercover agent ("the worst kept secret in the continental United States") to find a missing player and former rival. The hunt for the absent player turns up an ugly web of complications that include a dead body, blackmail, a nasty custody suit, out-of-control gambling and thugs intent on revenge. Myron finds himself

dragged in deeper than expected as the case stirs unresolved issues from his own past. With the help of his lethally loyal pal Win, he untangles the mess with bravado and not a little personal pain. Coben writes a fast-moving narrative in a style witty enough to keep pace without straining too hard. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

"Brilliant! Perfect for fans of Sue Grafton, Robert B. Parker, and everyone else!" —Nancy Pickard, author of I.O.U. "Fast action, snappy dialogue...[An] enjoyable read." —Toronto Star
From the Paperback edition.

I am a 74 year old retired psychologist and an avid reader with a passion for Myron Bolitar the hero of a series written by Harlan Coben. *Fade Away*, like most of the Coben books that I have read has an interesting mystery tale this time revolving around a missing basketball star player. But the stars are for his characterizations. Even the minor characters have personalities. The dialogue is sharp and witty and even when wisecrack remarks are out of place in some situations, our somewhat neurotic anti-hero becomes even more endearing. The background basketball scenes are interesting and realistic. *Fade Away* misses the 5 stars by having an ending that appears suddenly, almost as if the author got a bit tired so he tied up all the ends quickly and went to have a cup of coffee. But all in all Harlan Coben's understanding of people and relationships within a fast moving plot made this a terrific and fun read.

I've been a Harlan Coben fan ever since a woman I met in Ecuador gave me one of his books to read. This story flows very well and keeps you guessing until nearly the end. The sexual content I noted is very mild (by today's standard), related to the lead character sleeping over at his girlfriend's place and a reference to one woman's "outstanding" anatomical feature, which was actually an important part of the story--but not in a sexual way. If you are an English "purist" like I am, you will find a couple of issues with the grammar, but nothing too onerous. All in all, the book was so enjoyable, I'm reading another book in the series and plan to read all of them.

But it's a fake comeback. Although he gets signed up with the New Jersey Dragons, management doesn't really want him to play. They want him to get friendly with the other players and find a missing star, Greg Downing. But Myron does get to play some basketball with the pros, and I found his reactions to being on the court again quite fascinating — the pre-play nerves,

the joy of playing well and scoring, the humiliation of playing badly. If you've read the earlier books you know that Myron was a major talent who dropped out of basketball after a devastating injury. This book is as much about Myron getting over the loss of his future as a pro as it is about solving a mystery. The mystery is tremendously complex and involves mobsters, hired thugs, blackmailers, fugitives from justice, feuding spouses, and spoiled superstars. Murder enters the picture too, and the cops are in a constant state of annoyance with Myron, whose investigation keeps overlapping with theirs. Whenever Myron gets nervous, and there's a lot to make him nervous in this book, his mouth goes into overdrive and out come the quips in a steady stream. His compulsive joking is generally pretty funny. Also amusing is the dialog between Myron and his Jewish mother. So this book is an interesting mix of wacky humor and heavy emotional stuff. I really enjoyed *Fade Away*, and I'm hooked on the series.

This is an extremely complicated murder mystery. It has obscure historical protest figures involved and that seems almost over the top. The detailed complexities are wearying.

Great mystery, suspense novel wrapped around a strong, funny character. Bonus, it's written around a character from the Northern New Jersey area, some places less than a mile from my house! I can picture the protagonist driving around my stomping grounds. Would love to see some of his novels become a series or movies done in humorous 'film noir' style. Still can't figure out who I'd like for the protagonist, but I can picture Owen Wilson playing "Win" and Rosie Perez as "Esperanza".

FADE AWAY is the third book in the Myron Bolitar series. It's not my favorite Harlen Coben book, but it's definitely up there. If I could, I'd give it 4 1/2 stars, docking 1/2 a star for sloppy editing. It's minor stuff, but throughout the book, the street numbers are sometimes written as numerals and at other times spelled out. For example, "Sixty-second Street" instead of "62nd St." I also wasn't too happy with the sexual promiscuity theme. The whole Thumper, Thumper-Myron, and Thumper-Win deal was unnecessary to the plot and sounded a bit preachy. Like many of the other books in the Myron Bolitar series, there's a lot on basketball and team sports in general. You kind of have to know that going in. I'm not a team-sports guy, but Coben is so passionate when he writes about basketball, I still really identify with the Myron Bolitar character. This book delves more heavily into the basketball than any other Mr. Coben has written. There are points where Myron is playing pro ball that are agonizing to read (in a good way). Myron lives in his own reality. A reality in which he can still play,

but the brutal truth is flailed upon him mercilessly, and by his peers, no less. Any reader can relate to this. How many of us see ourselves as we'd like to be instead of as we actually are? I loved how he drew me into believing as Myron did, then suddenly tore me away from fantasyland so that I felt the pain like it was happening to me. Well done. Plot intensive and witty as usual, this book is a page-turner like most of Mr. Coben's novels. Bits of information revealed, but the whole truth doesn't come out until the very end. Great ending. Great book. Great read. Period.

I am in love with the characters in this series. This book answers so much and the last few lines of the book are a perfect ending!

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