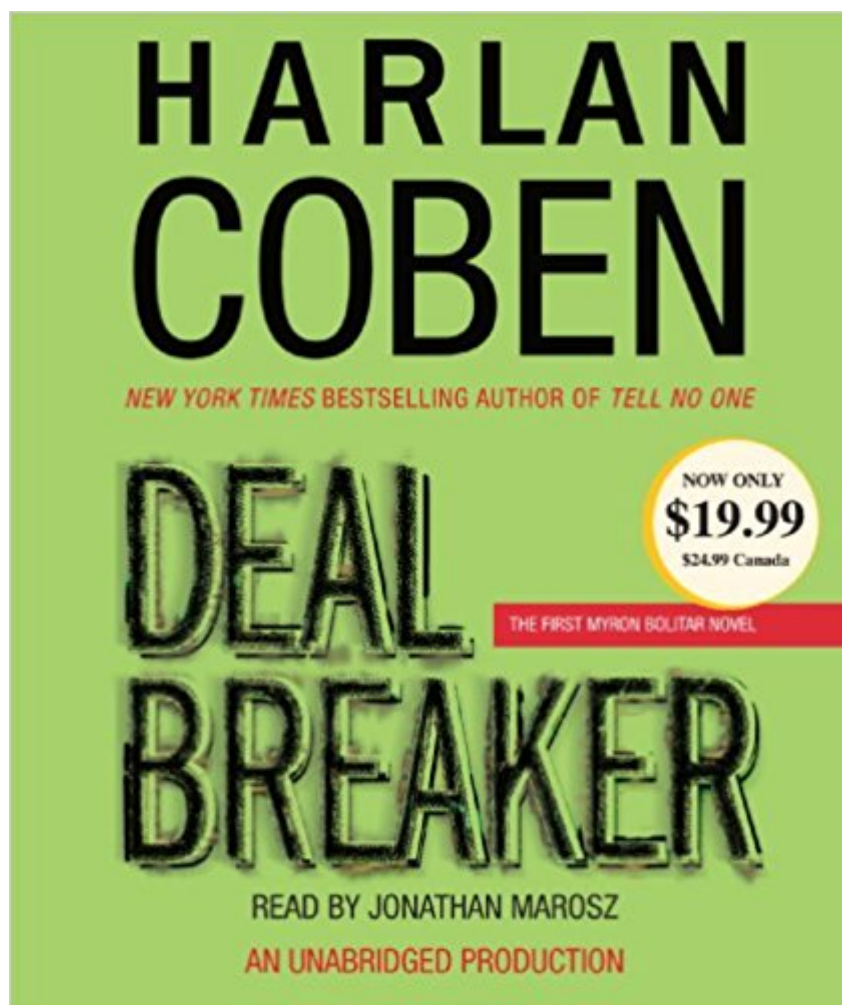


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Deal Breaker: The First Myron Bolitar Novel



Synopsis

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. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A mystery thriller with all the right stuff, intrigue, suspense, romance and humor...Coben keeps you in suspense from beginning to end."—The Newark Tribune "Like fellow wise-cracking P.I.'s Spenser and Elvis Cole, Myron Bolitar is great fun in the best hard-boiled tradition."—Houston Chronicle From the Paperback edition.

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--This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

So I'll start the review by saying I've already bought the next book in the series. This one was fun, with enough twists and complications to keep me turning the pages. (Well, swiping the screen, anyway...) The characters were predictable, behaving pretty much the way their caricatures would behave. And that's my only real complaint about the book. They were too simplistic, too predictable. The hero is the stereotyped wise-cracking private eye -- I mean "sports agent"-- and problems get solved thru convenient little accidents or nearly cliched verbal repartee. But hey, the plot was interesting throughout, it moved quickly, and the final twist caught me by surprise. (Usually I know whodunit early on -- this one got me.) So I'm looking forward to episode two, knowing it likely won't be a masterpiece, but should be an enjoyable escape.

This was a fun read and I had a hard time putting it down. This is the second Myron Bolitar story I have read this week. Read the first one on a return flight from Denver. I really like sarcastic characters and there is no shortage of that in either story. Cohen also holds the final twist close to the vest. With both stories I thought I had it figured out but there was enough misdirection to keep me unsure. Had it wrong both times. Off to find book three...

DEAL BREAKER is the first novel in the Myron Bolitar series, but I have to admit, I didn't read this book until recently. Which turns out to be a good thing, because had this been the first Harlan Coben novel I'd ever read, I'd have never picked up another book by the same author again. Why? Because of the ending. Chapter 46, to be exact, in which there's a dialog between the main protagonist, Myron, and his sidekick, Win; a chapter and a dialogue that exists for the sole purpose of explaining the plot. Many thriller and mystery writers have to resort to this kind of dialogue, but if handled skillfully, it does not wake the reader from the fictive dream. Whereas the rest of the book was very meticulously thought out and carefully, and, indeed, skillfully written, this particular chapter was sloppy, rushed, and completely unbelievable. Where was his editor in all this? Were it not for Chapter 46, I'd have given this book four stars. It was well written and well thought out. I'd have taken away a star because the plot was over-contrived, and even without the infamous, and bafflingly atrocious Chapter 46, the ending was still not handled the way I would have liked. Coben does a great job in his other books, believe me, and if I'm so tough on this particular novel, it's because I've grown accustomed to--okay, spoiled by--a much higher caliber of exposition. Authors are humans too. Even the best of them. Some books they write simply don't compare with the rest. Some are leagues

above, some lightyears below. They are the statistical outliers in the writer's long list of published works. This novel might be important to some because it is the first in the series. If you are one of those readers, by all means, start off with few expectations, then go ahead and read DEAL BREAKER. Otherwise, do yourself and the gifted Mr. Coben a favor--give this one a miss.

I got this because of all of the high reviews and I needed some light reading before bed after having finished a pretty heavy biography. The dialogue is contrived and not funny. Sorry, Harlan, it's just not. But it goes on and on and on. It's like the annoying guy that someone once told he was funny so he's constantly ripping off old one-liners. I know it sounds mean, but this book is just not good. Order a sample before buying and you'll see what I mean...

Even though it was written 20 years ago, it is one of my favorite books of all time. The beginning of the Myron Bolitar series is fast paced with well defined characters and just enough humor. If I was in deep trouble, I would call Myron first because he always brings Win. Later tater!

You know where this is going from the get-go but the read is an easy and entertaining one. A great lite read that takes you into the world of crime and sports. The lead characters become real and likable even when they are working all angles many of which are not exactly ethical. Perfect beach or poolside read.

From my old days of listening to "Yours truly, Johnny Dollar" on the radio to my current love affair with Nelson DeMille's John Corey I have a weakness for the snappy patter of smart aleck detectives. In Deal Breaker we meet Myron Bolitar for the first time. For me he fits the mold. I enjoyed the book but found there were far too many sub-characters and red herrings to entice me to read more of Harlan Coben but I hear his subsequent offerings in this series have gotten better. Not a bad book; I laughed a lot but as a mystery I was not sitting on the edge of my seat.

I write this review with sleepy eyes. I kept reading when I should have gone to bed. The writing is coherent, concise and very clever. I felt like I could start talking to Myron and Win. Well done.

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