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Harlan Coben

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This action-packed second book in international bestseller Harlan Coben's Mickey Bolitar young adult series follows Mickey as he continues to hunt for clues about the Abeona Shelter and the mysterious death of his father—all while trying to navigate the challenges of a new high school.

When tragedy strikes close to home, Mickey and his loyal new friends—sharp-witted Ema and the adorably charming Spoon—find themselves at the center of a terrifying mystery involving the shooting of their classmate Rachel. Now, not only does Mickey need to keep himself and his friends safe from the Butcher of Lodz, but he needs to figure out who shot Rachel—no matter what it takes.

Mickey Bolitar is as quick-witted and clever as his uncle Myron, but with danger just seconds away, it is going to take all of his determination and help from his friends to protect the people he loves, even if he does not know who—or what—he is protecting them from.

Seconds Away Details

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Author : Harlan Coben

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From Reader Review Seconds Away for online ebook

Hannah says

This book is called *Seconds Away* by Harlan Coben. The genre of this book is mystery and action. This is the second book in the series. The main characters in the book are Mickey, Ema (Emma) Spoon (Arthur), Rachel, Myron (Mickey's Uncle), and Bat Lady (Lizzy Sobek). There are also Troy, Buck and Chief Taylor, who is Troy's father who had problems with Mickey's uncle. Mickey is living with his uncle Myron. His dad died in a car crash in California. He was dead and wheeled by a paramedic. "I found something about your dad's paramedic that makes no sense" (Coben 47). His mom is in a rehabilitation center. He became friends with the outcasts Emma and Arthur. Mickey calls Arthur, Spoon because the first day they meet he offered Mickey his used spoon. Which led to the beginning of their friendship. Emma is called Ema because that is what the bullies of the school call her. She prefers to be called Ema over Emma. In the first book in the series they save a girl named Ashley who basically was Mickey's girlfriend. They are then asked to join the Abeona Shelter, an organization that takes kids out of bad homes. The ending of this book is a cliff hanger which keeps the readers wanting more. "And then I told her the truth" (Coben 349). It was a cliff hanger just like the first book, it leaves the reader wanting more. To keep the readers on the edge of their seats. Waiting, and wanting more. The characters were very well developed. They are described very well. They all are very true to their characteristics. Mickey and his Uncle Myron are both good at basketball and can relate to each other on that level but that is about it. "It was neutral territory, a no-fight zone, our own small land of truce" (Coben 4). This is really shown through out the book. "'Your ex-wife shot your daughter'" (Coben 57). There are other plot twisting that no one can expect. There are things involving Mickey, the Shelter and so much more. "I also knew that my father never told Myron about Abeona. There had to be a reason, right" (Coben 45). This book really shows what awkwardness between Mickey and Myron. There are things between Mickey and Myron that keep them from being close to each other. There are really well thought out plot twists. I didn't see any of them coming. "Now while there were lots of good things about this book. There is one thing that could be improved. There isn't a lot of describing the scenery or little things. "The local newspaper, the West Essex Tribune, was on the kitchen table" (Coben 4). Even if there isn't as much attention to detail as there could be it is still a well put together book. This book would be recommended for anyone into mystery. One of the themes in this book is to never give up no matter how bad it seems. Just to keep pushing forward. This book is about Mickey and him going deeper into what his world is really like. I would recommend this book. Worth the read

Eadie says

This is the 2nd book in the Mickey Bolitar series. I enjoyed this one better than the first. I was glad to see that Myron had a bigger part to play in the story and he and Mickey seem to be getting on better than the first book. There were a few surprising twists in the story that I really didn't see coming. I love the endings of these books as they keep you wanting more. Thank goodness I have the next book in my hands and will be starting it later tonight and hopefully Harlan Coben will keep writing more Mickey and Myron books as his readers are definitely hungry for them. If you haven't started reading the Myron Bolitar books, what are you waiting for? They are everything you ever wanted in a great mystery read: great characters, plots with lots of twists and turns with humor and wit.

4.5 stars

Ellie says

Seconds Away, the second and final book in Harlan Coben's Mickey Bolitar series, continues into Mickey's struggle of finding out who he truly is, and what he has been dragged into. Mickey Bolitar is a sophomore in high school, who's father died in a car accident and his mother is in rehab for overdose of drugs. Now, Mickey is living with his Uncle Myron, whom he does not favor in too many ways. As a child, Mickey had traveled around a lot with his parents, and has always had a passion for basketball. In the first book, Shelter, Mickey finds out that his parents were a part of an organization called the Aboena Shelter, which is a secret child rescuing group. When Mickey and his best friends, who have also been dragged into Aboena, Ema and Spoon, discover that the Aboena headquarters are located in the crazy Bat Lady's house down the street, everything is turned upside down. Just when he thought that he understood who the Bat Lady and the man with the sandy blond hair and freckles are, he talked to his history teacher for more information. What he learned from her completely destroyed any of their ideas. Mickey, being the stubborn boy he is, decides to pay another visit to the old Bat Lady, as she is known as all around town. What Mickey finds leads him into an even bigger mess than before. Mickey keeps getting himself deeper and deeper into this mess known as the Aboena Shelter, and he is not going stop until he gets answers, no matter the obstacles he will come across.

Overall, Seconds Away was an excellent read. I love the fact that Coben doesn't make long, drawn-out chapters. As a reader, that is one thing that I cannot stand -- Thirty paged chapters that don't end well. Harlan Coben uses quick, six paged chapters that end with cliff hangers, those types that keep you awake reading all night. What reader doesn't love those? He also describes his characters perfectly. I have a vivid image of each character in the story in my head because of his thorough, but not over-descriptive, character descriptions. Due to the fact that Seconds Away is the second book in the series, the characters were not developed very well, but that was not needed or expected for a sequel. The pace of Seconds Away varied. It started off quickly, which immediately sucked me in. Then, it slowed down for a few chapters, but before I knew it, it picked right back up and never stopped. There were at least three moments that I literally gasped out loud, because of something scary, shocking, or finally being put together. Seconds Away is a definite thriller, but the ending would make you think otherwise. With everything that went on, the ending disappointed me. I was expecting something big and exciting to keep up with the rest of the story, but it was kind of lame, in all honesty. The ending is nothing that should stop you from reading this story, though, especially if you have read the first book. So much of Shelter was made sense of, even the title. For anyone that enjoyed The Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson, this series is perfect for you. It combines the fast-paced chapters and plot with the whole 'hero teens' idea. Do not read Seconds Away without reading the first book, Shelter, or else you will not understand the characters or plot. All in all, Seconds Away by Harlan Coben is a satisfying, thrilling read that will keep you way on the edge of your seat, and I highly recommend it.

Robin says

Teenager Mickey Bolitar is trying to find out all that he can about the Abeona Shelter. A mysterious woman has told him that his father who died in a traffic accident is not really dead. Mickey and his friends Ema and Spoon start looking for information. But when their friend Rachel is wounded by a gunshot to the head and her mother is murdered, Mickey tries to figure out what exactly happened that fateful night.

This is the second book in the Mickey Bolitar series and I loved it. Mickey lives with his Uncle Myron and the trademark Bolitar humor is back in this book. The characters are well drawn, including Ema and Spoon.

The mystery is very interesting and I had a hard time putting this one down. The ending makes me want to pick up the next book immediately. My rating: 5 Stars.

Andrew says

4.5 Stars I enjoyed this a lot more than the first book in the Mickey Bolitar Series. Some of the humour you expect from the Myron Bolitar books was more evident in this book and you knew the characters better. I also think Myron had a bigger presence in this book and Mickey was not so against Myron in this book, so he became a much more likeable character. I really enjoyed the book and it set the book up for (the so far) last book in the series. If anything it has more a feel of a Trilogy than a series. The book was left on a bit of a cliffhanger so I intend to move straightaway onto book 3 where we might finally find out whether Mickey's father is dead or alive. I certainly wouldn't read this series before finishing book 10 in the Myron Bolitar Series and might be best read before book 11 : Home.

Eva says

Only realised after I started reading it that it is number 2 in a young adult series. Nowhere on the cover or inside did it state the second in a series. Quite annoyed at this as if I had of known I would have read the first one before the second one. Also not my genre and that wasn't written on the cover either. So disappointed.

Mara says

Cover Blurbs: Yes or No? Surprisingly yes! Despite the leering face, the cover is definitely exciting and promises a suspense-like story (which it is). That alone would make me pick it up, even if I knew nothing about the Mickey Bolitar books.

Characters: Mickey is the sort of “modern-guy” protagonist that I like. He’s sarcastic and smart, but he doesn’t have this flirtatious “I’m cool“ attitude. Rather, he’s always making fun of himself, especially when he’s done something idiotic and realizes it. Spoon is an odd little dude, and normally I don’t really care for the “endearing nerd side-kick” characters, but he’s okay. Ema, though, I always take some time to warm up to. I spent the majority of the book a little tired of her company, and wishing she would stop beating up on poor Rachel simply because she was a cheerleader. But towards the end of the book, I liked Ema well enough, and I know it will be the same way with the third book.

The Romance: There isn’t any.

Plot: The plot of *Shelter* was perhaps a bit more exciting because there was more mystery. We Readers didn’t know anything about the Abeona Shelter or Bat Lady. In *Seconds Away*, we do. But at the same time, there still is plenty of mystery in this one: the mystery of who shot Rachel and why, which in the end turns out not to be nearly as exciting as one might hope. But the Author also has a second plot underlying the main one, as a hint toward what the third book will be about, and that one is definitely more interesting. Plenty of questions are asked in *Seconds Away* that will make you excited for the next installment.

Believability: The Author portrays realistic injuries very well.

Writing Style: The writing is nothing special. It's very modern and kind of choppy at times; there's no beauty in it. But for the sort of book *Seconds Away* is, the writing works well enough for it. Lots of suspense and the like. Some of the fight scenes are a little hard to follow, and the one in the school feels horribly slow, because the Author spends too much time relating every single movement each person makes.

Content: None.

Conclusion: Normally, I don't like it when mysteries, especially ones that involve homicides, turn out to have an un-sinister explanation. I feel ripped off. Somehow, though, I was all right with it in this one. Maybe because I wasn't able to anticipate the explanation at all, and if some of the characters that were involved turned out to be actual villains, it just wouldn't have worked. There are some characters that the Reader can hate, but aren't destined to be actual bad guys. While I enjoyed aspects of *Shelter* more, *Seconds Away* was an excellent sequel, and a very good way to set things up for the next installment. I don't think fans will be disappointed.

Recommended Audience: Guy-read, sixteen-and-up. Fans of modern suspense will like it.

Brenda says

I really enjoyed this, the second in the Mickey Bolitar series.

With his friends Ema and Spoon, Mickey had very little time to relax and recuperate from his adventures in *Shelter*, as they were again thrust into high danger almost immediately when there was a murder mystery involving their friend Rachel. And with Spoon grounded for approximately 34 years (according to his parents!) sneaking out was a challenge!

With Rachel in danger, police Chief Taylor acting very strangely, Mickey nervous and excited about the upcoming basketball try-outs, things were happening fast. When Mickey's Uncle Myron appeared to be a body guard to the beautiful actress Angelica Wyatt, and Ema was suspicious of **that** activity for some reason, Mickey knew there was something odd going on...but he couldn't put his finger on it.

Mickey was determined to protect his friends at all costs, including putting himself in extreme peril. Would he find the killer, and can he help his friends before anyone else is hurt?

This follow-on novel from *Shelter* is extremely fast paced and thoroughly enjoyable. I will definitely read the next instalment in Mickey Bolitar's life.

Liviania says

Sometimes you gotta have faith in people. I really enjoyed *SHELTER* until the end revealed that the bad guy was a ninety-year-old Nazi. Turns out *SECONDS AWAY* starts with Mickey frustrated because that makes zero sense. But he doesn't have much time to ponder the bad-guy-who-doesn't-age before his friend Rachel gets shot in the head. (It's just a flesh wound!)

Mickey, Spoon, and Ema band back together in order to discover who tried to kill their friend. They're all dealing with fallout from the last book. Mickey's being watched by the cops, who dislike that he always seems to be at the center of trouble. Spoon is grounded for approximately forever. Okay, so Ema's not in trouble, but as she and Mickey get closer Mickey gets more suspicious of her secrets.

I do think Harlan Coben has a talent for writing teenagers. Mickey's often as worried about making the basketball team as he is about solving the various mysteries in his life. The teens continue to be constantly connected through their phones. And while Mickey, Spoon, and Ema have the makings of good investigators, their meddling often interferes with what the professionals are trying to do. They lack the experience and knowledge of the law needed to get criminals put behind bars. I disliked the stereotype of the belligerent police chief in *SHELTER*, but in *SECONDS AWAY* he eventually gets some nuance.

I did get the nagging sense during *SECONDS AWAY* that I should be reading Coben's adult Myron Bolitar mysteries to fill in a bit more of the backstory. But looking up blurbs for the Myron novels shows that the most recent, *LIVE WIRE*, introduced Mickey and his family and thus there probably isn't much information to be found there.

SECONDS AWAY is a terrific follow-up to *SHELTER*, though it doesn't further the series arc much. It is a decent thriller in and of itself. *SECONDS AWAY* is a good choice for those who want a book with a lot of action.

Linda says

This is book #2 of this fantastic series! Usually when an author of adult mysteries writes a young adult book it's a disaster. Not so here. I've never read an adult book by this author but I don't know how it could be any better.

In this book Mickey is struggling to understand what the Abeona Society, that his parents worked for all over the world, is really all about. He's chilled to see the Abeona butterfly symbol everywhere. What does this have to do with a WWII Nazi killer? Then his friend Rachel is shot. His friends, super smart Spoon and Ema, go into sleuth mode with him to figure out some very twisty mysteries. There are some twists and turns that left me breathless, and some bad guys I never want to meet. I must read book #3. I must "be there" when they exhume the body of Mickey's father!

Karen Blinn says

Here Coben presents the second in the Mickey Bolitar series, which takes place less than a week later in Mickey's life after the first book. This makes for a rather odd sensation for the reader, or so I thought. However, if Coben wants to keep the series focused on Mickey while he's in high school then it is a device that should serve him well. In this one, Mickey's friend Rachel's mother is murdered, and Rachel is injured by a bullet that grazes her skull. Mickey, Ema and Spoon set out to find who shot Rachel and her mother. In the midst of this Mickey has his tryout for the high school basketball team, and the Bat Lady's house burns down. Uncle Myron and Mickey continue to build their prickly relationship. As a middle-aged person, what struck me about the book was how much energy Mickey has and how invincible he believes he is. Even when horrible things happen to his closest friends, he cannot stop trying to find out answers while

paying no regard to his personal safety. In this, Coben does a good job of how teenagers seem to think. Teens will enjoy and so will fans of Myron Bolitar, who is doing his best to guide his teenage nephew.

Eric says

While the mystery is just as good as that of the first book, Shelter, I am deducting a star for the first twenty percent of this book recapping the first book ad nauseam.

It really becomes insulting to the reader -- even the young adult reader, assuming they cannot remember even the simplest facts from the first book, or in the case of the new reader, that they need to know *everything* that happened in the first book.

Harry says

For those who have read my reviews of the Myron Bolitar novels, Harlan Coben once again delivers a world-class series this time dealing with the nephew of Myron Bolitar. Unlike the Myron Bolitar series this series now includes the young adult audience as well as the mature audience Coben has been writing for. To my mind this is an incredible accomplishment: to engage both young adults as well as adults in equal fashion.

The writing style is slightly different: the prose has been excised and edited to remove anything superfluous so that we end up reading a tightly written novel that opens Coben's readers to the world of the teenager: his wants, needs and fears. The tension between Myron (who remains a background character in this series) is clearly evident. Mickey blames Myron for the woes and suffering of his mother, the former world class tennis star whom Myron once represented if not the death of his father, Myron's brother. And yet, on the basketball court, Mickey begins to understand his uncle and at least there a sort of camaraderie develops, born of mutual admiration.

I'm a huge fan of the Myron Bolitar series and now, an equally big fan of Mickey Bolitar...a boy who discovers what it means to be a man, what it means to learn the difference between right and wrong, a boy on the road to forgiveness.

If you've read this review, you've read all my reviews of the Mickey Bolitar series.

Moe says

This book was just okay. It is an overall interesting story, but many of the things that happened in the book are nothing like real life. By the way, Mickey is trying to solve a murder mystery while struggling with his own problems, and he gets arrested pretty much every night, with really no consequences. He's not a bad kid, and his parents must really trust he won't die with all this mischief he's getting into. He has like the chilliest uncle who lets him do whatever he wants, fine with all this trouble just because Mickey is solving and stopping crime. The author goes on awkward long paragraphs about how Mickey "Loves the way the ball sounds

when its being dribbled on the court." Mickey "Loves the sound of when the ball hits the backboard" and so on. It's rather awkward and it just made me really uncomfortable reading two pages of that crap, and It was a waist of time. Hopefully the last book will do the first two justice, or maybe I just can't stand the cheesy writing and the unrealistic plot.

Mordo says

Mickey's father was killed or so he thinks.His mother had to go to rehab.Mickey is currently living with his uncle.One day when was going to school and he encounters the "Bat Lady".He makes new friends at his school.

His girlfriend Ashley goes missing.He and his friends try to find Ashley.He learns about the Abeona Shelter.He finds out about "Bat Lady" and tells him things.

Warning: Spoilers and Discussion of essential plot elements follow.

The setting is present day.He lives in his uncle and dad's hometown.He goes to their old high school.The name of the highschool is Kasselton High school.

The protagonist is Mickey Bolitar.He is like the younger version of his uncle Myron.He is a talented athlete.He wants to play basketball like his uncle.He is a sophomore at a new school.

The antagonists are Troy, who is jock and bully.Chief Eddie, who is the father of Troy and an enemy of Myron.Brian Tart and Emilie Romero are two well known drug dealers with prior convictions for assault and armed robbery.Their nicknames were Scarface and Sunglasses.

Mickey sees a photo that Bat Lady claims is Butcher of Lodz.Rachel get shot later after a conversation with Mickey.Nora , her mom gets killed.He gets hauled to the police station to be questioned ."Shaved Head" ask Mickey if Rachel gave him some kind of package.

Myron takes Mickey to meet Angelica Wyhatt.Mickey blames Myron for everything bad that has happen to him.Ema gets a led on the picture.He talks to his ap history and learns a lot about Bat Lady.

He goes to the Bat Lady's house and notice that the mystery EMT was there.He calls Myron for backup.He sees an entire hallway of pictures of children she (Bat Lady) help escape.The entire house goes on fire and he escapes with his life.Then he trys to go after the man but was tackled and accused of doing the fire.

The history teacher stops him with a picture of the real Butcher of Lodz and its not the same guy as the one the Bat Lady showed him.Rachel tells him what she remembers from the shooting . He gets kicked off the team and gets bummed about it .He knows chief Taylor ratted him out .After a conversation with Ema ,he decides to follow her home and finds out its the same house where Myron brought him to meet Angelica Wyatt.He also finds out that she's her daughter and under stands why she hid it.The gang found the package, the bad guys followed them and shot spoon.Mickey,Rachel, and Emma find out that the gun used on spoon was not the same gun that killed Nora.

Mickey meets with Mr.Caldwell and tells Mickey the truth.They want him to keep quiet.He goes to the

memorial service for Dylan Shaykes. He sees Shaved Head and realizes that he was the kid that was rescued by the Bat Lady.

He is allowed to join the team. Mickey and Myron get ready to go to California the next day to see about his father body. He tells Rachel the truth.

Secondary characters are Dylan Shaykes A.K.A. Shaved Head. Spoon A.k.A. Authur. Ema A.K.A. Emma . Myron the uncle. Tyrell the teammate. Rachel a friend .

A memorable quote is

“But it was hard to reveal more. When you travel that much, you don’t get to make many (or really, any) friends. It was one of the reasons I wanted so much to settle down, why my father ultimately quit his job and moved us to California and signed me up for a real school and, well, died. So you see, what happened after we returned to the United States—my father’s death, my mother’s downward spiral—was my fault. No matter how you wanted to slice it, it was on me. “If you don’t want to tell me . . .,” Ema began. “No, I do.” Again she gave me the big eyes, the ones that seemed so focused, so understanding and kind. “The”
? Harlan Coben, Seconds Away

To me its a 5 star book because it keeps getting interesting. I like how the gang: Mickey, Spoon, and Ema all work together to try to solve their problems.

Joy says

When looking for an audio for a road trip the first author I thought of was my favorite, Mr. Harlan Coben. I had not heard of Seconds Away. And until just a few moments ago, found out while entering this title into GoodReads, is part of a series! Aggh! Had I known, I would have started with the first novel. But, with this frustration short-lived, I remind myself, "This is Harlan Coben!!!" My husband was involved in this read just as much as I was during our road trip.

We really enjoyed it. It was mysterious, suspenseful and we found ourselves making bets as to what twist and turn would happen next.

I think we'll go back and read the first Mickey Bolitar novel.

Evie says

Seconds Away is a great addition to Harlan Coben's first YA series featuring quick-witted and clever Mickey Bolitar (Myron Bolitar's nephew). Full of exciting twists and turns and thrilling new developments, it's a book that moves at a near break-neck speed and is sure to leave you stunned, breathless, maybe a tiny little bit confused, but very satisfied nevertheless. Thoroughly captivating, well-written and with an incredibly suspenseful plot line, it's one of the best thrillers I've read this summer, possibly this year.

"There are moments in your life that change everything.

I don't mean little things like, say, what cereal turns out to be your favorite or whether you get into any AP classes or what girl you fall in love with or where you wind up living for twenty years. I mean total change. One second your world is one thing, the next - snap! - it is completely altered. All the rules, all the things you accepted about reality, are turned around.

Like, up becomes down. Left becomes right.

Death becomes life."

Seconds Away picks up exactly where Shelter left off. The first Mickey Bolitar novel ended with a jaw-dropping cliffhanger that left me clamoring for the sequel. When I got my hands on a copy of the second book, I was extremely excited to finally be able to learn more about what happened during Mickey's meeting with the mysterious Bat Lady. I wanted to know if he learned something valuable about his father's death. If the Nazi officer in Bat Lady's picture (the evil Butcher of Lodz) was indeed the same person Mickey remembers as the paramedic who took his father's body away after the car crash. Why did the old lady say Mickey's dad was alive? Could he possibly be? And - most importantly - I wanted to learn more about Abeona Shelter and the role this mysterious organization played in it all. Just like Mickey, I needed some answers, and I needed them badly. And just like Mickey, instead of answers, I got more questions, more unbelievable plot turns, more mysteries to solve and lives to save. And while I can't say that I was satisfied with how little information the story line provided me with, I was most certainly well entertained by the thrilling sub-plot and happy to follow my favourite characters as they solved yet another bone-chilling case.

The plot line of Seconds Away follows two stories that - though different from each other - intertwine with one another, as they are both related to Abeona Shelter. The main plot line - the one involving Mickey's father and the seemingly immortal Butcher of Lodz - does not get resolved in this book. In fact, while we do get bits and pieces of information throughout the story, overall there isn't much progress to Mickey's investigation. At the same time, though lacking any major breakthroughs, the story is still thick with tension and even more action-packed than the first book.

The second story line - a sort of a sub-plot - is even better. Mickey's friend, Rachel, is attacked in her own house. She ends up in a hospital, with a gunshot wound to the head. Her mother, who claimed to have some incriminating information about Rachel's father, gets killed during the attack. There's an air of secrecy surrounding the events of that fatal night, Rachel's father seems to be hiding something. Mickey, together with his faithful side-kicks (Ema and Spoon), is determined to get to the bottom of it all. He'll do whatever it takes to protect Rachel and find out who is responsible for her mom's death.

I really enjoyed the plot of this novel. It was fun and gripping, and I couldn't bring myself to put the book down mid-point. At times the plot was so twisted and tangled up that I wanted to scream. I kept on thinking to myself: what on earth is going on here? There were moments when I would get a little bit confused, but that's mainly due to the fact that not much was explained. The mystery part plays a major role in this series, everything we read about - every single fact and detail we're presented with, every new character, flashback, or seemingly unrelated story - leads to uncovering the secret of Abeona Shelter and those who are determined to destroy it. And though we might have to wait a book or two to get to the big "aaaah, I get it now!", I'm pretty sure that when the moment comes to connect all the dots and get to the bottom of the story, the conclusion will knock our socks off.

I liked many things about this book, but I was especially excited to learn more about our main characters. Harlan Coben created a fabulous set of personalities, each of them distinct, vibrant, and essential to the plot. I was very happy to be reunited with them, especially with Spoon who is just so awesomely nerdy and

adorable (kind of reminds me of Sheldon from Big Bang Theory). *Seconds Away* provides us with a great insight into the characters' past. We learn more about Mickey, his hopes and fears, and his strained relationship with his uncle. But then we also learn more about Ema and Spoon. We get a really good look at their thoughts and feelings, and we even get some really eye-opening information about their family situation and how it shaped them to be who they are. I found it absolutely fascinating to read about, and it definitely made me love these characters even more.

While published and marketed as Young Adult reads, both *Shelter* and *Seconds Away* are - in my opinion - great mystery novels that can be enjoyed by Coben's fans of all ages. *Seconds Away* mixes mystery, action, and personal drama, adding a pinch of something vaguely supernatural (or so it seems). It's a spicy and flavourful cocktail, and one that will keep you frantically turning pages. With solid and exciting plot line, characters that are realistic and relatable, and premise that is just as moving as it is threatening, this brand new teen mystery makes for a very good read, infused with some powerful adrenaline shots.

Miriam Smith says

As we all know Harlan Coben writes fantastic adult thrillers and he doesn't disappoint either with his YA mysteries starring Myron Bolitar's nephew Mickey.

"*Seconds Away*" continues on from the previous book "*Shelter*" and although there was enough in the story to bring me up to speed I did feel as though I missed out on some important events and introduction of characters.

As usual Coben entices you into his books with quick, intriguing and exciting chapters and before you know it you are totally engrossed and can't stop reading. I managed to read this book in a full day since time allowed and I thoroughly enjoyed spending my day with Mickey Bolitar.

Being a Myron Bolitar fan already from Coben's main adult series I enjoyed the fact that Myron was also in this book albeit in a backseat role. I can see Mickey becoming a permanent fixture and as he grows I believe he'd develop into a more adult series with ease.

I loved the character 'Spoon', he really gave the book its light entertainment and humour and I thought the three characters - Mickey, Spoon and Ema - worked perfectly well together and I would happily follow them in another book too. The denouement was excellent and well plotted - all in all this was a brilliant mystery that was fun to follow and try to solve.

Remembering that this is a YA novel, there is limited violence and no language compared to full on adult thrillers and this makes for a much more relaxing and enjoyable read but still as suspenseful and captivating. I'd happily recommend "*Seconds Away*" but I would maybe advise where possible to read "*Shelter*" first.

4 stars

Minty McBunny says

I started reading this series because the adult Bolitar series was too over the top violent & I thought a YA series might remedy that while still being entertaining.

It is entertaining enough, but Coben does seem unable to resist crossing the plausibility line into *No Way Ever Could This Happen* territory.

That said, I was interested enough to keep reading, and will probably read the next book out of curiosity as to the outcome of all these mysteries.

Winston Smith says

Seconds Away by Harlan Coben is the second book in the Mickey Bolitar series. The first book, Shelter, and Seconds Away are centered around Mickey Bolitar and his friends Ema, Spoon, and Rachel, who find themselves tangled in the mystery involving the Abeona Shelter.

It was hard for me to get interested in Seconds Away, because Coben kept recapping everything that happened in the first book. Coben began the book by re-introducing almost all of the main characters: Rachel, Spoon, Ema, Uncle Myron, and Police Chief Taylor. Once Coben got past all of the recaps, Seconds Away really started to grab my attention and it kept me on the edge of my seat.

Coben grabs the reader's attention with Mickey finding out Rachel and her mother have been shot. Mickey is the new kid in town who seems to attract trouble. Rachel is the popular cheerleader at school, who connects with Mickey in the first book Shelter while trying to help a friend. Mickey befriends Ema and Spoon, two school outcasts, early on in Shelter, and they work together with Mickey and Rachel to solve the mystery. Mickey becomes suspicious of Rachel's father when he pulls a gun on Mickey while he is arguing with Rachel. Police Chief Taylor is always eager to reprimand/arrest Mickey and his friends. Mickey's Uncle Myron, who is an attorney, is always there to set Chief Taylor straight.

The mystery revolves around the issue of who shot Rachel's mother. The two major suspects are Scarface and his partner. The mystery is not believable because the suspects do not seem to be robbing Rachel's house, yet they break in and leave Rachel's mother dead, and Rachel with a gunshot wound to the head.

Another reason that makes the mystery not believable is Rachel's family lives in an upper class neighborhood and their house has a fence with a locked gate surrounding the property.

The clues that guide the three friends in both books always lead back to the Abeona Shelter. The symbol of the Abeona Shelter is a butterfly with markings that look like large eyes on the wings. The Abeona Shelter is an organization that rescues people in need. One of their main focuses is saving young girls who are living on the streets and who are forced to become strippers and prostitutes. In both books whenever Mickey and his friends do not know what to do next, the Abeona Shelter gives them a clue in the form of a butterfly to lead them to the next step.

The writer's writing style is interesting to readers of all ages. My mother found the books as attention-grabbing as I did. We both would strongly recommend that Shelter should be read before Seconds Away in order to understand the full back story. Both of the books are very engaging and neither of them ends as you would expect. Coben has a talent for creating endings so unexpected that they would never even cross the reader's mind.
