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# Seconds Away (Book Two): A Mickey Bolitar Novel



## Synopsis

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. From Kirkus Reviews: "Coben deftly weaves multiple plot threads into a compelling whole. An involving thriller that moves like lightning."

## Book Information

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Crime

## Customer Reviews

I do not understand the negative reviews for this novel. For those mature readers who expected another Myron Bolitar adventure, you should remember this is a young adult novel written about a 15 year old protagonist. It wasn't written for the Myron audience, but for the new and engaged Mickey readers. Lighten up. This is a great and suspenseful younger reader suspense and adventure romp. It is nuanced enough to hold the interest of a mature reader like myself, but I am not the target audience. I believe that such an action packed novel, with no adult language or sexuality, and very little actual violence is a lot like a new generational Nancy Drew. Can it stand as a timeless piece of fiction? Of course not. Can it engage and involve younger readers and encourage their pursuit of pleasure reading? It sure can! I am delighted to highly recommend this novel.

Mickey, along with his friends Spoon and Ema, is trying to find out who shot their friend Rachel. Mickey is also still dealing with questions about his father's recent death, his mother's hospitalization for drug addiction, and his new relationship with his Uncle Myron. Throw in his adjustment to a new school and trying out for the basketball team and you have an action-packed adventure. I liked the relationship between the kids. Spoon is quite a nerdy character but both Mickey and Ema accept him as he is. He is also very observant and comes up with some of the needed clues to solve the main mystery in this story. Unfortunately, he gets shot in this one and is still in serious condition at the end of the story. I need the next book to find out his fate. I also liked Mickey's relationship with Ema. He considers her his best friend despite the fact the he doesn't know anything about her home life or even if she has a home. I can understand his hurt feelings when he does learn some of Ema's secrets. The bigger mystery - all about the Abeona Shelter and what they are doing - is left unsolved in this story. Again, I hope the next book will answer some of those questions. Fans of mysteries with teen detectives will enjoy the Mickey Bolitar series and may even want to read some of the Myron Bolitar mysteries.

I enjoyed it! I've read all of the author's Myron Bolitar series and decided to try this series based on Myron's nephew Mickey. Although it is a series geared toward "Young Adults" or youth, I found it enjoyable and found the character Mickey Bolitar, quite endearing. Once again author Harlan Coben creates a page-turner with a great blend of character development, action and suspense.

This is another over the fence hit for Harlan Coben. Mickey is just like his uncle.....he can't stay away from danger. It just follows him around like a shadow. This second book is more exciting than

the first. The characters seem so real that I expect to see them walking down the street! There is never a dull moment from the turning of the first page. You feel drawn into the drama of Mickey dealing with his dad's death, mom's drug abuse, Uncle's unwanted presence, Bat Lady, Ball Head, and his pack of friends; Spoon and Ema. I couldn't put it down. This would be a great mini series or even television show. Kudos to Coben for introducing a line of characters that capture your interest and keep it. You want to be there solving mysteries with them, and can't wait for the next!

Seconds away is the sequel to Coben's Young Adult series featuring Myron Bolitar's 15 year old nephew, Mickey. Although there are attempts at re-caps throughout the book, the plot of Seconds Away begins days after the ridiculously complicated and far-fetched book, Shelter, and you really have no hope of keeping up unless you've read Shelter first. Sadly, Coben continues the trend with this series. Despite having read both books, I still can't really tell you what this plot is about - it's that complicated and confusing! What is really off-putting is that Coben keeps putting Mickey and his teenage friends in adult situations, where they have no place being and in no place where they should be taken seriously. Yet, once again, Mickey and his crew get into fights, face gunpoint and are apparently taken as a serious threat by seasoned adults. It feels like Coben realises how exceedingly improbable this all really is, and makes attempts to remedy that by having Mickey point out (as narrator) that they are just kids. Still, it doesn't slow the speed of unbelievable situations these kids find themselves in. Interspersed with this is, refreshingly, typical high school life. Mickey is as talented at basketball as his Uncle Myron, and is trying out for his school's team. His friends are cute high school cliché's and are reasonably likeable. These characters, and Mickey's relationship with his Myron, do keep the story ticking along. This series is nothing compared to the Myron Bolitar series, and those looking for it will be sorely disappointed. Coben's gift at writing does keep you turning the pages, but you need to seriously suspend any form of belief to finish - let alone enjoy - this book.

Among Harlan Coben's numerous books, my favorite have always been those that involve Myron Bolitar and his entourage. This second book in Coben's young adult series features Myron's nephew, Mickey. The writing is voiced for a young adult audience, which requires a bit of an adjustment for those readers who have become accustomed to the Coben/Bolitar voice. Still, the classic insouciance and self-deprecation comes through loud and clear. Coben returns to a familiar theme of children in need of rescuing, with Holocaust overtones, and offers up a story that is a true page turner. Mickey ends up in a series of dangerous situations, and very reluctantly reaches out to

his Uncle Myron, whom he has still not forgiven for the breach that existed between Mickey's father and Myron. The end of the book seems to promise more volumes in this series.

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