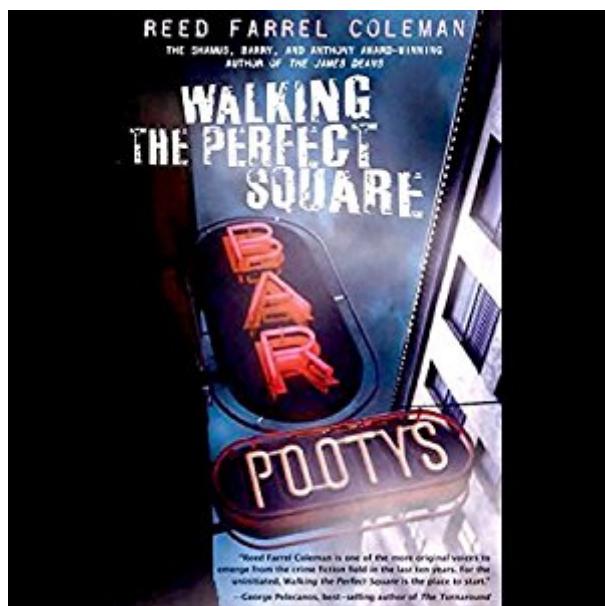


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# Walking The Perfect Square: A Moe Prager Mystery



## **Synopsis**

Recently retired due to a freak accident, NYPD officer Moe Prager is lost. In pain and without the job he loves, Moe reluctantly settles on the notion of going into the wine business with his brother. But when Patrick Mahoney, a suburban college student, vanishes off the streets of Manhattan, Prager's universe is turned upside down and his life changed forever. Hired by the student's desperate family, Moe plunges deep into the world of New York's punk underground, sex clubs, and biker bars. Politicians, journalists, and crooked cops seem hell-bent on stopping him in his tracks. Set on the gritty city streets of the late 1970s and the present day, Walking the Perfect Square is a unique mystery that delivers a compelling look at one person's efforts to find a man who was never really there and to protect his family from an unbearable truth. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours and 46 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: May 4, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B003KQMG2Q

Best Sellers Rank: #89 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #3842 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #4071 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Mystery > Hard-Boiled

## **Customer Reviews**

Though I've been a lifelong reader of mysteries, I was never a big fan of hardboiled detective stories. I loved the atmosphere, but found the characters lacking. Well, Reed Coleman has solved that problem and brought us a wonderful new detective, Moses "Moe" Prager. Forced out of the NYPD before he could get his detective's shield because of a blown knee, Prager has reluctantly gone into the wine business with his brother. When a close friend asks him to help with a missing persons case, it's Moe's chance to get away from retail for a bit and try his hand at a real case. Patrick Maloney was at a party when he walked outside and was never seen again. Though he

immediately dislikes Patrick's father, Moe decides to take the case, but right away thinks things aren't quite right. Why do the posters all over town show Patrick's prom photo, when his appearance has changed quite a bit since then? Why is Patrick's father so hostile? Is Patrick dead, or did he run away? Moe's narrative voice is exquisite. It has all the intrigue and weary sarcasm of Philip Marlowe, but rather than being a lone wolf, Moe is a family man -- he has a brother and sister and actual friends! He is wary but hasn't given up on the world quite yet. I like this character very much. Another element I truly enjoyed about this novel is that I've been reading Scandinavian thrillers for several years now, like many people drawn in by the Dragon Tattoo series, and one of the things I love about them is that there's often a more complex structure than just a chronological telling of the story, and Coleman pulls that off too. The story is told as it occurred in 1978 (and the times are magnificently captured in Moe's description of the Son of Sam summer, etc.) and it alternates with 1998, when Moe learns something about the case which will shift his interpretation of events and the people involved. Emotionally wrenching is the account of a relationship Moe forms in 1978 which is affected by the events of 1998; this is handled beautifully. This is an intriguing story masterfully told. If you like hardboiled detective stories, thrillers, Scandinavian procedurals, or just a good mystery, you will enjoy this book and the series. These are terrific detective stories set in Manhattan and Long Island, and Moe Prager is the perfect detective, the guy you'd want on your case -- a man interested in the truth and justice, even if he doesn't see it too often. The books in order are: Walking the Perfect Square, Redemption Street, The James Deans, Soul Patch, Empty Ever After, Innocent Monster, Hurt Machine and Onion Street.

If you like an unique, quirky detective, meet Moe, short for Moses. Moe Prager isn't your typical NYC cop - he's not Irish or Italian. Moe is Jewish - used to be an NYPD cop until he was injured on duty. He slipped on a carbon paper in the office in the 1970's when this crime takes place and has a bum knee. He tells us he joined the force on a dare. What's particularly enchanting about Moe is that he's smart and funny. He tells when he sees one potential pot-smoking student witness that he prays he's not studying to be pre-med. Or when a mohawked teen contemptuously drops an F\* bomb sneering that they'll all be dead in ten years, Moe shares this thought: This was all too profound for me. I decided to get to the point before anyone mentioned Camus or Nietzsche. If you like that good-natured sardonic humor, you should enjoy this series. This first book in the series Moe is asked to find a missing college student who vanishes at a party. Is foul-play involved or did the student have a reason to disappear? The student's father is well-connected and offers Moe a sweet deal if he'll take the case on. Upon investigation, the student doesn't seem to fit the clean-cut,

fresh-faced popular student government type the billboard posters of him proclaim. It's the late 1970's in New York City which brings its own drama and difficulties to the story. It's not as tolerant as the 2010 decade, that's for sure. Those readers who remember the 1970's will delight in how the author recreates it in this book. New York City in the 1970's is a fun backdrop for the story. This mystery novel doesn't have that first book awkwardness because it's not the author's first book. There are some dark themes in the book, but the detective's levity keeps the book from being too dark. I will definitely read another in the series, and recommend it to our library mystery book group as a monthly selection to read and discuss. 4.5 stars.

Great character development. Solid storyline. Realistic dialogue. Interesting, off-beat protagonist. This was my first Reed Coleman novel. I'm buying the second right now.

It was okay - not one that kept my attention throughout, but entertaining.

I was very pleasantly surprised by my first time reading this author. Moe Prager is a true detective readers detective.

I've enjoyed the three books I've read by this author. His writing style is engaging, and he does make you care about his protagonist and the surrounding characters. I'll definitely read more by him!

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