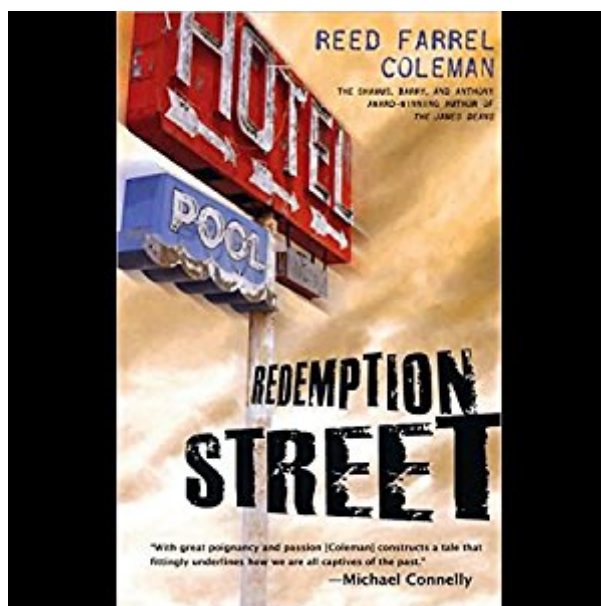


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Redemption Street: A Moe Prager Mystery



Synopsis

In Redemption Street, retired NYPD officer and newly minted PI Moe Prager travels up to a decaying Borscht Belt hotel to uncover the truth behind a decades-old fire that killed 17 people, including his high-school crush. Away from his beloved Brooklyn and out of his element, Moe finds that the locals aren't as eager to dredge up the painful past or to stir up the embers of that long-dead fire as he seems to be. In fact the cast of locals - a washed-up comedian, an ambitious politician, a corrupt cop, a pint-sized Hitler, the leader of a mysterious Jewish cult - seem rather intent on doing their level best to make certain the circumstances surrounding the fire stay buried along with the charred bodies of the dead. Moe Prager's gift, however, is coaxing secrets out of the silent past. But will the truth lead to Redemption Street or his own dead end?

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 13 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: May 4, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B003KQMFKY

Best Sellers Rank: #70 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism

#784 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Jewish

#2806 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism

Customer Reviews

I just recently started reading the Moe Prager series (in order) and am delighted with the depth and emotion that Mr. Coleman conveys in his writing. I also like the fact that the cases that he writes about are plausible. I will warn you that there is some character development that takes place in this book that I think will be necessary for the subsequent books (which might make the story seem to lag a bit at times if viewed as a stand-alone book). I would also recommend reading 'Walking the Perfect Square' first to understand the groundwork for some of the family dynamics. Overall, I found the book to be enjoyable and interesting and would highly recommend it.

Number 2 in the Moe Prager series. I have now read the first three and find this one to be very good

but not as good as either the first or the third. I would not read this one unless you read the first book *Walking the Perfect Square*.

Moe Prager is a hard-boiled ex-cop with a nose for trouble and a nose for the guilty. This is an excellent read from beginning to end and Reed Farrell Coleman kept me on the edge of my seat from the first page. This is loaded with suspense, culminating in an unspeakable terror that happened long ago. The murderer is revealed at just the right time. I highly recommend this to anyone who likes Edgar Award winning novels.

good

I have read many, many detective, adventure, spy novels in my 68 years. Very simply, this one is right at the top of my list of great ones. In my opinion, even better than the James Deans by the same author. If I could give it 6 stars, I would.

In order, I read: *James Deans*, *Walking the Perfect Square*, *Redemption Street*, *James Deans again* and *Soul Patch* (in process). Liked *Redemption Street* the best.

I'm really hooked on Coleman's writing. Rich characters and suspense all wrapped into one.

In the fifties and sixties there was no classier place to take your family on vacation (especially if you were a Jew Yorker), than the Mountains. Known as the Catskills to uninitiated, hotels like the Concord and Grossingers were the epitome of class and showing that you'd 'made it'. This was Atlantic City without the sand and salt water, where top shelf entertainers like Sinatra and Tony Bennett performed. But after jet travel became less expensive and Vegas became the 'place to be', going to the Mountains quickly became 'declassé'. By 1981 (when this book is set), only some of the old 'bungalow' colonies lived on mostly (kosher) catering to the 'orthodox' from Williamsburg and Borough Park. The secondary hotels were especially hit hard. Why drive two or three hours to go 'upstate' when you could be in Florida or the Bahamas in the same amount of time. Sun and sand and camps to keep the kids busy, in air-conditioned splendor. Moe Prager who had left the NYPD after ten years was now involved with his brother in a very successful 'Wine Store' on the upper Westside of Manhattan. Moe was married with a little girl he worshipped but he missed being on the street. How many times can you explain 'method champagnois' before you're ready to hit some one.

Though he has his PI license, he hasn't used it since he got it eighteen months ago after leaving the NYPD. A guy enters the store, who looks like he got lost in the sixties and asks Moe to track down 'who' killed his sister. He tells Moe that the sister was killed in a fire sixteen years ago (from some one falling asleep with a lit cigarette) while working as 'summer help' at one of the second level Mountain resorts. Moe finds out that his 'client', who looks like a refugee from Bellevue, actually is a refugee from Bellevue. Moe realizes how much he misses being on the streets'. Because of this and some other 'incidents' Moe decides to 'look into' the case so as to get away from the 'shop' for a while. Well, Coleman needs some reason to get Prager back out there playing detective and was a good way of starting the actual series. Coleman weaves an interesting story and for the most part it's plausible and helps to continue to fill out the main character and the supporting cast. I'm looking forward to the next book. Zeb Kantrowitz

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