



The Right Mistake: The Further Philosophical Investigations of Socrates Fortlow

By Walter Mosley

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Living in south central L.A., Socrates Fortlow is a sixty-year-old ex-convict still strong enough to kill men with his bare hands. Filled with profound guilt about his own crimes and disheartened by the chaos of the streets, Socrates calls together local people of all races and social stations and begins to conduct a Thinkers' Club, where all can discuss life's unanswerable questions.

Infiltrated by undercover cops and threatened by strain from within, the Thinkers' Club doesn't have it easy. But simply by debating racial authenticity, street justice, and the possibility of mutual understanding, Socrates and his unlikely crew actually begin to make a difference.

The Right Mistake is Walter Mosley at his most incisive. At once an affectionate and coruscating portrait of ghetto life, it abides the possibility of personal redemption and even, with great struggle, social change.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. A history of terrible violence including rape and murder followed by 27 years of incarceration in a prison with its own codified violence have helped shape Socrates Fortlow, previously featured in two short story collections, *Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned* (1997) and *Walkin' the Dog* (1999). The hardened ex-con living in South Central L.A. has been chiseled by his experiences into a hulking essence of wise humanity. An initial gathering of diverse characters (a Muslim, a Jew, a Buddhist, a gambler, a singer, a lawyer, two killers, etc.) brought together by Socrates becomes an agent of change. The weekly Thinkers' Meetings grow despite internal dissension and attempts at suppression and subversion by authorities. The talks forge bonds, lead to actions, spread beyond L.A. and take on a life of their own. In the face of gangs, drugs, poverty and racism, Mosley poses the deceptively simple question—What can I do?—and provides a powerful and moving answer. (Oct.)

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Review

"Seattle Times"

""The Right Mistake,." is a thought-provoking exploration of wickedness -- and what's to be done about it."

About the Author

Walter Mosley is the author of the acclaimed Easy Rawlins series of mysteries, including national bestsellers *Cinnamon Kiss*, *Little Scarlet*, and *Bad Boy Brawly Brown*; the Fearless Jones series, including *Fearless Jones*, *Fear Itself*, and *Fear of the Dark*; the novels *Blue Light* and *RL's Dream*; and two collections of stories featuring Socrates Fortlow, *Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned*, for which he received the Anisfield-Wolf Award, and *Walkin' the Dog*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

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Shawn McDonald:

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