



The Long Fall

Walter Mosley

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The widely praised *New York Times* bestseller, and Mosley's first new series since his acclaimed Easy Rawlins novels...

Leonid McGill is an ex-boxer and a hard drinker looking to clean up his act. He's an old-school P.I. working a New York City that's gotten a little too fancy all around him. But it's still full of dirty secrets, and as McGill unearths them, his commitment to the straight and narrow is going to be tested to the limit...

The Long Fall Details

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From Reader Review The Long Fall for online ebook

Will Byrnes says

Mosley introduces here PI Leonid McGill, a short, broad, and boxer-tough black fifty-something, who, after a back-story crisis, is trying to lighten the shade of his moral ambiguity, and is easy to root for. He has a few laughs tossing out character names like Norman Fell and Thom Watson. There are plenty of characters here, so be prepared to keep a scorecard. Mosley has moved from mid-twentieth-century LA to twenty-first-century New York City, but his work retains the atmosphere one expects. The 21st century and the east coast have the same sorts of gangsters, corrupt officials, colorful local characters, gorgeous women, soiled marriages, double-crosses and body counts as that other century and that warmer climate. Mosley updates with some recent technology to stay current. But the feel is the same, grimy, engaging, threatening and comfortable. You know what you are getting in a Walter Mosley mystery. And Mosley delivers, in spades.

Ed says

Walter Mosley's new P.I. series debuts with this title set in New York City in 2008. Leonid McGill is an ex-boxer with a family who has decided to turn over a new leaf. He's done with his rough-and-tumble past. Great minor characters, including "Hush" who reminds me of Mouse. Enjoyed the dream sequences and back story woven into the narrative. This series will get better in the subsequent titles.

Tony says

Mosley, Walter. THE LONG FALL. (2009). ****. Take Easy Rawlins, put him into New York, Change his name to Leonid McGill, and give him a new menacing sidekick named Hush, and you have the beginning of a new series by Mosley. Don't get me wrong, it's a good mystery, but a bit formulaic – especially in light of Mosley's previous novels. It reads more like the usual once-a-year Robert Parker novel than the classic Mosley of Rawlinis fame. That's not all bad, since Mosley was getting to be a bit of a bore with all of his street-wise philosophizing in several of his previous novels. McGill is an ex-boxer, ex-smoker, hard drinker and a reformed private eye who has turned from being on the crooked side of things to a little bit bent. He's married to a woman who tried to leave him once and failed. They have three children, only one of whom is his. He has a hot thing on the side with a woman named Aura. He finds himself in an enigma of a case. He has been asked to find out the whereabouts of four men by one of his clients – given only the nicknames they used when they were boys. When he learns their identity, they are systematically killed. McGill doesn't know by whom. He hates being used as a finger man by a killer, so he sets off to find out who really hired him and what this is all about. He eventually does so after almost being the victim of mayhem several times. The plot becomes unusually complicated at times, but eventually straightens itself out in the end, and we learn (surprise) that the prime mover is money and revenge. Recommended.

Thomas says

4.5 stars

This book just sucked me into the story. It is book one in the series. The blurb describes Leonid McGill as "a black man with a funny name." Leonid is a private eye in New York city with a reputation for being willing to do illegal things for the right price. He once framed a man for murder. But now he wants to go legit. He desperately needs money for his rent. Facing eviction, he agrees to find 4 men for a mysterious client. But then they start dying and he risks his life to find out why. He navigates his way through police, behind the scenes power brokers and criminals to get answers.

We also get glimpses of his complicated personal life. I read this library book in two days.

Diane says

One of the major joys of reading Walter Mosley's Easy Rawlins books is dropping oneself into the environment of the story, not just the place, but the people who inhabit the story's space. The first book of the new series, *The Long Fall*, is set in today's New York City, but most of the action takes place inside office buildings, apartments, and non-descript clubs. There is no feel for the streets of this huge city. The minor characters, with a couple of exceptions, aren't individualistic enough to tell them apart from one scene to another and often the action gets muddled.

Mosley develops enough back story for the main character, Leonid McGill, to give him some depth, but he really needs fleshing out. I suppose the difficulty in developing a new character for a series is that the reader needs to find out quite a bit about the character before the story can proceed. In this case, though, it would have been better to let the story go forward in such a way that everything readers need to know about Leonid McGill would come out eventually.

It will be interesting to see where Mosley takes this guy.

Jim Leffert says

When Walter Mosley tells a story, you can hear the voice of the first person narrator as you read. It's not all that different from hearing a live storyteller by a fireside. In this engaging hard-boiled noir story, Mosley introduces a new hero, Leonid McGill. Leonid is a reformed freelance criminal operative who is trying to lead a more aboveboard and moral life -- no more killing, and if possible, no more working for people who want others killed. Like Mosley's most famous protagonist, Easy Rollins, Leonid inhabits the terrain between legal and illegal (actually hanging out more often on the illegal side) and because he needs money and because it's his metier, he takes on difficult and dangerous cases. Easy and Leonid also share a jaundiced view of power structures and racial and class attitudes, informed by their experience as African-Americans. Unlike Easy Rollins, however, McGill is a contemporary character and a sophisticated New Yorker. Because he has to pay the rent, McGill takes on assignments that he would rather not do, and which bring with them moral problems and untold complications.

Mosley more than tips his cap to Raymond Chandler not just with the genre generally and even with the title (a la *The Long Goodbye*), but also in that the plot brings McGill into collision with hardened gangsters and encounters with an eccentric, wealthy and powerful family that includes a memorable daughter. McGill has more than a few family responsibilities and problems of his own to attend to, including a beloved stepson who resolves to commit murder. McGill is a character for our times, perhaps reflecting Mosley's view of America at the outset of the Obama administration—trying to leave behind a thuggish role in the world, yet

still having to deal constantly with dangerous characters and the after effects of past entanglements. Like America today, Leonid McGill is hoping to do so without compromising his better hopes—and trying to avoid financial insolvency in the process!

Sara says

Walter Mosley's *The Long Fall* is a mystery novel set in New York. The main character and narrator, Leonid, is perfection. A private investigator trying to balance what he believes is right and what is necessary to pay his rent and provide for his family. When he ignores his gut and takes the wrong case; inadvertently assisting in murder, he finds himself fighting for his life. Which is only the beginning of his problems, as his youngest son is also plotting a murder. There is a lot of back story and compelling family drama intermixed with the front burner story line—the book is obviously a series launch.

The plot is very intricate (sometimes predictable), but the structure and pace become consuming. I had some difficulty understanding how Leonid came up with some of his conclusions, but it could be that I was racing through the pages.

When I wasn't reading this book, I wanted to be reading this book. *The Long Fall* is as near a perfect mystery as I have read lately. I am looking forward to the next installment of the series.

Carl R. says

My last couple of books have been real work. Rewarding, but still work. So for a break, I turn to one of my favorites. I haven't visited Walter Mosley for almost two years--August, 2008--when I was unimpressed with *Blonde Faith*. For *The Long Fall*, Mosely has asked Easy Rawlins to take a walk and has moved to NYC, where he's taken up with Leonid McGill, a guy all us Mosley fans will be glad to meet.

Unlike Rawlins, McGill is a legitimate PI, not someone who falls into adventures out of a good heart and a quick wit. Leonid was named by a father who was fascinated by the Russian (and any other anti-authoritarian) Revolution. Besides the odd and distinctly un-African-American name, McGill's father left him with a collection of maxims which he quotes from time to time--"A person with no books is inconsequential... but a peasant who reads is a prince in waiting"--as he's sorting through the facts and personalities of a case.

McGill is also trying to go straight. He's never served time, but he's dealt with some brutal people and performed brutal and illegal deeds for them. He's a retired boxer, but in his early fifties, he still works out and packs a wallop in both fists. Finally, he's in a loveless marriage, staying there out of conscience and a need to do penance even though his true love awaits elsewhere.

Mosely was born and raised in L.A. and has written thousands of pages set there, but he seems somehow more at home in NYC. Maybe it's because I feel more at home in NYC, though I don't have any trouble with Raymond Chandler.

After all these meanderings, it's maybe time I got to the book. McGill's behind on his office rent and against

his better judgment takes a job he's afraid might drag him back into the ways he's trying to give up. It's nothing much on the surface. He's given four nicknames and is paid to deliver the real names and locations of the men involved. Trouble is, the nicknames are over twenty years old, and his instincts tell him that when he hands over the names, he's giving the four a death sentence. Of course, he's right, and he has to subsequently track down the killer to make up for his own indiscretion. He also has to straighten out a couple of subplots along the way.

It's easy and exciting reading, but Mosley is not simple. He slings many characters at us, but not a one is wasted. They all figure in either the action or the thematic scheme of the book. McGill is not simple either. He's a mass of contradictory feelings, actions, and motivations. It's a quick and juicy trip, *The Long Fall* is, but don't blink or you'll miss something that would have made your life a teensy bit better.

Brenda says

Mosley is that rare author who can be so incredibly subtle when he's right up in your face. I love his new character, Leonid (so named by a rabidly communist father), who is physically and mentally tough but oh so tender when it comes to his loved ones. I like that he has a dysfunctional marriage but a functional love life. Lots of dichotomies in this fast-moving story.

Alex says

I only came across Walter Mosley earlier this year, quickly reading and falling in love with the first couple of Easy Rawlins stories. *The Long Fall* is my first non Rawlins story I've read and I am equally impressed with the protagonist of this series: PI Leonid McGill.

This time the story is set in 2008 on the eve of the ascension of Barack Obama. It's New York and McGill has recently undergone an epiphany. He no longer wants to be the PI on call to shady characters whose employment leads invariably to McGill committing some acts of which he is ashamed.

In the background he has resigned himself to a loveless marriage, his wife only living with him because her affair with a wealthy stockbroker died a GFC-related death. Of his three children, only the eldest is actually his. The two younger ones were fathered by unmentioned men his wife had been unfaithful with. He clearly has a favourite: his youngest "son", Twilly. Their relationship is beautifully realised by a subplot that holds this book together.

The main plot is a Chandleresque, tangential one. It is almost as complicated as *The Big Sleep*:) That's not the only commonality between Mosley and Raymond Chandler. Both are concerned with the inner workings of their protagonists: how they are shaped by their environment in their motives and actions. This is dark noir of the highest order. While Mosley mines the issue of race, the black man as hero, he does this from a position of strength and not as a victim. McGill is a strong confident man, not above having to deal with the vagaries facing every middle aged man and doing it with honour and humility.

Maddy says

PROTAGONIST: Leonid McGill, PI

SETTING: New York

SERIES: #1 of 2

RATING: 4.5

Sometimes we readers are very unfair to our favorite authors. Once we really enjoy a series that they've written, we don't ever want them to change. We want them to keep writing that series forever, since it brings us so much pleasure. Such is the case for me with Walter Mosley. I loved the Easy Rawlins books, and I never could warm up to the other new series that he created. Well, that situation has just changed after my reading of **THE LONG FALL**. The book introduces New York PI Leonid McGill. Unlike the Rawlins series, it is set in contemporary times. And for the first time, I have been able to forget Easy and embrace a new direction from Mosley.

Leonid McGill is a private investigator who has been around the block more than a few times. An ex-boxer, he's managed to survive by doing whatever it takes to get the job done. As he's gotten older, he's decided he needs to play by the rules and not engage in some of the shady behaviors which defined his modus operandi earlier on. He used to have no trouble doing whatever the client wanted, such as framing people with false evidence. Now when he's faced with those situations, he's trying to do the right thing, which is much harder than you might expect. His intentions are put to the test by the demands of a mobster named "Tony the Suit", who expects him to find an accountant who will be dealt with by the mob.

McGill's main case involves finding four men who knew each other as boys; he only has their nicknames to work with. As he begins to uncover each of their whereabouts, they are murdered. That leads him to begin his own investigation, trying to understand what is connecting them in the present day and why they are being targeted for death. At the same time, he has discovered that his son is heading for big trouble and must find a way to defuse that situation.

McGill's attempts to lead a virtuous life apply not only to his profession but his personal relationships. He is in a loveless marriage with a woman who has been repeatedly unfaithful to him. They coexist in an uneasy truce; Katrina tries to do the "good wife" bit, but Leonid knows that will only last until she finds another partner to bed. They have three children, only one of whom has been fathered by Leonid. His favorite is Twill, not even his biological son but a person that Leonid admires and loves. Leonid constantly fights the temptation to be with the woman that he really loves, Aura Ullman, trying hard to maintain true to a self-imposed morality.

Mosley has created a great character in Leonid McGill, a flawed man who is trying hard to live an honorable life. There are other memorable characters in the book as well, such as Twill and Aura; however, there are far too many individuals overall, many of whom weren't significant to the narrative, which led to confusion on my part.

That being said, I highly recommend **THE LONG FALL**. I am very much looking forward to seeing Leonid again. The second book in the series, **KNOWN TO EVIL**, will be released in March 2010. I'm hoping that Leonid McGill will be around at least as long as Easy Rawlins.

David Anderson says

Walter Mosley is the master of mysteries. No one crafts a tight-knit a plot better than he does. No one creates unforgettable characters better than he does. The first in the Leonid McGill series is no exception; this series promises to be every bit as good as the Easy Rawlings series. Can you think of another hard-boiled detective who is practically a red-diaper baby, loves fine art and even owns a Paul Klee? LMAO! Highly recommended and a must-read, just like every thing else Mosley writes.

Karin says

I read this book as part of the Bookriot #readharder challenge for 2015 under the category "a book someone has recommended to you" (a friend from my book group).

This was an OK book. It's about a PI who thinks someone is out to kill him, as well as about his personal life. My main problem with the book is there's too many characters to keep straight, and the POV does sometimes flash back without much warning. So it was hard to keep track of what was going on. I also found some of the behaviors of characters unrealistic.

The guy who recommended it to me said he thought this book was just OK too but that the sequel is fantastic. I plan on reading the sequel in the upcoming months.

Jason says

30 or so pages into Mosley's first tale featuring Leonid McGill, Private Investigator, and I was preparing myself to be dissapointed. McGill obviously didn't share the same moral high ground as Mosley's most famous character but it was feeling a little like "Easy Rawlins on the East Coast." I was even preparing to forgive the author for the lack of originality. I knew he'd moved from the familiar surroundings of Los Angeles to New York himself. It wouldn't make sense for Easy to move back East as well but the kinds of stories that breathed to life around him could.

Thankfully, that ended up not to be the case. There are similarities, sure. Leonid has a bad relationship with the cops, has a son on the verge of becoming a man whom he worries deeply about, and he's even got a stone cold killer as a friend. By the end of The Long Fall, however, I had forgotten the reminders of characters and stories earlier in Mosley's career and accepted this new world on it's own merits.

McGill lives in a world that appears, at least on the surface, to be rapidly changing around him. Race in America has shrouded itself in new clothes. Technology provides him tools that make his job both easier and much harder. He tries desperately to see the big picture, or at least enough to prevent himself from doing something stupid that he can't come back from yet stupid lurks for him around every corner. He's been dirty all his life and only now, way too late in the game, is he trying to do enough right to not be so damn wrong all the time.

It's an enjoyable, fast read and a fine introduction to what will become a series of interesting mysteries

starring the black man with a Russian first name defiantly old school in a modern world. I should also note that spending time with Leonid McGill is what sent me in search of Elmore Leonard's kind of grit right after with Road Dogs. I've been doing a lot of alternating between the two crime fiction authors a lot this Summer and I don't really seeing that stopping as we move on into the Fall.

Debbie says

Four cheers for "The Long Fall". This was good reading.

As I stated in one my status updates..there is really not much that I didn't like about this book. It's been a good long time since I read a *Walter Mosley* book. It's been so long that I think I technically forgot about Walter. I'm embarrassed to say because I know he is a great and heralded writer and his books are good. I think to be honest I noticed one of his books on someone's "to read" list and it jarred my memory. I'm glad I was able to find this book, which is the first in the *Leonid McGill* series.

"Leonid McGill is a baaaad mutha...."

"Shut yo' mouth! "

"I'm talkin' bout Leonid!"

Hard nosed detective. Used to be boxer. Ex-fixer or arranger of certain not so legal "things" or "situations" shall we say. Leonid is that guy. If you need to know something, he's your man. Even the wise guys come to L.T. to "locate" people. L.T. knows people that know people that rule the city and even quiet as it's kept.. the world. He's got connections. But that, was the old L.T. The current Leonid, has a broken heart, a cheating wife, a mistress, three kids he loves, two are illegitimate and one is not.. He's trying to go straight. Cold turkey. He's not in the life any more. Or so he thinks. In walks trouble in the form of a case within a case and two on the side. No matter how he tries, he's tested time and again and destined for *The Long Fall*

This mystery is full of twists and turns. Leonid is cool character. He's human but even when he's showing his flaws, it just gives you more respect for the depth of his character. Leonid is a guy that no matter if he happens to do bad or good, you just want to like him and root for him. There are various characters and suspects that make appearances throughout the story who play pieces to the ever changing puzzle that is this great book. The author does a great job of fitting these together and most times reminding you of their relationship to the mystery. My only gripe would be that out of 80% reminders.. at times the connection was so necessary to the whole, I needed 100% reminders. But maybe that was just me and the fact that I wasn't able to read this all in one sitting, which is totally possible if one has the time. I also liked the flow of the book. I appreciate when there are paragraph breaks or chapter ends to signify the change in location, direction, information etc. I didn't expect the ending and that was great! Not predictable at all. I know this is the skill of such a great author. I had no idea. I couldn't have guessed the outcome if I wanted to and to be honest, I didn't. I enjoyed myself just taking my time reading this book.

I'm giving this book a 4 1/2 because I'm taking off the slightest bit for the need to remind me of how those characters fit into the mystery and also for just a few back story rambles that I wasn't quite sure about. They were only maybe half page rambles and they may be necessary for future books since this is a series but I'm a slight stickler in regards to "rambling". I also rarely give more than a 5 score to any book that doesn't have any profound quotes that I can take away, so this is good and solid for a mystery. One of the best I've read in a very long time.

Yes I recommend to those who love mystery. There's a little thriller in there so, yes those readers as well. Also, African American genre readers or maybe readers of African American authors. But to everyone... this

gets **Deb's This Is Good Stuff** seal of approval. Yes, I look forward to checking out the rest of the books in the series. I can't wait!

Debbi Mack says

Have I ever mentioned that Walter Mosley is one of my very favorite authors (crime fiction and otherwise) in the whole world? So when THE LONG FALL came out, needless to say I felt compelled to try this first book in his new Leonid McGill series set in New York City, instead of the LA of Easy Rawlins and Paris Minton.

Among the many things I enjoyed about this book was meeting Leonid McGill, another one of Mosley's flawed, but likable, protagonists, haunted by terrible (as in criminal) things he's done in the past, but seeking redemption and something approaching a semi-normal life. Which is to say that, like a lot of Mosley protagonists, McGill just wants to be left alone to live his life and do his work without worrying that cops or thugs (interchangeable characters in his novels, at times) aren't breaking his door down.

That can't happen, of course. Because then there'd be no story to tell. So, it all starts when McGill is hired to find four men. He's been given their "street names"--now he has to hunt down the real people and tell his client, Ambrose Thurman, who and where they are. However, things get a bit weird when the four men start, um, being killed.

And Thurman isn't exactly who he seems to be, either.

Meanwhile, Mosley gets two other plot threads going. (He's good at that.) One involves finding A Mann (yeah, that's his name--A Mann) for a disreputable fellow from McGill's checkered past. The other involves a potentially tragic plan McGill's step-son has conceived.

Two of Mosley's favorite themes and plot devices come into play here. One is the racially-mixed--and, in this case, slightly dysfunctional--family. Katrina (interesting name choice) is McGill's Scandinavian wife. McGill is black, as Mosley's protags always are. She and McGill seem to have fallen out of love, but hang together nonetheless. Not entirely clear why. Inertia? Katrina's great cooking? (McGill brings up her cooking a lot.)

Anyway, there's a lot of stuff going on here. And a WHOLE lot of characters to keep track of. Each time I picked up the book, I'd find myself asking, "Okay, where is McGill now? Albany or New York? And who's the guy he's talking to? And what's going on?"

That brings me to the second Mosley trademark: the deadly sidekick. He makes an appearance in this book as the character Hush. Great name. Great character, too. Hush is to McGill as Mouse is to Easy Rawlins or Fearless is to Paris Minton. (You Mosley readers know what I'm saying.) He does what needs to be done, helping to resolve matters without McGill getting his hands terribly dirty in the process.

As usual, Mosley's writing is so good, I find myself almost green with envy at his word choices. . . .

The entire review is on my blog, The Book Grrl, at <http://thebookgrrl.blogspot.com/2009/...>

Mahoghani 23 says

LT McGill is a man of the streets. He reminds me so much of another character of Walter Mosley; Easy Rawlins. LT has the intellect of a man that can decipher the BS from what's real. In this story, he's seeking 4 young men for a man named Ambrose Thurman. Unfortunately for Ambrose, LT is trying to change his evil ways and do things on the straight and narrow no matter what.

Where this story will lead will you through so many tricks and turns. Every direction LT turns, he's attacked. From Ambrose to Willie Sanders to Thomas Moore. If he doesn't pay attention he will lose his life.

His home life isn't much better. His wife left him for another man only to return after the guy skipped the country to avoid prosecution. She's expecting him to forgive her and go on as if nothing ever happened. They supposedly have three kids together but LT knows two of them are not his. However, he loves them unconditionally.

Whether you like the story or not, you will agree that LT is a man that is just trying to do the job he's hired to do without putting himself in harms way and that is being a private investigator.

Kemper says

You think you got problems? Just be glad you're not Leonid McGill. Poor McGill is a private detective who used to specialize in blackmail and framing people to let others off the hook, but now he's trying to turn over a new leaf and only take legitimate jobs. Staying on the straight and narrow isn't easy. What should have been a simple case of finding four men takes a nasty turn when they start turning up dead. Leonid was used to find the guys so they could be murdered, and he looks to be next on the list. Plus, a dangerous gangster is demanding the McGill find his former accountant, and he's probably got more than just auditing his finances in mind.

If his work life wasn't bad enough, McGill is trapped in a loveless marriage to an unfaithful wife and the secret DNA tests he had run show that two of the three kids he's raising are not his own. One of his children is a budding hustler who is about to commit his first major crime, and McGill has to find a way to stop the young man. Plus, the police are constantly hassling him because of his old criminal ways.

Mosley has a knack for creating interesting main characters like Easy Rawlins and Socrates Fortlow, and Leonid McGill is a great addition to his roster. The son of a dedicated communist and a former boxer, McGill is trying to move forward and be a better man, but his past is constantly coming back to bite him in the ass. He seems stuck between two worlds in both his work and his family life with his refusal to leave his wife despite their issues.

Mosley also adds another good entry into the Bad Ass Criminal Friend category. He had already created one all-star with Mouse, Easy Rawlins' murderous friend, and here comes up with another entertaining BACF with Hush, a quiet hit man who owes McGill a favor.

I liked the premise with McGill's shady past, and his efforts to clean up his act. Mosley's writing is as solid

as ever, and he's come up with a unique twist on the detective story here.

Lars Guthrie says

Wow. Mosley takes what he's expected to do—write a hard-boiled detective novel—and adds in some of what he's learned doing what he is not expected to do (in books like 'Blue Light,' or more recently, 'The Man in the Basement') to inaugurate a smashing new series.

Mosley moves the setting from Los Angeles in the past to Manhattan in the present day. No more 'Easy' or 'Fearless,' or even 'Socrates,' this guy is named Leonid, son of Tolstoy, brother to Nikita. His 'slave name,' as he says, is McGill. That should tell you that Leonid McGill, a real private eye who hasn't just happened into the work, is complicated and full of contradictions, much more so than Mosley's previous protagonists.

Leonid McGill has done terrible things and wants to atone. He's married to a stunning Scandinavian blonde, but it's a marriage without love. He's got three kids, but the only one who is his legitimately doesn't speak to him. The son he cares most about is not his by blood, but Leonid is determined to rescue him from a dangerous scheme that will likely involve murder. At the same time, McGill has been hired to work on two different missing persons' cases where finding who's missing may bring them a whole lot of hurt. Given his ties to the underworld, Leonid McGill can't back out. One more complication in Leonid's complicated life: he's seriously smitten with his lovely building manager, who is charged with evicting him, but he refuses to spend the night with her because he's married.

Whew. A lot of intriguing strands to keep track of. Leonid McGill is an intriguing fellow, a hard-drinking, deceptively small and heavy black man, whose big boxer's hands can administer some painful rebukes when he's confronted, something that happens quite frequently. And whose philosopher's mind can reel off one pithy observation after another.

One of my favorites: "Librarians are wonderful people, partly because they are, on the whole, unaware of how dangerous knowledge is. Karl Marx upended the political landscape of the twentieth century sitting at a library table. Still, modern librarians are more afraid of ignorance than the potential devastation that knowledge can bring."

You gotta love that, and you gotta love this superlative crime novel.

Jason Koivu says

A new series from Walter Mosley, huzzah!

Well, it's new to me. Mosley's been at the Leonid McGill series since 2009, about 20 years after he started putting out his popular Easy Rawlins books. But instead of rewinding time back to the race-war years of 1960s Los Angeles, *The Long Fall* takes us on a literary drive-by of a contemporary day-in-the-life of a New York City private investigator.

Leonid McGill, a 50 year old bruiser with a brain, must weave together a number of loose threads, some more deadly and personal than a PI's typical fare. Mosley's got a winning new character in McGill, putting

together a nuanced portrait of a middle-aged man with a past, who's still left wondering what his future holds, if anything.

When I see someone review a book on Goodreads and they give it a three star rating, I'm seldom inspired to read that book. However, this sort of three star rating truly means what this website claims it to be, an I "liked it" kind of book. *The Long Fall* is not groundbreaking, but it is compelling. You want to keep reading. There's never a moment when you're afraid your brain might explode. Instead, it delivers the occasional and pleasurable pulse quickening moment - a common pace for Mosley's work it seems - which drives the plot along to the satisfying end.
