



## From Square One: A Meditation, with Digressions, on Crosswords (Paperback)

By Dean Olsher

SIMON SCHUSTER, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Public radio personality Dean Olsher explores the fascinating history, lore, and addictive appeal of crosswords in this clever and entertaining narrative--featuring the construction of an actual puzzle by professional puzzle writer Francis Heaney. Filled with lively, original reporting, From Square One is a captivating and in-depth exploration of the puzzle world. It delves into the psychology--even the meta- physics--of crosswords. Olsher assesses the claim that solving crosswords helps prevent Alzheimer s and discovers, in fact, that the drive to fill in empty spaces is more likely a mental illness than a cure. Puzzle obsession, while it can be a light- hearted metaphor, can also be indicative of actual addictive behavior. Skeptical of the widely reported claim that more than fifty million Americans do crossword puzzles on a regular basis, longtime crossword enthusiast Dean Olsher does his own research and finds that the estimate is conservative. Along the way, Olsher looks into the origins and traditions of this popular pastime, which made its debut in a New York newspaper in 1913. And, he revives the quest of musical theater legend Stephen Sondheim--who composed...



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