



Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity

Shelly Matthews

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity

Shelly Matthews

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity Shelly Matthews
Recent studies have examined martyrdom as a means of constructing Christian identity, but until now none has focused on Stephen, the first Christian martyr. For the author of Luke-Acts, the stoning of Stephen-- even more than the death of Jesus-- underscores the perfidy of non-believing Jews, the extravagant mercy of Christians, and the inevitable rift that will develop between these two social groups. Stephen's dying prayer that his persecutors be forgiven--the prayer for which he is hailed in Christian tradition as the "perfect martyr"-- plays a crucial role in drawing an unprecedented distinction between Jewish and early Christian identities.

Shelly Matthews deftly situates Stephen's story within the emerging discourse of early Christian martyrdom. Though Stephen is widely acknowledged to be an actual historical figure, Matthews points to his name, his manner of death, and to other signs that his martyrdom was ideally suited to the rhetorical purposes of Acts and its author, Luke: to uphold Roman views of security and respectability, to show non-believing Jews to disadvantage, and to convey that Christianity was an exceptionally merciful religion. By drawing parallels between Acts and stories of the martyrdom of James, the brother of Jesus, Matthews challenges the coherent canonical narrative of Acts and questions common assumptions about the historicity of Stephen's martyrdom. She also offers a radical new reading of Stephen's last prayer, showing the complex and sometimes violent effects of its modern interpretations.

Perfect Martyr illuminates the Stephen story as never before, offering a deeply nuanced picture of violence, solidarity, and resistance among Jews and early Christians, a key to understanding the early development of a non-Jewish Christian identity, and an innovative reframing of one of the most significant stories in the Bible.

 [Download Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Con ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the C ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity Shelly Matthews

From reader reviews:

Larry Munoz:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Karen Martinez:

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one among it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Kaye Hensley:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still question Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't evaluate book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

Kyra Franson:

Is it you who having spare time then spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity can be the solution, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

**Download and Read Online Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen
and the Construction of Christian Identity Shelly Matthews
#GSDZJWIUOE9**

Read Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews for online ebook

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews books to read online.

Online Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews ebook PDF download

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews Doc

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews Mobipocket

Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity by Shelly Matthews EPub