

A Blurb on *UNFINISHED LIVES* by Stephen V. Sprinkle

Stephen Sprinkle's *Unfinished Lives* is a riveting book that reads like a mystery novel, captivates like the 11:00 news, and impacts us as if we were personally acquainted with each LGBTQ murder victim it portrays. With all the drama, suspense, and graphic detail of reality television, it ushers us into the private worlds of fourteen hapless souls who are variously targeted, stalked, tortured, and slain simply because they are different. Sprinkle's painstaking investigation and meticulous attention to detail reveal that these precious and promising individuals were so much more than crime statistics or unfamiliar faces on an obituary page—they were real-life human beings who could have easily been our biological brothers, sisters, or children.

It is nothing short of remarkable that Sprinkle chronicles these lives, and the disturbing circumstances surrounding their premature interruption, in such a creative, engaging, and mesmerizing fashion. The unsettling nature of his subject matter means that, from an emotional standpoint, this book is sometimes unavoidably difficult to read. But the author's literary prowess, coupled with his uncanny ability to weave a plethora of intricate particulars into a seamlessly coherent narrative, means that once opened, this book is almost impossible to close. He beckons us into these "unfinished lives" as increasingly outraged eyewitnesses to an eerily predictable pattern of violent and vicious executions. Furthermore, he exposes not only the bigotry and brutality of their ruthless executioners, but also the unholy alliance between their killers and organized religion.

While the lives of these victims will never be "finished," their voices cry out to the "yet living" from every page of this book that we must prevent anyone else from suffering their terrible fate. Regardless of our position on the issue of full LGBTQ equality, they demand that, after reading the stories of their senseless persecution, none of us must ever again be a party to such madness. It is my hope that the publication of this book will so transform our hearts and our minds that another book like it will never have to be written. But I thank God that Stephen V. Sprinkle had the courage and the compassion to write this one.

—Dennis W. Wiley, Ph.D.