



# 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:**

#### **Carson McDonald:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity book is readable by means of you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer of Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity content conveys thinking easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different in the form of it. So , do you continue to thinking Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity is not loveable to be your top record reading book?

#### **Robert Haas:**

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write for their book. One of them is this Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity.

#### **Mario Curtin:**

Would you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't evaluate book by its include may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside look likes. Maybe you answer can be Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity why because the fantastic cover that make you consider in regards to the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside as well as cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

#### **Stacie Schneider:**

That guide can make you to feel relax. This specific book Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity was multi-colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Perfect Martyr: The Stoning of Stephen and the Construction of Christian Identity has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel

happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading in which.

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

**#AZNUS6T0Y4D**

## **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**