

## **An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank**

**Elaine M. Alphin**

**Reviewed by: Adnan Mustafa, 18**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)

In April 1913, Mary Phagan (13) was brutally murdered in Atlanta, Georgia. Her death, which occurred at her workplace, shocked the Atlanta community and prompted a major criminal investigation. Of which, Leo Frank—a northern industrialist and Jew—became the number one suspect. This book gives us all the details on the notorious case, from before Phagan's unfortunate death on Confederate Memorial Day, to the awaited Frank trial in July and beyond.

This book was certainly an interesting read. In the first chapter or two, I was already invested in discovering who murdered Mary Phagan and whether Leo Frank was the true perpetrator. The remainder of the book did not disappoint in satisfying my curiosity. I think that, like myself, other readers will form their own opinion on the case, and either be upset or pleased with the outcome; but regardless, be intrigued from start to finish.

If you are a fan of more imaginative and engaging books, *An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank* may not be for you. However, if you are interested in crime and/or true stories, you will find this non-fiction book enjoyable. You will especially enjoy it if you prefer shorter reads. Though, be aware that you will read about prejudice against Jews and northerners, and Mary being raped and beaten to death. Other than that, there are no content awareness factors to note. I recommend this book to those ages 16 and up.

Throughout the book, you will observe that Leo Frank's case was largely influenced by prejudice against him. This created what many would call an unfair trial for Frank and made him a victim of injustice. From this, it is essential to take away the damage that prejudice can cause to one another, and likewise with racism and discrimination. This book should dissuade its readers from these evils, and remind them to be fair, honest, and open-minded.

Borrow the book! It is more of a one-time read.

### **Recommended Titles:**

In Cold Blood, Truman Capote

Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee, Casey Cep

Columbine, Dave Cullen

The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town, John Grisham