

Endorsements of *A Quilt for David* by Steven Reigns

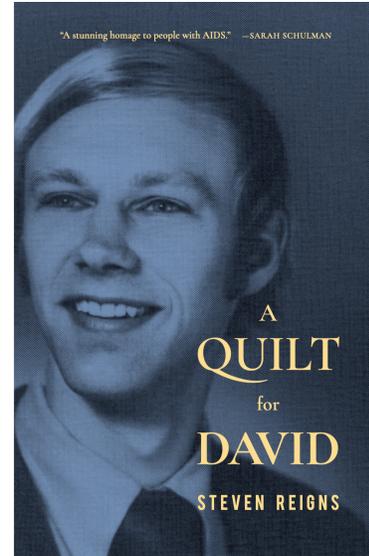
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“A stunning homage to people with AIDS, *A Quilt for David* is a wrenching investigation into the experience of ‘the innocent victim’: white straight women and closeted white men who had to retain an inhumane level of capitulation to patriarchy in order to be eligible for compassion. By unearthing the Kimberly Bergalis case from its tomb of ash, Reigns reminds us how easy the path of false accusation remains, in this case at the expense of gay men with AIDS subjected to diabolical cruelties and exploitation. He reveals again how hypocrisy coheres communities by relying on clichés of femininity, bias, and repressive loyalties.” —**Sarah Schulman**, author of *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993*

“One of the most important roles a poet can assume is that of emotional historian. Reigns certainly understands that notion in this necessary and genre-bending book which powerfully blends poetry, non-fiction, and reportage to reexamine the maligned story of David Acer and arrive at a truer truth with compelling honesty and the utmost compassion for all.”
—**Richard Blanco**, 2013 Presidential Inaugural Poet, author of *How to Love a Country*

“This writing is energetic, alive, and uncensored. Reigns has studied poetry and deeply researched a moment in history. *A Quilt for David* breaks traditional structure and cracks open what we thought we knew of the past. Through poetry and prose we glean a deep understanding of a life misunderstood and mischaracterized. Reigns goes to the mat to find out what really happened, and with his expert pacing we’re right there with him.” —**Natalie Goldberg**, author of *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*

“Reigns lifts David Acer thirty years after his death to show the naked cost of violent, unexamined public opinion around the catastrophe of AIDS. This poetry masterfully documents the tangle of hatred and lies haunting a generation of survivors. I am often grateful for what poems give to me, most especially the ones in this book.” —**CA Conrad**, author of *AMANDA PARADISE: Resurrect Extinct Vibration*

“Told in short, occasionally haiku-like entries, Reigns has done what literature should: put the reader into the mind, the suffering, of another human being. Stripped down to its essentials, this retelling of one man’s terrible suffering is also a portrait of those who used him as a scapegoat because, given the times, they could.” —**Andrew Holleran**, author of *Chronicle of a Plague, Revisited: AIDS and Its Aftermath*

“Like so many of us born into the age of AIDS, who saw the epidemic from childhood and grew up in a world forever changed by loss, Reigns is searching for the stories of our ancestors. This work is a glorious attempt to regain one of those stories; to ask what we do in the name of fear, and who is deemed worthy of our compassion. A brave and harrowing recalculation of humanity in an inhuman time.” —**Justin Elizabeth Sayre**, author of *From Gay to Z: A Queer Compendium*

“Much too long, suffering has been part of our collective queer legacy. We weather the storm of insult to character and seemingly irreconcilable injustice in tandem with the hope that the arc of time will bend towards justice; our time is now. *A Quilt for David* is a posthumous journal of vindication.”—**Brontez Purnell**, author of *100 Boyfriends*

"*A Quilt for David* is a work that hybridizes politics, queer social history, AIDS, and the latent puritanism of this country into a page-turner that, despite a 30-year gap, feels fully, sickeningly contemporary. This book doesn't only echo our current political moment, it dissects it as it's being born."—**Jonathan D. Katz**, activist, art historian, educator, and writer

Bookseller Endorsements:

"With compassion and perspicacity, *A Quilt for David* unflinchingly investigates a sordid episode in homophobic history. The result is at once enraging, enlightening, shocking, and heartbreaking. Even people who don't read poetry or history will find it compelling."—**Alvin Orloff**, **Dog Eared Books, San Francisco, CA**

"*A Quilt for David* is amazing and so powerful, filled with anger and frustration and sadness about: the heartbreak of HIV before treatments were available; the hatred that HIV-positive people endured and still do; the hatred that gay people endured and still do; the pressure to remain closeted; the way someone's life can be ruined through gossip and baseless accusations; and the price of shame and secrets. It's a real reminder of the very real struggles that gay and HIV-positive people continue to go through, and the toll that all this suffering and death takes on family, friends, and society. It's an unforgettable book."—**Marie Cloutier**, **Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY**

"Steven Reigns compassionately and with deftness tells the story of David Acer and those whose stories will forever be tied with his. *A Quilt For David* is a powerful, poetic, and heartwrenching examination of the dark ages of the AIDS crisis told with penetrating insight."—**Casey Mensing**, **The Last Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA**