



An Unfinished Life

by Mark Spragg

After escaping the last in a long string of abusive boyfriends, Jean Gilkyson and her ten-year-old daughter Griff travel to Ishawooa, Wyoming, where Jean's estranged father-in-law, Einar, still blames her for the death of his son. Though Einar isn't glad to see either of them, Griff falls in love with his sprawling ranch and quiet way of life, as she finally gets to know the grandfather she had lost for so many years.

Vintage Contemporaries, 2005
257 pages
ISBN 978-1400076147

BookSense Top Ten
Mountains and Plains Book Award finalist
Mountains & Plains Independent bestseller
Pacific Northwest Independent bestseller

Adapted for screen - Miramax 2005
director: Lasse Hallström
starring: Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman,
and Jennifer Lopez.

reviews:

"Spragg unfolds a marvelous, unsentimental family story."
New York Times

"An Unfinished Life has dysfunction and menace and clipped, big-sky dialogue that's as spare as Cormac McCarthy's work but with a warmer patina."
USA Today

"This novel is a knockout...Speaks volumes about the abiding bonds of family and friends."
Newsday

"*An Unfinished Life* is a beautifully crafted piece of fiction."
The Boston Globe

"Intensely human, gently probing the longing for family and the inescapable grip of the past. Swiftly shifting perspectives lend the novel a pleasing dynamism."
Christian Science Monitor

"In this evocative novel, Spragg [uses] the grandeur of the American landscape to provide a haunting backdrop for the drama of his characters' lives."
Daily Mail (UK)

from readers:

"The craftsmanship that allowed Einar, Griff, Mitch and all of the other characters to speak to my students also developed a landscape they could see, smell, and hear."
S. Roach on *Amazon*, 2008

"A wonderful book. It's kind without being in the least sappy. The style is plain, simple, and seems effortless."
Blaire on *GoodReads*, 2012

"The raw humanity of each character and the compassion with which their stories are unfolded is stunning, and there is much to be learned from the tenderness and forgiveness."
words917 on *Powells*, 2009

"There is the rich beauty of Spragg's honed writing style, there is the engaging relationship between two grizzled cowboys and a young girl who renews their faith in life, but mostly there is the Faulkneresque way in which the author has captured and retained the details of his own life growing up in Wyoming."
David Abrams on *Epinions*, 2004

"Mark Spragg manages to do more with a sentence than most writers do with a chapter."
AZ_Jim on *Barnes and Noble*, 2011

for more information, please visit:
www.markspragg.com

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