



Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

By Bryan Stevenson

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#1 New York Times Bestseller | Named one of the Best Books of the Year by *The New York Times* • *The Washington Post* • *The Boston Globe* • *The Seattle Times* • *Esquire* • *Time*

Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Nonfiction | **Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction** | **Winner of a Books for a Better Life Award** | **Finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize** | **Finalist for the Kirkus Reviews Prize** | **An American Library Association Notable Book**

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Praise for *Just Mercy*

“Every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways more so . . . a searing indictment of American criminal justice and a stirring testament to the salvation that fighting for the vulnerable sometimes yields.”—**David Cole, *The New York Review of Books***

“Searing, moving . . . Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's

Mandela.”—**Nicholas Kristof**, *The New York Times*

“You don’t have to read too long to start cheering for this man. . . . The message of this book . . . is that evil can be overcome, a difference can be made. *Just Mercy* will make you upset and it will make you hopeful.”—**Ted Conover**, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Inspiring . . . a work of style, substance and clarity . . . Stevenson is not only a great lawyer, he’s also a gifted writer and storyteller.”—*The Washington Post*

“As deeply moving, poignant and powerful a book as has been, and maybe ever can be, written about the death penalty.”—*The Financial Times*

“Brilliant.”—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Not since Atticus Finch has a fearless and committed lawyer made such a difference in the American South. Though larger than life, Atticus exists only in fiction. Bryan Stevenson, however, is very much alive and doing God’s work fighting for the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless, the vulnerable, the outcast, and those with no hope. *Just Mercy* is his inspiring and powerful story.”—**John Grisham**

“Bryan Stevenson is one of my personal heroes, perhaps the most inspiring and influential crusader for justice alive today, and *Just Mercy* is extraordinary. The stories told within these pages hold the potential to transform what we think we mean when we talk about justice.”—**Michelle Alexander**, author of *The New Jim Crow*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

What is the one commonality of people on death row? If the victim is white, the perpetrator is 11 times more likely to be condemned to die than if the victim is black. When Stevenson was a 23-year-old Harvard law student, he started an internship in Georgia where his first assignment was to deliver a message to a man living on death row. This assignment became his calling: representing the innocent, the inadequately defended, the children, the domestic abuse survivors, the mentally ill—the imprisoned. This fast-paced book reads like a John Grisham novel. One of those profiled, Walter, was at a barbecue with over 100 people at the time of the murder he was accused of, and spent more than six years on death row. The stories include those of children, teens, and adults who have been in the system since they were teens. This is a title for the many young adults who have a parent or loved one in the prison system and the many others who are interested in social justice, the law, and the death penalty. A standout choice.—Amy Cheney, Alameda County Library, Juvenile Hall, CA

Review

“*Just Mercy* is every bit as moving as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways more so. . . . [It] demonstrates, as powerfully as any book on criminal justice that I’ve ever read, the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States. But at the same time that [Bryan] Stevenson tells an utterly damning story of deep-seated and widespread injustice, he also recounts instances of human compassion, understanding, mercy, and justice that offer hope. . . . *Just Mercy* is a remarkable amalgam, at once a searing indictment of American criminal justice and a stirring testament to the salvation that fighting for the vulnerable sometimes yields.”—David Cole, *The New York Review of Books*

“A searing, moving and infuriating memoir . . . Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America’s Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are impoverished, black or both. . . . Injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of our own generation to inequity today. We need to wake up. And that is why we need a Mandela in this country.”—Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*

“Unfairness in the justice system is a major theme of our age. . . . This book brings new life to the story by placing it in two affecting contexts: [Bryan] Stevenson’s life work and the deep strain of racial injustice in American life. . . . You don’t have to read too long to start cheering for this man. Against tremendous odds, Stevenson has worked to free scores of people from wrongful or excessive punishment, arguing five times before the Supreme Court. . . . The book extols not his nobility but that of the cause, and reads like a call to action for all that remains to be done. . . . The message of the book, hammered home by dramatic examples of one man’s refusal to sit quietly and countenance horror, is that evil can be overcome, a difference can be made. *Just Mercy* will make you upset and it will make you hopeful. . . . Stevenson has been angry about [the criminal justice system] for years, and we are all the better for it.”—Ted Conover, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Inspiring . . . a work of style, substance and clarity . . . Stevenson is not only a great lawyer, he’s also a gifted writer and storyteller.”—*The Washington Post*

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“A distinguished NYU law professor and MacArthur grant recipient offers the compelling story of the legal practice he founded to protect the rights of people on the margins of American society. . . . Emotionally profound, necessary reading.”—**Kirkus Reviews (starred review, Kirkus Prize Finalist)**

“A passionate account of the ways our nation thwarts justice and inhumanely punishes the poor and disadvantaged.”—**Booklist (starred review)**

“From the frontlines of social justice comes one of the most urgent voices of our era. Bryan Stevenson is a real-life, modern-day Atticus Finch who, through his work in redeeming innocent people condemned to death, has sought to redeem the country itself. This is a book of great power and courage. It is inspiring and suspenseful—a revelation.”—**Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns***

“Words such as *important* and *compelling* may have lost their force through overuse, but reading this book will restore their meaning, along with one’s hopes for humanity.”—**Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Mountains Beyond Mountains***

“Bryan Stevenson is America’s young Nelson Mandela, a brilliant lawyer fighting with courage and conviction to guarantee justice for all. *Just Mercy* should be read by people of conscience in every civilized country in the world to discover what happens when revenge and retribution replace justice and mercy. It is as gripping to read as any legal thriller, and what hangs in the balance is nothing less than the soul of a great nation.”—**Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

About the Author

Bryan Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, and a professor of law at New York University Law School. He has won relief for dozens of condemned prisoners, argued five times before the Supreme Court, and won national acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of color. He has received numerous awards, including the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jena Alvarez:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that reserve

has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.

Bobby Tremblay:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get previous to. The Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption giving you an additional experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

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