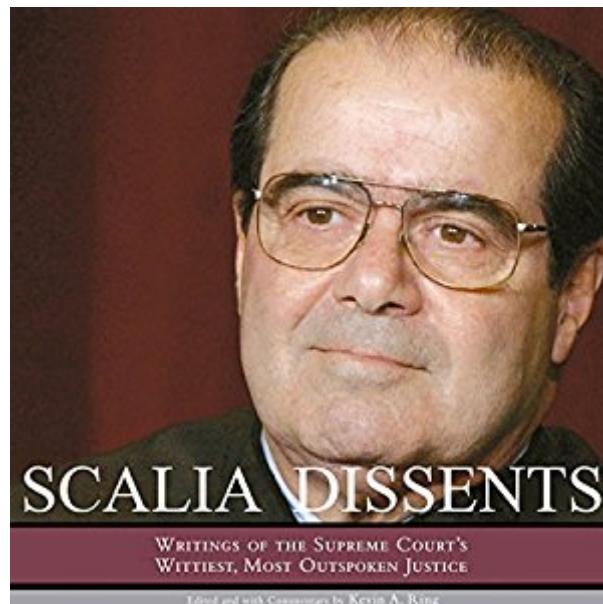


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Scalia Dissents: Writings Of The Supreme Court's Wittiest, Most Outspoken Justice



Synopsis

Brilliant. Colorful. Visionary. Tenacious. Witty. Since his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1986, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia has been described as all of these things, and for good reason. He is perhaps the best-known justice on the Supreme Court today and certainly the most controversial. Yet most Americans have probably not read even one of his several hundred Supreme Court opinions. Collecting the writing of the Supreme Court's most outspoken and controversial justice, the author here presents speeches, rulings, and opinions that reveal Scalia's wit and intelligence, both on the bench and off.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Despite your political affiliation, this book captures the essence of Scalia's opinion and biting wit. While the prospect of reading a collection of legal rulings seems like a sure fire way to defeat insomnia, Scalia Dissents surprises by enlightening the reader on the issue and how Scalia interprets each with flair. Ring's choice of Scalia's opinions is excellent and his summary of the issues at hand makes the text accessible to all. Big thumbs up!

This is an excellent book that makes a very difficult subject, the United States Constitution and an even more controversial Supreme Court Justice, Scalia, easy to read and understand. Ring has taken selected issues and presented them at three levels: The first level, the issue itself i.e. Abortion or Free Speech etc. and in his own words describes the issue. At the second level he has taken the

specific case that relates to the issues and explains, in plain easy to understand language, the essence of the particular case. Finally he lets Scalia speak for himself with the actual text of Scalia's opinions written for the specific decision. You do not have to be a Constitutional Scholar to gain an understanding of the issues, the Supreme Court cases or Scalia's decisions. Actually Ring makes it fun to read about the law of the land. A must read for students of the U.S. Constitution.

This has to be one of the best books I've ever read - and I read A LOT of books. I've always been fascinated with US history and the founding of our country. I've also been a policial junkie for the past 25 years and recently made a mid-life career change and will be attending law school in the fall - so that may explain my interest in this book. So many times over the years, the Supreme Court made decisions I couldn't understand. The mainstream media only reports the majority decision - not the dissenting opinions - so I thought maybe there was something in the Constitution I missed or didn't understand. Now I realize that I'm not alone - there is at least one Justice who believes that the job of the Supreme Court is to analyze an issue based on the original text and meaning (not "intent") of the Constitution - not to further social policies. If something is not addressed in that document - such as a phantom "right to privacy" - the SC should back off and let "we the people" and our elected legislatures make policy determinations, not 9 non-elected lawyers. If the people don't like something in the Constitution, or want something added to it, there is a specified way to change it. This is a fascinating book and Scalia writes in a way that doesn't require any legal knowledge. His passion comes through in his writing, and he backs everything up with facts and/or appropriate analogies. I wish we had more like him on the Court, and fewer Justices who think they have the godlike right to effect social policy changes because of their personal feelings. Maybe then we could get rid of the farcical "litmus tests" on divisive issues like abortion for nominated Justices, and instead get some true Constitutional scholars.

I am a HUGE Scalia fan and agree with him on most constitutional and statutory questions, in addition to loving his sense of humor and wit. But for the life of me, I can't imagine why anybody would want to spend money on this book. The book is simply a handful of truncated Scalia opinions without the majority opinions to which he's responding. All of these opinions can be accessed for free in their COMPLETE form from any number of legal websites (such as FindLaw, for instance). More importantly, those websites, unlike Ring's book, include the majority and concurring opinions in those cases, giving the reader at least the option of seeing what Scalia's opposition actually wrote.

Absolutely top notch. A refreshing alternative to the infantile garbage you hear people who slept through high school and college trying to write about in what sadly passes for journalism or media news today. I highly recommend that Justices Ginsburg and Sotomayor give it a try.

The beauty of this book is that you don't need to know, or care, about the inner workings of the legal system to find this book both highly amusing and informative. Scalia's opinions have some of the most subtle and biting witticisms since (maybe) Shakespeare. Supreme Court rulings have an important affect on our daily lives, but you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who can quote a passage or a court case in what the mainstream might consider a social setting. I'd bet you'd find this author there though, and be pretty entertained throwing some of Scalia's quips around. Highly highly recommended

Brilliant, scathing, funny, enlightening...all of these describe Scalia's writing style. He was perhaps the most thoughtful man ever to sit on the Supreme Court. As has been noted, all of opinions of the Supreme Court justices can be viewed for free online. However, I appreciate the invaluable context provided by Mr. Ring surrounding the opinions written. For those of us without a law degree and without the time to adequately research each opinion, the background he provides clarifies and brings to life what would otherwise be just a collection of opinions. Additionally, his comments regarding Scalia and his methodology for evaluating the constitution make this read a real education.

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