

Celine Grothe

College Writing 2

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### Book Reflection

'Just Mercy' is a book written by Bryan Stevenson and published in 2015. The Author is writing about his own story in this book. How he becomes a Lawyer and he also writes about cases he got flooded by.

In the following text, I will reflect on a passage where the author explains the absurdity of one of his client's trials. Bryan Stevenson took a case where his client Walter McMillian was put on death row. The absurdity is that Walter McMillian has a water-proven alibi because, at the time of the murder he was convicted of, Walter was at his house with a lot of people. In the passage I'll reflect on, Stevenson reviews what story got told in the trial.

Stevenson reflects on how absurd the story is that got told in court by people that changed their minds about what really happened over and over again. Stevenson says "Their testimony was laughably inconsistent and completely lacking in credibility." (p.106) Not only in this passage no throughout the whole first five Chapters Stevenson has to find himself in a situation where the facts didn't matter. This case is especially hard because the testimonies were made by white men and Walter is a black man. Even today Black people get not treated fairly and especially not in the 80s. Later in the passage, Stevenson seems still shocked at how this absurd story could be taken seriously by anybody because the witness's "response to every line of questioning was to repeat over and over again ... get driven away by a white man." (p. 106).

In conclusion, I would say in this passage and in throughout the whole book you can see how passionate Stevenson about his cases and trials is. But you can also see how big of an issue the system was back then or still is.