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College Writing 2

February 2ed, 2023

### Reflection on “Just Mercy“

‘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 how he gets flooded by cases. In the following text, I will talk about the concept of “Just Mercy” and what the author wants to transmit to the audience.

Bryan Stevenson is a young black attorney who is trying to fight against a racist injustice system in the 80s in Alabama. He founded the Equal Justice Initiative and tries to minimize injustice by helping the poor and the wrongly convicted ones. Stevenson takes one of his first cases on death row right at the beginning of his career. He is defending Walter McMillian who got sent to death row because of a murder he didn’t commit. This case is going through the whole book but at the same time, he wins and loses other different cases. But in all the cases he is taking there is one similarity. All the people he is defending were victims of a system that’s full of injustice and racism.

Bryan Stevenson is not just telling his story in a book. No, it’s more than that. Stevenson is constantly trying to show the injustice and racism in the system that partly still exists. All stories he’s talking about happened in the 80s. That is just 40 years ago. Stevenson is showing what he’s been fighting against all those years.

For example, he’s telling multiple stories where children got sentenced like adults. They were put into adult jails and nobody cared if they would survive being in these jails. The system didn’t care why young children would commit these kinds of crimes. Nobody questioned their

so far childhood. Nobody protected them and in the end, there were seen as gang members (Just Mercy; Chapter 6, 8).

Another example is the whole McMillian case which is also the main story in the book. It's absurd and frightening to see how often it was obvious that McMillian was innocent but the system didn't care. McMillian just had the wrong skin color and they needed a person to blame for a murder the police couldn't solve. For example, Stevenson read Walter's trial record with the State's witnesses' testimonies and he says "Their testimony was laughably inconsistent and completely lacking in credibility" (Just Mercy; p.106). The testimonies "were so obviously not believable" (Just Mercy; p.106).

Not only in these two examples but throughout the whole book Bryan Stevenson is pointing out how unfair all those cases were and no mercy was shown at all. It's scary to see that evidence didn't count that just the stronger one would win no matter if the guilty one was found or not. If the evidence doesn't count anymore and if nobody cares about the circumstances someone has been through how can anybody be save? Especially as a colored person the chance of a fair trial decreases drastically. Bryan Stevenson gives his best to go against these injustices but it doesn't work all the time. But he found a different way to fight for justice. Through this book, he informs everybody what really happens in the American justice system.

In conclusion, I would say that Bryan Stevenson tries to fight against the injustices in the system not only by being an attorney is also by informing people through this book about the injustices. I think this is also the main purpose of the book. Stevenson informs us to get bigger attention to this huge issue going on in our society. I also think he doesn't want to be the only one fighting this fight. Through this book he wants people to stand up and talk more about the injustices. The more people know about what's happening the bigger the chance that something will change.

