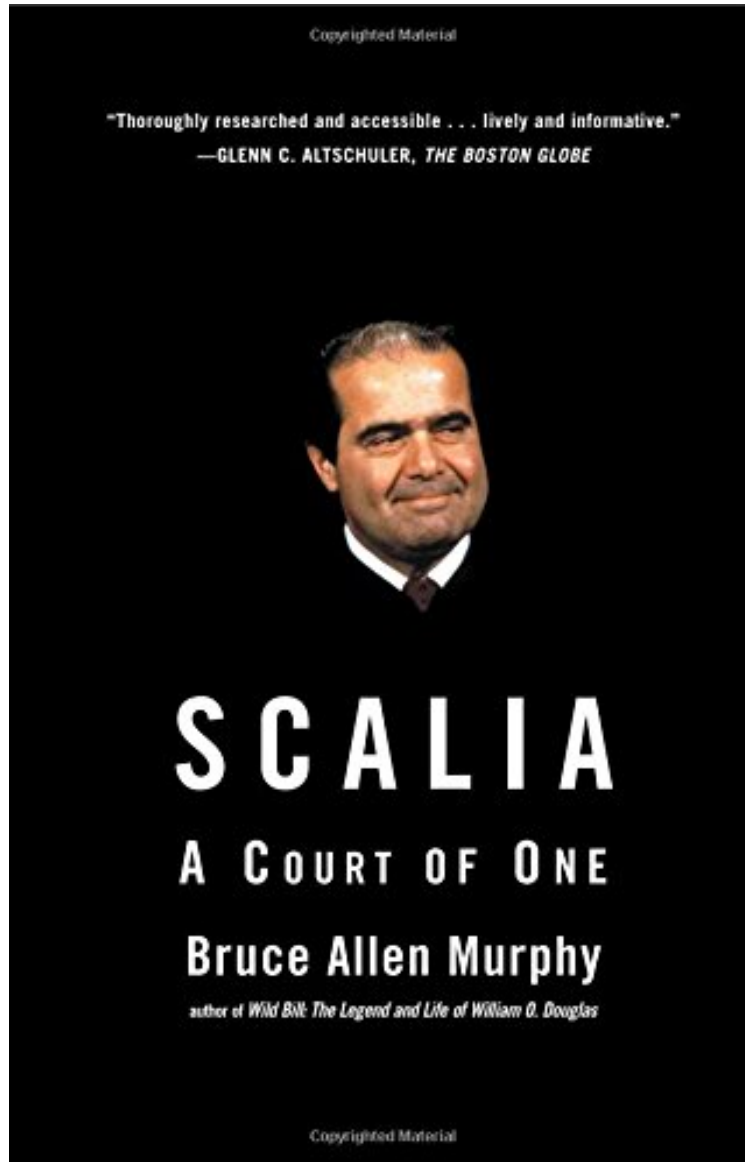


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Scalia: A Court of One

Bruce Allen Murphy

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Bruce Allen Murphy : Scalia: A Court of One before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scalia: A Court of One:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five starBy DptGreat book about a great man. Couldn't put it down and if I did it came with me wherever I went until it was finished0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful, but not very engrossing at the end of ...By JBUseful, but not very engrossing at the end of the day. Fights shy

of the real issues with him I think. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
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[Murphys] biography of Justice Scalia is patient and thorough, alive both intellectually and morally. Functions as an MRI scan of one of the most influential conservative thinkers of the twentieth century. (The New York Times): An authoritative, incisive and deeply researched book about of the most controversial Supreme Court justice of our time. Scalia: A Court of One is the compelling story of one of the most polarizing figures to serve on the nations highest court. Bruce Allen Murphy shows how Scalia changed the legal landscape through his controversial theories of textualism and originalism, interpreting the meaning of the Constitutions words as he claimed they were understood during the nations Founding period. But Scalias judicial conservatism is informed as much by his highly traditional Catholicism and political partisanship as by his reading of the Constitution; his opinionated speeches, contentious public appearances, and newsworthy interviews have made him a lightning rod for controversy. Scalia is an intellectual biography of one of [the Supreme Courts] most colorful members (Chicago Tribune), combined with an insightful analysis of the Supreme Court and its influence on American life over the past quarter century. Scalia began his career practicing law in Cleveland, Ohio, and rose to become the presidents lawyer as the head of the Office of Legal Counsel for President Gerald R. Ford. His sterling academic and legal credentials led to his nomination by President Ronald Reagan to the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit in 1982. In 1986, he successfully outmaneuvered the more senior Robert Bork to be appointed to the Supreme Court. Scalias evident legal brilliance, ambition and personal magnetism led everyone to predict he would unite a new conservative majority under Chief Justice William Rehnquist and change American law in the process. Instead he became a Court of One. Rather than bringing the conservatives together, Scalia drove them apart. He attacked and alienated his more moderate colleagues Sandra Day OConnor, David Souter, and Anthony Kennedy. Scalia prevented the conservative majority from coalescing for nearly two decades.

From Booklist*Starred * Though he is widely considered the most outspoken and controversial member of the Supreme Court, Scalia has seen his influence on the court and his colleagues suffer because of those very characteristics. In this thoroughly researched biography, legal scholar Murphy argues that Scalia has adamantly chosen to be right rather than influential in pushing his doctrine of originalism in interpreting the law on everything from abortion rights to free speech. An unwavering devotion to traditional Catholic faith and love of a good argument have been the guiding forces in Scalias life. Murphy traces Scalias career of legal practice; teaching; service in the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations; and working for a conservative think tank between administrations. Scalia learned the concept of strict originalism from his academic father, the Catholic Church, and conservative political philosophers. He honed his ideas while at the University of Chicago, working with Robert Bork and law school students to launch what became the Federalist Society. Murphy details Scalias behind-the-scenes angling to push himself as the leading advocate for originalism and to get on the Supreme Court. But his scathing critiques set him at odds with conservatives, most notably Sandra Day OConnor, pushing many to the center. Murphy offers a highly engaged, well-researched analysis of a brash justice whose single-mindedness may ultimately reduce his legacy. -- Vanessa Bush [A] fair-minded biography. . . . Murphy's deeper and more scholarly focus on Scalia offers . . . an opportunity to study one justice's progress from the Reagan administration's great right hope to the more problematic character he's become. (Paul M. Barrett The San Francisco Chronicle)May be the most exhaustive treatment of a sitting justice ever written. . . . Scalia is a skeptical, often critical look at its subject, but free of snark; it does its readers the service of taking Scalias ideas seriously. (Jeff Shesol The New York Times Book)An intellectual biography of one of [the Supreme Courts] most colorful members. . . . A lucid account of a wide variety of topics through the lens of judicial biography. (Alexander Tsesis The Chicago Tribune)Thoroughly researched and accessible . . . a lively and informative account of Scalias upbringing; his education at Georgetown University, where he excelled in debate; his academic career at the University of Virginia and the University of Chicago; his work in the Nixon administration in the offices of telecommunication policy and legal counsel (in the Department of Justice); and his years on the bench. (Glenn C. Altschuler The Boston Globe)"In Bruce Allen Murphy, Scalia has met a timely and unintimidated biographer ready to probe. . . . In his view, understanding one of the most dazzling and polarizing jurists on the Supreme Court entails, above all, examining the inevitably murky relationship between judicial decision making and religious devotion. . . . Murphy does not shrink from adjudicating Scalias dueling public claims: that separating faith from public life is impossible and, at the same time, that he himself has done just that on the Court." (Dahlia Lithwick The Atlantic)Murphy does Scalia the unwarranted honor of treating originalism seriously but does not flinch when he gets to the bottom line: At least in Scalia's hands, originalism is not a method of judicial interpretation, it is a device to import his values into the Constitution. (Jim Newton The Los Angeles Times)A deeply probing biography of the controversial Supreme Court justice. . . . Murphy moves case by case in an evenhanded, thoroughgoing study. (Kirkus s)A highly engaged, well-researched analysis of a brash justice whose single-mindedness may ultimately reduce his legacy. (Booklist (starred review))A compelling biography of one of the most

conservative, combative, and bombastic Supreme Court Justices in our nations history. . . . A terrific start to understanding Justice Scalia and his impact on American constitutional law. (Kevin J. Hamilton The Seattle Times)About the AuthorBruce Allen Murphy is the Fred Morgan Kirby Professor of Civil Rights at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where he teaches American constitutional law and civil rights and liberties, American politics, and biographical writing. He is the author of *Scalia*; *The Brandeis-Frankfurter Connection: The Secret Political Activities of Two Supreme Court Justices*; *Fortas: The Rise and Ruin of a Supreme Court Justice*; and *Wild Bill: The Legend and Life of William O. Douglas*. Murphy lives with his wife in the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania.