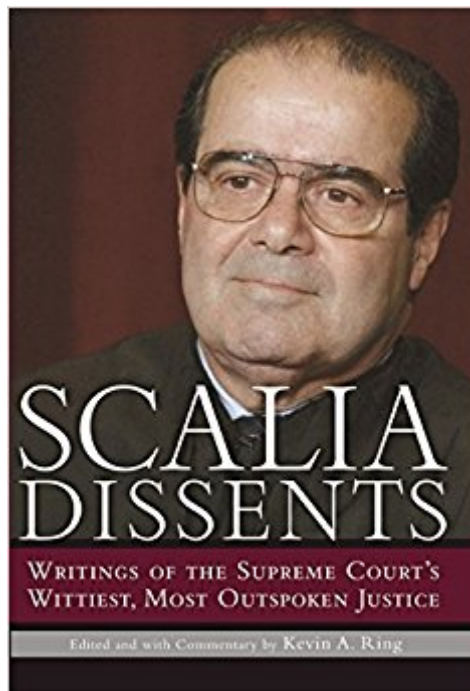




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# Scalia Dissents: Writings Of The Supreme Court's Wittiest, Most Outspoken Justice



## 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. In *Scalia Dissents*, Kevin Ring, former counsel to the U.S. Senate's Constitution Subcommittee, lets Justice Scalia speak for himself. This volume's the first of its kind; showcases the quotable justice's take on many of today's most contentious constitutional debates. *Scalia Dissents* contains over a dozen of the justice's most compelling and controversial opinions. Ring also provides helpful background on the opinions and a primer on Justice Scalia's judicial philosophy. *Scalia Dissents* is the perfect book for readers who love scintillating prose and penetrating insight on the most important constitutional issues of our time.

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## Customer Reviews

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. In *Scalia Dissents*, Kevin Ring, former counsel to the U.S. Senate's Constitution Subcommittee, lets Justice Scalia speak for himself. This volume's the first of its kind; showcases the quotable justice's take on many of today's most contentious

constitutional debates, including: \* Affirmative Action "In the eyes of government, we are just one race here. It is American." \* Religious Freedom "A priest has as much liberty to proselytize as a patriot." \* Judicial Activism "No government official is 'tempted' to place restraints on his own freedom of action, which is why Lord Acton did not say 'Power tends to purify.'" \* Abortion "It thus appears the mansion of constitutionalized abortion law, constructed overnight in *Roe v. Wade*, must be disassembled doorjamb by doorjamb;" Scalia Dissents contains over a dozen of the justice's most compelling and controversial opinions. Ring also provides helpful background on the opinions and a primer on Justice Scalia's judicial philosophy. *Scalia Dissents* is the perfect book for readers who love scintillating prose and penetrating insight on the most important constitutional issues of our time.

Kevin A. Ring was a former counsel to then-Senator John Ashcroft and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights Subcommittee. He graduated with honors from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America. He is currently a partner at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Washington, D.C. and resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland with his wife and daughter.

I am hardly a conservative, but after Scalia died, an interview replayed on book tv. I decided to explore his philosophy. I find him more a guardian of our constitution and a firm believer that it's simplicity be preserved. It will be perhaps impossible to find another with his steadfast clarity

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.

Good for high school civics. Scalia is entertaining, and his dissents are a pleasure to read aloud. Good training for logic, civics, American history students. We need a second volume to cover 2006-2016.

This was one extraordinary man. Most truly intelligent people know what nitwits are now on the bench and have been on the Supreme Court during the history of our great nation. Then we have the very rare jurists who know the Constitution and are able to accurately delineate their positions with clarity. Antonin Scalia is one of those jurists and this book communicates some of his dissents exactly as he wrote them. He skewers his fellow jurists (especially the liberals, including his dear friend, Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg). This book is a great and easy read. At times, it manages to not hold my interest and I have to put it down for a bit. That situation is the exception. Justice Scalia was quite humorous in his dissents. Add his sense of humor to his brilliant mind, cogent reasoning, and ability to write with a command of our language and the end product is a great book. His love for our Country and our Constitution are evident from the dissents in this book. May he rest in peace and may you be enlightened by his writings.

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.

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.

Scalia remains the unique voice of faithfully seeking to clarify the Law without bringing changing culture into interpretation. If the Constitution needs to change, it can be amended--is his basic repeated mantra. He continues to stress the Doctrine of Separation of Powers that is so vital to our Democracy. No one has ever said it more consistently! He writes with clarity and consistency and calls it like it is. He will be difficult to replace

I am going slowly through this book, and learning a lot from Justice Scalia who I always wanted to listen while he was alive, but never had an opportunity. Justice Scalia was definitively a brilliant man, which will make replacing him very difficult. This is definitively a good book to read.

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