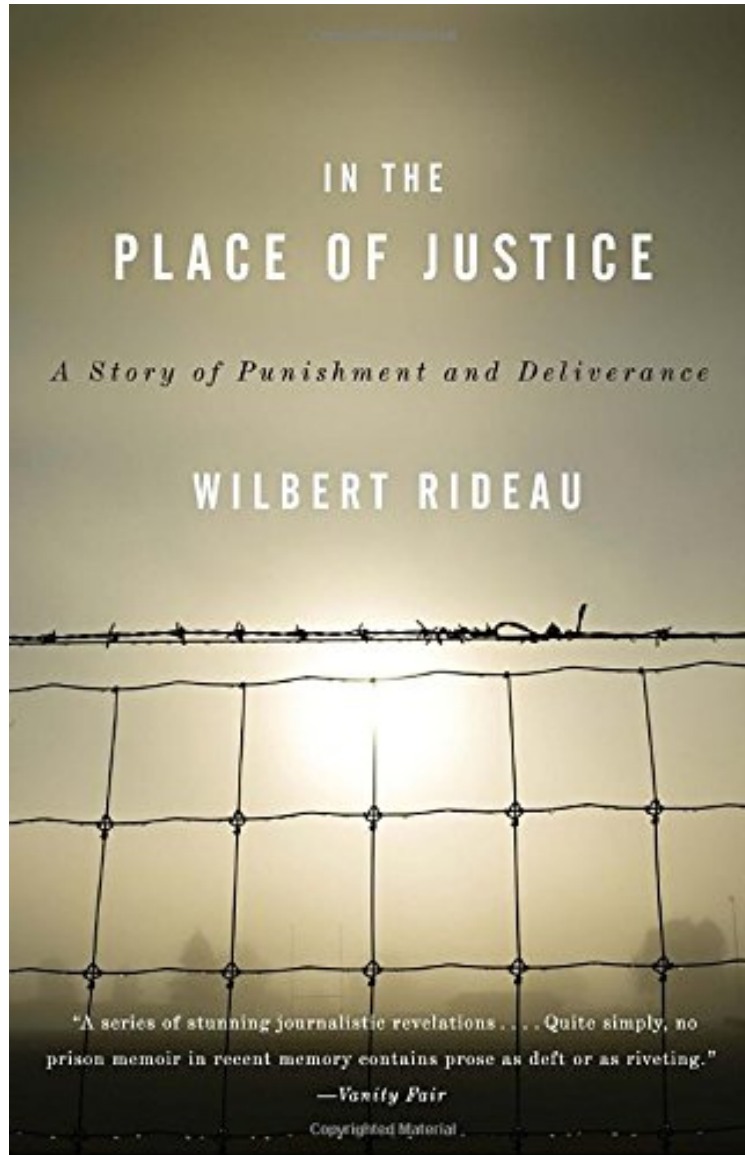


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In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Redemption

Wilbert Rideau

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#283413 in Books Wilbert Rideau 2011-05-03 2011-05-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .90 x 5.201, .86 #File Name: 0307277305416 pages In the Place of Justice A Story of Punishment and Redemption | File size: 29.Mb

Wilbert Rideau : In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Redemption before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Redemption:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Redemption in Spite of Jim Crow By O. H. Eaton, Jr. This book

contains the story of the experience of one black man, convicted of murder he admittedly committed, who lived through the Jim Crow system of discrimination and mistreatment in prison in Louisiana beginning in the early 60's. Unfortunately, there are many stories like his from other Southern States. Our hero achieves redemption over 40+ years of confinement. I suspect he is one of the few that came out of that prison environment better than when he went in. I was particularly interested in his vivid description of the inmates in a Louisiana county jail. If the author were not a black man, his description would be less acceptable. However, I spent 24 years as a trial judge in Florida and his description matches my experience exactly. Conditions in Southern prisons have improved over the years, as the author explains in detail. However, there is still a long way to go. The ratio of black inmates to white is still way out of proportion to the population and the failed drug policy in the United States has created a law enforcement industry that is going to be very difficult to dismantle if we are to address the drug problem for what it is instead of treating it as a war to warehouse addicts as prisoners.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "Rideau is the rarest of American commodities - a man who exited a penitentiary in better shape than when he arrived. By Casey Marie Capote-esque in its narrative, "In the Place of Justice" chronicles Wilbert Rideau's 44 year incarceration in the Louisiana penal system. Convicted at age 19 of capital murder in the Jim Crow South, Rideau's is a tale of overcoming both institutional racism and personal demons. He never shies away from the truth, including his role in his victim's death, which is a testament to his true journalistic integrity. As the NY Times Book Review stated, "Rideau is the rarest of American commodities - a man who exited a penitentiary in better shape than when he arrived." I recommend this book to anyone interested in the pitfalls of the criminal justice system, as Rideau lays out the problems facing the incarcerated - ranging from violence, substandard resources, and rape - without sensationalizing the facts or falling victim to outrageous hyperbole. This book is also interesting, as it follows the evolution of capital punishment from the Jim Crow era, to the Supreme Court's 1972 Furman ruling, to present day. "In the Place of Justice" is a must read for anyone taking civil litigation because it puts a very human face to statutes governing capital punishment and the appeals process.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A true story of an incredible hero's journey that will keep you up reading all night. By Bonnie Jane Hall, Author of Earth Ships. In The Place of Justice by Wilbert Rideau, a Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, he does a masterful job of showing you the life he lived in an alien "storehouse of hell" because he was black, uneducated and a juvenile living in the South. A riveting story of a young man's strength of character and incredible endurance. Wilbert's hope for freedom blossomed after spending years on death row reading books where he gained insight into people and the nature of power and politics. I ordered the book for research and found a gold mine. A wealth of information about how the politics behind the American correctional system bleeds of corruption. The system is driven by money and power that results in a subculture of "human wreckage - tortured souls and destroyed lives."

Wilbert Rideau, an award-winning journalist who spent forty-four years in prison, delivers a remarkable memoir of crime, punishment, and ultimate triumph. After killing a bank teller in a moment of panic during a botched robbery, Wilbert Rideau was sentenced to death at the age of nineteen. He spent several years on death row at Angola before his sentence was commuted to life, where, as editor of the prison newsmagazine *The Angolite*, he undertook a mission to expose and reform Louisiana's iniquitous justice system from the inside. Vivid, incisive, and compassionate, this is a detailed account of prison life and a man who accepted responsibility for his actions and worked to redeem himself. It is a story about not giving up; finding love in unexpected places; the power of kindness; and the ability to do good, no matter where you are.

From Publishers Weekly A death row inmate finds redemption as a prison journalist in this uplifting memoir. In 1961, after a bungled bank robbery, Rideau was convicted of murder at the age of 19 and received a death sentence that was later commuted to life in prison at Louisiana's Angola penitentiary, then the most violent in the nation. Against all expectations, his own included, he turned his up-to-then cursed life around, becoming editor of the prison newsmagazine, the *Angolite*, and an NPR correspondent who published nationally acclaimed articles on prison violence, rape and sexual slavery, and the cruelty of the electric chair. Rideau frames his 44-year fight to get his conviction reduced to manslaughter and win parole (he succeeded in 2005) as a black man's struggle against a racist criminal justice establishment. More inspiring is his self-reclamation through tough, committed journalism in an unpropitious setting where survival required canny alliance building against predatory inmates and callous authorities alike. To a society that treats convicts as a worthless underclass, Rideau's story is a compelling reminder that rehabilitation should be the focus of a penal system. 16 pages of photos; 2 maps. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist With probing intelligence but only a ninth-grade education, Rideau honed his acclaimed journalism skills inside Louisiana's notorious Angola prison. In 1961, at the age of 19, he killed a white woman in the course of a bank robbery. Sentenced to death, he was eventually given a life sentence after repeated appeals based on irregularities in his trial and national changes in policy regarding the death penalty. Rideau suffered years on death row and in solitary; once integrated into the broader population, he worked his way onto *The Angolite*, the prison publication. Eventually becoming editor, he earned the respect of the

warden, prisoners, guards, as well as the broader journalism profession, with exposé of the politics and economics of the prison system, earning several prestigious press awards along the way. He struggled with journalistic principles in a highly charged environment in which all sides were hyperpartisan and often violent. After 44 years and scores of appeals lost to political machinations, Rideau was finally freed in 2005. This is more than a prison memoir; it is a searing indictment of the American justice system. --Vanessa Bush Incisive . . . As emotional, as any words I've read in a long time. Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* Riveting . . . Amazing . . . The picture of prison life painted by Rideau isn't the one portrayed in many movies. . . . Now he has provided a wonderful chance to share his remarkable life. Associated Press "A masterpiece in the realm of autobiographies." *Anniston Star* Fascinating and inspiring . . . This book is a gift to all of us in so many ways. BookPage Rideau comes across as truthful, remorseful, and straightforward . . . *In the Place of Justice* is remarkably even-handed and generous. *Palm Beach Arts Paper* Searing, suspenseful, stomach-churning and soul-stirring. . . . A sobering indictment of the criminal justice and penal systems in Louisiana over the past half century and testimony to the triumph of the human spirit. *Tulsa World* A series of stunning journalistic revelations . . . Quite simply, no prison memoir in recent memory contains prose as deft or as riveting. *Vanity Fair* A richly detailed [and] all too rare look at life behind bars. *The New York Times* "Perhaps no book written by an inmate has ever conveyed so much factual and emotional information about day-to-day prison life." --*San Francisco Chronicle* Candid . . . Rideau is the rarest of American commodities: a man who exited a penitentiary in better shape than when he arrived. *The New York Times* Book