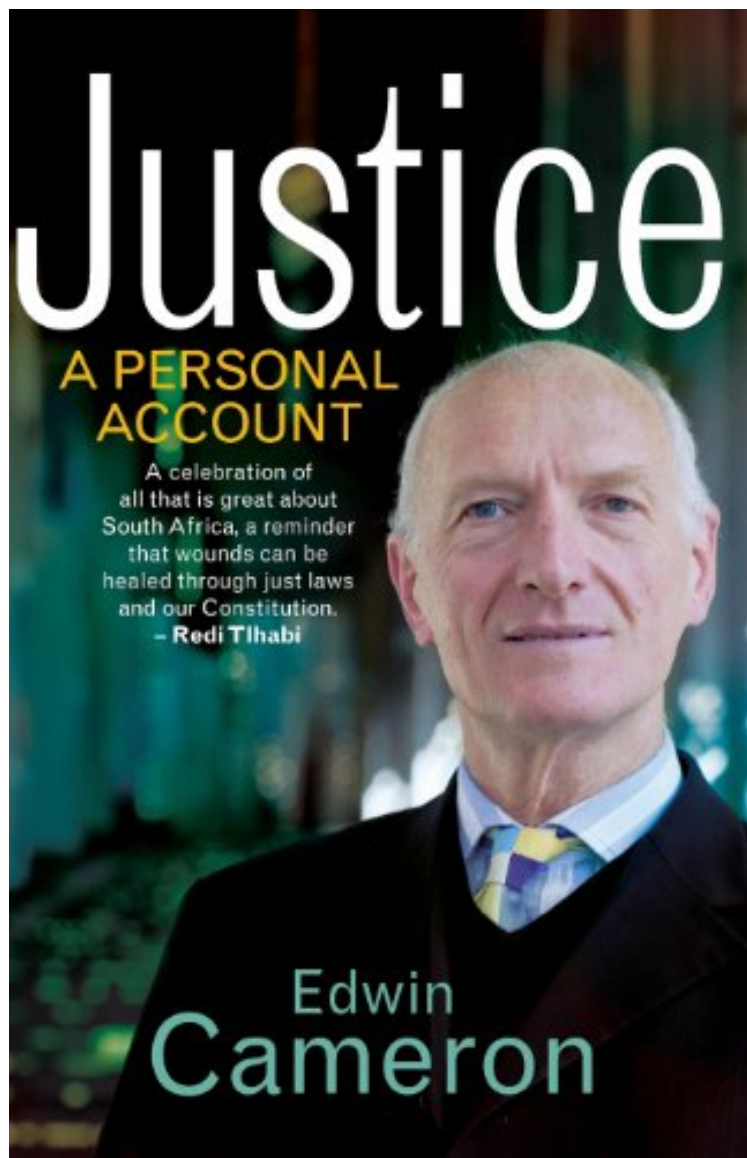


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## Justice: A Personal Account

*Edwin Cameron*

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**Edwin Cameron : Justice: A Personal Account** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice: A Personal Account:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a worthwhile read but...By Rob BurntThe problem I have with books such as this is that they are dangerous. They are dangerous because they, albeit unintentionally and inadvertently, paint a very glowing picture of the South African legal system. The reality is that probably less than 1 in

a thousand matters end up at the Constitutional Court and this court is not the coalface. The average citizen's exposure would be as follows: most in the Magistrate's Courts, then fewer in the High Court, even less in the Supreme Court (SCA) and a tiny, tiny minority in the Constitutional Court. Unfortunately, these courts, albeit with obvious exceptions and with the caveat that all generalisations are to a greater or lesser extent verisimilitude, are dysfunctional or parodies of justice in the same order. Even in the High Court, it is very much a hit or miss affair and any practitioner will - if honest - admit (privately and not publicly) that much depends on to which judge your matter is allocated. The SCA has the weakest bench in its history and I doubt that anyone with any integrity could say otherwise. We have far too many acting judges at all levels and this does not help as their abilities range from execrable to excellent with every shade of ability in between. A noticeable decline is evident with every passing year and now that Julius Malema is a member of the JSC (the body that recommends judicial appointees to the President and for all practical purposes effectively selects them) we have descended into farce. Cameron is a very honest and courageous man, so here's a challenge to him: write a warts-and-all account of the REAL judicial system with no holds barred to balance the account given in this book. It will take someone of his courage and standing to speak the truth before it is too late. And we desperately need to stop pretending that all is well. Litigants and the South African public are entitled to a true and realistic account of their legal system with all its strengths and WEAKNESSES.

Constitutional Court Justice Edwin Cameron examines and defends the role of the law in South Africa's continuing transition. Drawing on his own life experience, including childhood hardship, struggles with sexuality and stigma, he illustrates the power and the limitations of the law. Cameron argues with compelling elegance that the Constitution offers South Africa its best chance for a just future.

About the Author Edwin Cameron has been a Justice of South Africa's highest court, the Constitutional Court, since 1 January 2009. Cameron was educated at Pretoria Boys' High School, Stellenbosch and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar and won the top academic awards and prizes. During apartheid he was a human rights lawyer. President Mandela appointed him a judge in 1994. Before serving in the Constitutional Court, he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal for eight years, and a Judge of the High Court for six. Cameron was an outspoken critic of then President Thabo Mbeki's AIDS-denialist policies, and in 2005 wrote a prize-winning memoir, *Witness to AIDS*, about his own experience of living with AIDS. Published in South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and in translation in Germany and China, *Witness to AIDS* was co-winner of the prestigious Sunday Times Alan Paton award. Cameron chaired the governing council of the University of the Witwatersrand for more than ten years (1998-2008), and remains involved in charitable and public causes. He has received numerous honours for his legal and human rights work, including a special award by the Bar of England and Wales in 2002 for his 'contribution to international jurisprudence and the protection of human rights'. He is an honorary fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies, London, and of Keble College, Oxford (2003), as well as an honorary bencher of the Middle Temple, London (2008). He holds honorary doctorates in law from King's College London (2008), the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (2009), Oxford University (2011) and the University of St Andrews (2012).