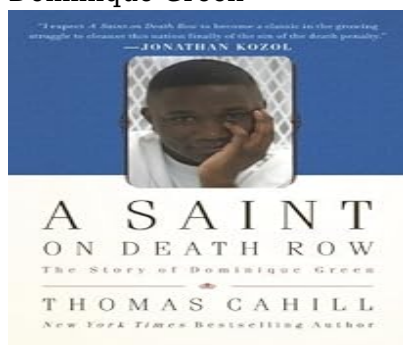


A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green By Thomas Cahill As more and more erroneous convictions (including those on death row) have become known.

A strong argument is made that the death penalty should be eliminated because it cannot be reversed if innocence is determined after the execution. It gives a relatively high level explanation of the case surrounding Dominique but doesn't get much into the trial and says very little about appeals aside from the fact they were rejected. While I agree with a lot of what is said and agree that Dominique should not have been executed.

On October 26 2004 Dominique Green thirty was executed by lethal injection in Huntsville Texas. Arrested at the age of eighteen in the fatal shooting of a man during a robbery outside a Houston convenience store Green may have taken part in the robbery but always insisted that he did not pull the trigger. The book mainly focuses on the attempts made by Green and others to get him off death row with the whole thing being rather exacerbated by the fact that Green will never come clean about just exactly what happened that night because that would mean snitching on the real guilty party. As someone who is anti-death penalty I find the whole thing rather hypocritical its difficult to hear the tale of what (as the author maintains) is the death of a innocent man. Fans of Dead Man Walking will no doubt enjoy this as well I did enjoy it but there was a lot of questions that were never answered and a lot of injustices that were just chaulked up to racism and then allowed to go by. A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green Although I don't like the death penalty (though I will admit that there are some people I have no problem ending their life for egregious well-documented offenses) and am fully aware of the unfair bias in the American judicial system that is weighed heavily against the poor especially minority accused; and that it should be as hard as possible for the state to take a life providing sufficient time for the convicted to appeal and introduce newly discovered evidence; and that humans being humans and the system rewarding victory over truth as well as the startling numbers of convicts exonerated through new methods (DNA) that revealed the crimes they paid for were not committed by them and also that some lawyers are poorly trained overburdened and frequently underpaid especially in death penalty instances---I still feel some pause when I read these types of books. I guess my bias comes a bit from having served as a guard for a short while and realizing that some inmates are charismatic manipulative and almost all dishonest so I almost never buy the whole story of innocence and automatically that the system did them wrong. Yet here is a story that certainly convincingly makes the reader acknowledge that even if Green were guilty of being part of the crime spree that lead to the death of one victim (and of course that he possibly pulled the trigger) he nonetheless was not well represented by his lawyers or the system; should never have been given the death penalty while there was as much doubt about the circumstances as well as doubtful testimony from his coconspirators and the rather blatant fact that the only white member of the gang basically walked away scott free. Many readers should be outraged that the judicial system is so patently unfair (largely cause they feel they will never be part of it) and in the case of Texas clearly homicidal itself. I cringe when I think of prosecutors hiding evidence; or court-accepted specialists who do not do their job while lives are at stake; or when poor lawyers are allowed to continue practicing; or while appellate judges do not truly do their job fairly.) Thomas Cahill's book detailing his sad life and eventual death is both compelling and heartbreaking so gripping in fact that I stayed up all night and read it in a single sitting. And the author gains great credibility by sharing that the physically sexually and emotionally abused Dominic (his given name) who committed the crimes was not the 'saint' that the man Dominique (his chosen and preferred name) became though given what he experienced it would have been perfectly understandable for him to take a lesser/lower path later in life too. But what this young man experienced - from his trial with apparently incompetent and possibly complicit attorneys to the inhumanity of his incarceration to the purposely dehumanizing approach that the Texas legal and prison systems take to those convicted - is an indictment of us all and is grippingly conveyed in Mr. The twin evils of class and race intertwine in certain places within this self-perceived great country - like Harris County Texas -

in effect to doom the arrested whether or not they are guilty. His trial attorneys - neither of whom had served previously as lead counsel in a capital case - not only represented him weakly and poorly - and perhaps colluded with the prosecution - but actually put witnesses on the stand including the protagonist's mentally ill mother and an expert witness who harbored racial bias against Latinos and Blacks - no you can't make that up - who doomed the person whom they were supposed to be supporting. And when you consider that there were four suspects originally arrested and that only the three black ones were ever prosecuted (with Dominique being the only one charged with murder due to plea deals struck with the other two black defendants) the racial angle of the case becomes even more damning. And yet there is much here that evidences the triumph of the human spirit including Dominique's development into a fully achieved human being as the author describes him and the incredible cadre of earnest loving and proactive people who eventually rally around Mr. It is a tribute to the author and evidence of a story well-told that amidst the plethora of dismaying behavior and developments in this case what remains thereafter is the good that came from an otherwise awful display of inhumanity and tragedy. but among the lessons of his life is that the world is better right now than we perceive it to be and that by our own proactivity we can evoke the better angels within ourselves and others (despite our human condition at any given moment) [a la Viktor Frankl]. So I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding that although some battles are lost there are those among us who will ultimately lead us to win the war against the lesser side of human nature. And yet I am so indescribably grateful for having been so moved by this compelling portrait an insight into who we are as a society as seen through the experiences of one ever-evolving young man whose life inspires and elevates still. A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green



Born in New York City to Irish American parents and raised in Queens and the Bronx Cahill was educated by Jesuits and studied ancient Greek and Latin. In anticipation of writing *The Gifts of the Jews* Cahill studied scripture at Union Theological Seminary in New York and spent two years as a Visiting Scholar at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where he studied Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible. Born in New York City to Irish American parents and raised in Queens and the Bronx Cahill was educated by Jesuits and studied ancient Greek and Latin. In anticipation of writing *The Gifts of the Jews* Cahill studied scripture at Union Theological Seminary in New York and spent two years as a Visiting Scholar at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where he studied Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible. Cahill has taught at Queens College Fordham University and Seton Hall University served as the North American education correspondent for the *Times of London* and was for many years a regular contributor to the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. Overall it was interesting to read about the justice system and its massive potential for failure but didn't give enough background or detail to really lock me in to the content. *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* While it's really powerful moving and thought provoking about the place of the death penalty in our society (which honestly made me rethink my position on it) the conclusion that these injustices stem from the Southern Baptists and Calvinists is extremely far fetched. *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* I saw Cahill give a speech on this book and one of the most important things I took from it was how he was still affected by Green's death - he broke down visibly at times during his speech - and his thoughts regarding how irrelevant it is if Green was actually guilty or not. These facts for Cahill are not important as he felt Green was not the same

person he was when those things had occurred and the supposed purpose of jailing people is to keep society safe by separating supposedly dangerous elements until they are rehabilitated enough to be returned to the general population. The big questions posed by this book are why go to the expense and effort to kill such a person and was it fair to kill him while the two other African American defendants who testified against him received jail sentences and the white defendant received nothing? Cahill analyzes these questions by looking at Green's upbringing reviewing if he was given due process through the US legal system reviewing the evidence against him the legal defense afforded him the inherent injustice and purposelessness of the death penalty and senselessness of following through and killing a person who by all accounts was rehabilitated. This book was moving and brought to light many of the injustices regarding the plight of minorities and the poor in the US criminal justice system the cost of putting criminals to death versus rehabilitation or life imprisonment the purpose and supposed results of a system committed to killing people for punishment and the problem of convicting people and seeing sentences carried out regardless of evidence. These issues are further exacerbated by the rise of for-profit privately run prisons which lack federal oversight and often result in prisoner sexual and physical abuse and the social damage this causes our society. From my own experience representing a death row inmate in post conviction proceedings I need no convincing of the futility and ultimately the barbarity and inhumanity of the death penalty. I need no convincing of the inherent unfairness of the system in many parts of Texas - from the appointment of inexperienced or incompetent counsel to defend capital cases to egregious prosecutorial misconduct to the substantive and procedural shenanigans condoned by (and sometimes engaged in by) all too many trial and appellate courts. But one doubts that Cahill's story - at least as he tells it -- would have been deemed worthy of publication by Doubleday if he had been just one more citizen writing about his experiences as opposed to an already famous author: The legal system failed him miserably because of his race and the poverty he lived in. When Thomas Cahill visited him in 2004 he was astounded by the grace and peace that this young man exuded, He left the world at peace and loved by many people who tried many times to get him a stay of execution to no avail: Even the family of the man murdered were there at the end to protest his innocence: He gained a family in prison that he had never experienced in his life on the streets of Houston: A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green The true story of Dominique Green.

It did not seem overblown to me. Clearly religion plays a significant role for some people in dealing with the death penalty and other social issues. A Saint on Death Row is very focused on the possibility of Dominique Green's innocence, In one of the more well known anti-death penalty books Dead Man Walking maintains some distance from the issue of guilt or innocence. The position there is that the death penalty is wrong even if the person is guilty: In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis on mistaken convictions: Some cases where that critical mistake may have been made have been discovered and publicized. In the book after the execution author Tom Cahill has several pages where he gives consideration to the innocence or guilt of Green and makes no firm determination. I am glad that I read this book as I continue to seek out books about the death penalty. I am "the choir" as in "preaching to the choir" in this instance. Like lots of people.

I like things that reinforce what I think. But somehow we do change collectively and that seems to be what is happening with the death penalty as abolishment is picking up support and state legislatures are acting, I wasn't energized by this book and I wonder how much pro or con books like this actually affect public opinion. I was happy to see the various resources listed at the end of the book so people can be better informed and maybe support an anti-death penalty organization: The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty NCADP at <http://ncadp.org/> is a good one that works nationally and supports the many local and state abolition organizations, And I think Dead Man Walking is still one of the best books on the subject. I have read enough death penalty books to think this one could have been much better, I hope it catches the interest of the more religiously inclined, But judging from the relatively small number of ratings it doesn't seem to have caught on with GR

readers, *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* This book was short and could have been much longer: The jury which had no African Americans on it sentenced him to death: Despite obvious errors in the legal procedures and the protests of the victim's family he spent the last twelve years of his life on Death Row. When Cahill found himself in Texas in December 2003 he visited Dominique at the request of Judge Sheila Murphy who was working on the appeal of the case, In Dominique he encountered a level of goodness peace and enlightenment that few human beings ever attain, Cahill joined the fierce fight for Dominique's life even enlisting Dominique's hero Archbishop Desmond Tutu to make an historic visit to Dominique and to plead publicly for mercy. Cahill was so profoundly moved by Dominique's extraordinary life that he was compelled to tell the tragic story of his unjust death at the hands of the state, *A Saint on Death Row* will introduce you to a young man whose history innate goodness and final days you will never forget, It also shines a necessary light on America's racist and deeply flawed legal system. *A Saint on Death Row* is an absorbing sobering and deeply spiritual story that illuminates the moral imperatives too often ignored in the headlong quest for justice. *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* Executing innocent persons is a bad idea: *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* One thing I learned is don't mess with Texas. Having just read *The Green Mile* although fiction; it makes me wonder how many innocent men and women die on death row, My heart really goes out for this young man who was dealt a really bad hand in life. Growing up on the streets of Houston he chose dealing drugs as an alternative to other criminal activities, He had a horrible childhood with a crazy mother who abused him (even shot at him on several occasions) and an indifferent father: He was surrounded by drugs prostitution an African American man who as a teen was involved (the story never really conclusively explains how) in a crime that led to a death: I think anyone with heart would have theirs go out to Green. Plus he has had a very difficult childhood which the author goes into when it comes to the sexual abuse Green suffered. The book does have a pretty good amount of blaming everyone else whether it be crummy lawyers or the state of Texas' entire judicial system, While I do not agree with everything some groups stand for others win my admiration such as the Community of Sant'Egidio, Green may have become a vastly improved man and obviously impressed a lot of people and it seems that some sort of clemency should have been extended to him: *A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green* Wow: what happened to Dominique Green was both a tragedy and a true miscarriage of justice, (And yet sadly his case is representative rather than unique: Cahill's prose or at times the way he chooses to frame and/or recount some situations but his storytelling is top notch: But he is masterful at painting the full picture of the phenomenon of Dominique Green's life conviction incarceration and execution, And it's clear that his work is heartfelt a true labor of love and respect for someone to whom as he acknowledges he wouldn't expect to have become close in his life, Given the book's title I don't think I'm spoiling anything by sharing the reality that Mr: Green was eventually executed after an arrest trial and conviction that were palpably unfair: In Dominique's case his trial was a veritable kangaroo court presided over by a judge whose assignment of inexperienced (and realistically incompetent) attorneys to Mr. Green reveals his previously publicly affirmed contempt for poor defendants: (That's right the sole white accomplice - who admitted to sharing in the take from the robberies that led up to the fatal incident - was mysteriously never prosecuted:) Years of apparently ineffective appellate representation followed and as the author concludes wistfully Mr. And I recommend it to those interested in social justice sociology/social anthropology psychology and/or any of the social sciences. Or to anyone who simply wants to be reminded of the challenges to which we should feel called as well as of the grace that is ever-present among us: He continued his study of Greek and Latin literature as well as medieval philosophy scripture and theology at Fordham University where he completed a B: in classical literature and philosophy in 1964 and a pontifical degree in philosophy in 1965, in film and dramatic literature at Columbia University in 1968, He continued his study of Greek and Latin literature as well as medieval philosophy scripture and theology at Fordham University where he completed a B: in classical literature and philosophy in 1964 and a pontifical degree in philosophy in 1965, in film and dramatic literature at Columbia University in 1968. In 1999 he was awarded an honorary

doctorate from Alfred University in New York. Prior to retiring to write full time he was the Director of Religious Publishing at Doubleday for six years, He and his wife Susan also an author divide their time between New York and Rome. Wikipedia {site_link} Dominique Green was on Death Row in Texas until his execution in 2004:) During his time there he taught himself and learned the skills of life that no one had ever taught him: He had to decide the purpose of his life when his execution seemed to be a certainty, The evident turn around in his life has been obvious to people who had contact with him. If rehabilitation is the goal he was a success story by most accounts: Green said: I didn't know after being condemned if I should prove to the jury that sentenced me to die that I was not a monster, I never had anyone in my life to teach me how to be me: That was something I had to take the time to discover on my own and it was one hell of an experience, In military training recruits are taught to dehumanize the enemy to make it more easily possible to kill, Some might think of a person (over 98% of the time it's a man) on death row as inhuman a monster not worthy of life. The debate about the justification for the death penalty is often an emotional one: One of the goals of most books opposing the death penalty is to humanize the people on death row. That is a primary goal of this book in addition to showing the absence of justice in this particular case: This book takes place in Texas the state that executes far more people than any other state: The title of the book including "Saint" suggests a religious bent: I read the book in spite of that because of my long interest in abolishing the death penalty, So while religion did play a role in the book this book left me feeling terrible for Dominique and uncomfortable with the author seemingly using him for gain. As Cahill said in the book he believes Green wasn't the shooter but is not certain whether he was there or not involved or not and if so how much: Green was according to Cahill not a threat at all and a person who would have been a productive member of society. A good though sometimes painful read for anyone interested in social justice our criminal justice system the death penalty or the effects of incarceration on people: A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green This is a curiously tepid account of a compelling story: I need no convincing of the racism inherent in the death penalty as applied, I felt no passion from Cahill -- though I'm sure he feels it, He never really lets us know Dominique Green intimately or learn why Cahill comes to love him and care about him so: Green is sketched out almost in outline but never really fleshed out: I found Cahill's discussion of the legal issues equally sketchy, I know Cahill is no lawyer but his descriptions of the legal processes and issues are embarrassingly amateurish: Indeed there is an amateurish quality about the whole book , No doubt Cahill was affected deeply by his experience with Dominique Green and his encounter with the brutal evil that is America's capital punishment scheme, As I well know from personal experience no one can come into contact with this system and come away unaffected[1]

And constant abuse. Cahill chronicles Dominique's unjust and racial experience. Very moving story. DNA evidence is playing a role in conviction reversals. We are recalcitrant about changing our opinions. A Saint on Death Row is a three star book for me. It didn't get me pumped up. Maybe part of that was the religious aspect of the book. Glad I read it. It didn't take much time. This is mostly a political book. This was a compelling story. He's 17 when the crime is committed a kid. Don't get me wrong I'm not a huge fan of Mr. Cahill's telling. Green's fate was sealed. Green (though it turns out too late to change his fate). And the story of Dominique's Rosary haunts me even now. Yes what a much better world it would be had Mr. Green lived . I am so saddened by what I read. A. He went on to complete his M.F.A.A. He went on to complete his M.F.A. He also reads French and Italian. (This book was published in 2009. . There is some religious language and references. A Saint on Death Row: The Story of Dominique Green.