



## **Anthony Ray Hinton**

### **Topics**

Criminal Justice, Culture and Society, Inspirational Speakers

### **Travels From**

Alabama

### **Bio**

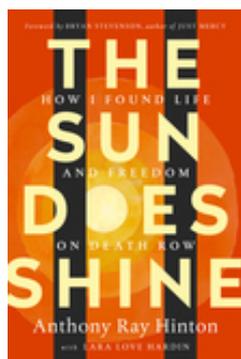
Anthony Ray Hinton was released in April 2015 after spending 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit. He was released with the help of the Equal Justice Initiative, for which he is now an employee. He now serves as EJI's Community Educator and travels both nationally and internationally to speak about his experience. One of the longest-serving death row prisoners in Alabama history and among the longest-serving condemned prisoners to be freed after presenting evidence of innocence, Mr. Hinton is the 152nd person exonerated from death row since 1983. Thirty years ago, Mr. Hinton was arrested and charged with two capital murders based solely on the assertion that a revolver taken from his mother's home was the gun used in both murders and in a third uncharged crime. EJI attorneys engaged three of the nation's top firearms examiners, who testified in 2002 that the revolver could not be matched to crime evidence. State prosecutors never questioned the new findings but nonetheless refused to re-examine the case or concede error. After 12 more years of litigation, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the lower courts, and a new trial was granted. The judge finally dismissed the

charges after prosecutors said that scientists at the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences tested the evidence and confirmed that the crime bullets cannot be matched to the Hinton weapon. Anthony Ray Hinton was released. He has spoken at dozens of universities and conferences over the last two and a half years and is an incredibly compelling speaker and powerful advocate for changes to the criminal justice system. More information about his story is available [here](#). His inspirational memoir, *The Sun Does Shine, How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* was released March 27, 2018. In June 2018, [Oprah chose \*The Sun Does Shine\* for her Book Club](#).

## SPEECHES

**Surviving Criminal Justice in America** Anthony Ray Hinton, death row exoneree, will share his story of wrongful conviction, survival on Alabama's death row, and decades-long journey to exoneration and freedom. In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was convicted of the unsolved murders of two fast-food restaurant managers based on the testimony of ballistics experts for the State who claimed that the crime bullets came from a dusty revolver found in Mr. Hinton's mother's closet. Without the benefit of a competent expert to challenge the State's ballistics experts, an all-white jury convicted Mr. Hinton and he was sentenced to death. After years of petitioning to have the revolver re-analyzed, three independent experts concluded that the bullets could not have been fired from that revolver, and that they could not even have all been fired from a single gun. Mr. Hinton is now free after 30 years, and will join us to share his story and discuss the changes that need to be made to prevent these kinds of injustices from happening to other innocent people.

## BOOKS



Hardcover

[The Sun Does Shine](#) How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row

St. Martin's Press

In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and

charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free.

REVIEWS: "The world, not just the small audience of approximately 472 people that came out last night, needs to hear about these types of injustices over and over again then just maybe minds and hearts will open to truly love thy neighbor no matter race, creed or color of skin!"

- Cheryl Spaulings, The Cape May Prosecutor's Office

"Ray Hinton brought the magic of forgiveness and grace to the Sonoma Valley Authors Festival that was shared with 700 students at Sonoma Valley High School on Students Day on May 3, as well as the entire audience of 550 attendees at the Festival on May 4. While many people can speak to the imperfections in our legal system, few speakers have the ability to address the issue with the authenticity and transcendence that Mr. Hinton does. Frankly, the only other person that I have heard do this was Nelson Mandela when he spoke after leaving Robben Island."

- R. David Freeman, Co-Founder, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival

"Students, faculty and guests are still reeling from Mr. Hinton's presentation last Thursday. It was truly a presentation that none of us will forget."

- Gloria Fernández-Tearte, MSW, Director of Diversity and Staff Development, Greenwich Academy

"What a wonderful day we've had here with Anthony Ray Hinton. He packed the house for his keynote talk, and there was much laughter and many tears. He's a phenomenal story teller and a delightful human being. To echo what one of the middle school students said after stepping away from a conversation with him, "I've been blessed." We were all so fortunate to share the day with him."

- Randi Smith, LCSW, PhD, Professor, Psychology, Chair, 1 Book/1 Project/2 Transform, Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Praise for *The Sun Does Shine*** "No one I have represented has inspired me more than Anthony Ray Hinton and I believe his compelling and unique story will similarly inspire our nation and readers all over the world."

- Bryan Stevenson, *New York Times* Bestselling Author, *Just Mercy*

"If there is ever a story that needs to be told, it is this one. Anthony Ray Hinton is extraordinary, an example to us all of the power of the human spirit to rise above complete injustice. He is using his experience as a way to turn the broken criminal justice system upside down. He is a brilliant storyteller, and his book will make people laugh, cry, and change their own lives for the better. It will also inspire people to never accept the unacceptable, like the death penalty. *The Sun Does Shine* will be a book that people all around the world will never forget."

- Richard Branson

"I've met Anthony Ray Hinton, and he's an extraordinary man. He stands out among exonerees (and I know hundreds of them) for his dignity and gentle soul encased in his massive frame. His story is important and compelling. Bryan Stevenson, a national treasure and central character in this story, fought tirelessly for over fifteen years and won a rare and landmark case in the United States Supreme Court. *The Sun Does Shine* is the gripping and inspirational story that the public has been waiting for."

- Barry Scheck, Attorney, Director of the Innocence Project

"*The Sun Does Shine*, collaboratively written with Hardin, is a troubling, moving, and ultimately exalting journey through the decades Hinton lived under the threat of death while an unjust system that refused to acknowledge mistakes failed him repeatedly."

- *Booklist*, starred review