

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Born during apartheid in South Africa, Trevor Noah's birth was literally a crime as his parents—a black South African mother and a white Swiss father—were not legally allowed to have a mixed-race child. The book is a collection of autobiographical essays, each delving into different phases of Noah's life, from his childhood and adolescence in Johannesburg to his early adulthood. The book discusses major themes like race, identity, and social issues through the lens of his personal experiences. His tales include being kept indoors by his mother to avoid government scrutiny, his mischievous childhood adventures, and his mother's profound influence on his life and resilience.

Why You Should Read It:

- **Cultural Insight:** Provides deep insights into the complexities of South Africa during and after apartheid, helping readers understand the impact of institutionalised racism and social injustice.
- **Resilience and Adaptability:** Noah's life story is a testament to overcoming adversity, which can inspire change makers to persist despite challenging circumstances.
- **Humour and Humanity:** Despite its heavy subjects, Noah uses humour to address serious issues, demonstrating the power of levity in the face of hardship.

Reviews & Criticisms:

Critics laud Noah for his wit and ability to intertwine humour with serious social commentary. The book has been praised for its honesty and the vivid portrayal of his mother as a powerful figure in his life.

Some reviewers noted that while the book is rich with humour and personal anecdotes, it sometimes skims over deeper political analysis, which might leave readers seeking more comprehensive historical context slightly unsatisfied.