



Title: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood

Author: Trevor Noah

Imprint: One World

Publisher: Random House Publishing Group

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BOOK RESUME: BORN A CRIME

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. *Born a Crime* is a moving and searingly funny memoir about coming of age during the twilight of apartheid, a portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"By turns alarming, sad and funny . . . not just an unnerving account of growing up in South Africa under apartheid, but a love letter to the author's remarkable mother." —Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"[Noah's] electrifying memoir sparkles with funny stories . . . and his candid and compassionate essays deepen our perception of the complexities of race, gender, and class." —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Witty and revealing . . . Noah's story is the story of modern South Africa." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Noah's childhood stories are told with all the hilarity and intellect that characterizes his comedy, while illuminating a dark and brutal period in South Africa's history that must never be forgotten." —*Esquire*

"Powerful prose . . . told through stories and vignettes that are sharply observed, deftly conveyed and consistently candid. Growing organically from them is an affecting investigation of identity, ethnicity, language, masculinity, nationality and, most of all, humanity." —*Mail & Guardian* (South Africa)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Winner of the 2017 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Biography/Autobiography
- Winner of the 2017 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Debut Author
- Winner of the 2017 Thurber Prize for American Humor
- Named One of the Best Books of the Year by: *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *NPR*, *Esquire*, *Newsday*, and *Booklist*

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [First-Year & Common Reading Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Needham High should not have pulled Trevor Noah's book as common reading \(2021\)](#)
- [Osseo School Board votes to keep 'Born a Crime' on the shelves \(2021\)](#)
- [Trevor Noah book about apartheid among 3 removed from Putnam reading list after outcry \(2021\)](#)

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