



Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

Reviewed by Ariella



Stand Alone Memoir

Give a summary without spoilers!

Born a Crime is a memoir by Trevor Noah, a famous comedian, about his life and experiences in South Africa during apartheid and post-apartheid as the son of a black mother and a white father. Using humor and moving story-telling, Noah shares several stories about his childhood, identity, and the challenges he faced in a place where his existence was illegal. *Born a Crime* explores themes such as resilience, race, and family.

What drew you to this book?

Born a Crime is such an engaging memoir that offers humor and insight on such an important time in history. Before reading, I vaguely heard about apartheid. I heard it in different topics in my history classes, but I had never gone deep into learning about it. Noah's perspective is what originally drew me into this book, and upon further reading, his humor also pulled me in as well. The mixture of humor and meaningful storytelling is also a big factor that might pull many readers in.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

Born a Crime is similar to "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls with how it addresses themes such as poverty, resilience, and family dynamics. Both memoirs look at childhood adversity with a humorous touch, which allows readers to look at tough issues while still being engaged in what they are reading. Each memoir uses many personal anecdotes to make larger statements, whether they are social or political, which adds to their audience's understanding of their experiences and the society that they live in.

To whom would you recommend this book?

Born a Crime would appeal to readers who enjoy memoirs and reading from a first-hand perspective. Readers who enjoy memoirs that are enlightening while still being entertaining might also find this book entertaining. Anyone who is interested in researching global issues, racial identity, and personal resilience will find Noah's story compelling.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

Born a Crime was one of the few books that I enjoyed reading in school, and I wish I could read it for the first time again. Learning about what Trevor Noah experienced as a child in South Africa allowed me to form questions that I would ask my mother since she is also from Africa. Reading this book and asking questions gave me a better understanding of what happened in the past and how people may still be affected today.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

When reading *Born a Crime*, be sure to read as deep as you can into the book, and while enjoying the comedy included, try not to let it shadow the true meaning of what you are reading. I have noticed that many classmates often let the comedy overshadow the true meaning of the book. *Born a Crime* is an amazing source of information if you are trying to learn about apartheid from an interesting perspective.