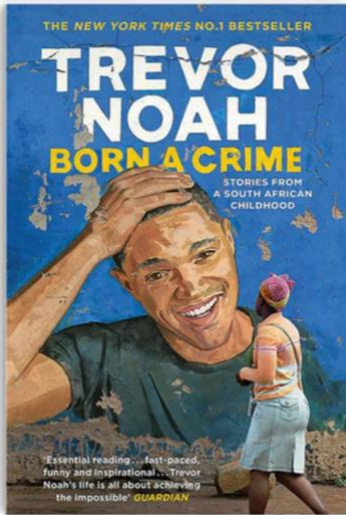




Born a Crime

Book Author: Trevor Noah

Reviewed by: Saihba Viridi, 15

Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Trevor Noah was born on February 20, 1984, in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was born to a black mother and a white father. At that point in time, his existence was illegal, because people of different races were not allowed to have children together. He grew up during the apartheid, watching the people he loved overcome obstacles that were built to keep all people of color in poverty. His story is not just a memoir, it is a critique of systems of oppression. It is a critique of all the ideals that ended up influencing society in negative ways, the teachings of the apartheid, the patriarchal Tsonga culture of his step-father, the police system's dismissal of domestic violence as a family matter, all of which he experienced first hand.

I greatly enjoyed reading Born a Crime, it was an amusing, thought provoking, and unique story from the perspective of a wildly interesting person. It was very intriguing to learn about all the different experiences he had as a mixed child in a black family, a family that was close knit, but had also internalized the ideals of the apartheid, and treated him differently because of it. He wrote a lot about his mother, who had become his role model, who he respected as a parent, adversary, and teacher. I really liked how he found ways to weave humor into such a serious subject, while still stressing the importance of awareness on topics of systematic oppression.

This is a great book for anyone 15 years old and above, due to its mature language and serious topics. Reading Trevor Noah's story is incredibly important, because it highlights the oppressive nature of racism and the fact that it will only hurt people. The book is 304 pages long

and can be read in about 2 weeks. I recommend getting it for anyone who enjoys learning about the history of the apartheid, or anyone who wants to know more about African history. In all, I think this is a great book, with excellent dialogue and story telling, and I highly recommend it.

Recommended Titles:

- Dreams From My Father
- Becoming
- Born Standing Up