

## **Born a Crime**

**By Author, Trevor Noah**

**Reviewed by: Shrayaa Jayapal, 15**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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This novel tells the story of the famous comedian and host of *The Daily Show*, Trevor Noah, growing up during apartheid-era South Africa. The memoir described his struggle as a mixed-raced child growing up in a time where even his existence was illegal. He tells his childhood stories while also illuminating on the injustices that certain groups of people faced. Even as apartheid began to fade, many problems were still deeply rooted in the society he grew up in, however he continued to face them alongside his mother, a central figure in his life and although, Trevor and his mother didn't always get along, when it came to staying safe and navigating the world, they stood together.

*Born a Crime* is an autobiography written by Trevor Noah. It was an insightful read that explained the horrors and injustices of apartheid with the iconic lighthearted narration of Trevor Noah. The memoir mainly focused on the story of Trevor and his mom as they tried to navigate the world that wasn't built with them in mind. Mixed-race, people especially those who were half-white and half-colored were proof that the system of apartheid was "unsustainable and incoherent" as he says. He describes himself as a "chameleon" as he changes how he acts in different groups of people. Even though his narration was lighthearted as he described his childhood days, he still didn't shy away from describing the very real and horrible discrimination people of color, especially black people, faced in South Africa, even when apartheid was outlawed. I really liked this book because of his first-hand account, and it was written.

The novel was a very humorous yet educational read, I recommend this book for anyone 14 and older. It is also important to note that it contains some mild sexual content, violence and profanities, however there is a young reader's edition available. This book would be a great gift and can also be enjoyed borrowed from the library. Personally, I think it's really important, essential even, to read his feelings in a world where even people of color were the majority, they're still discriminated towards and divided among each other.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas