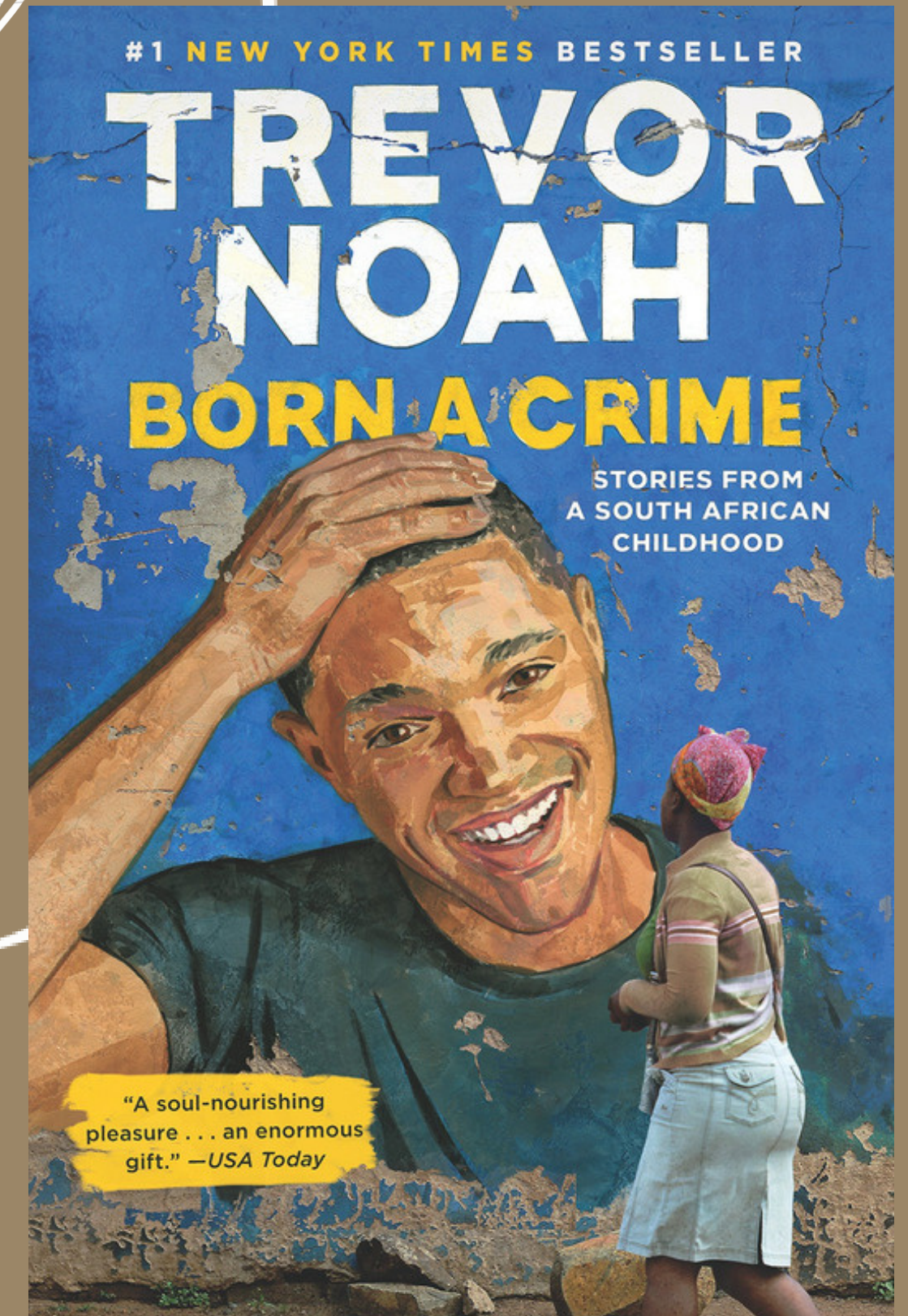


TREVOR NOAH'S

BORN A CRIME:
STORIES FROM
A SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDHOOD

Report by Nyah Marshall



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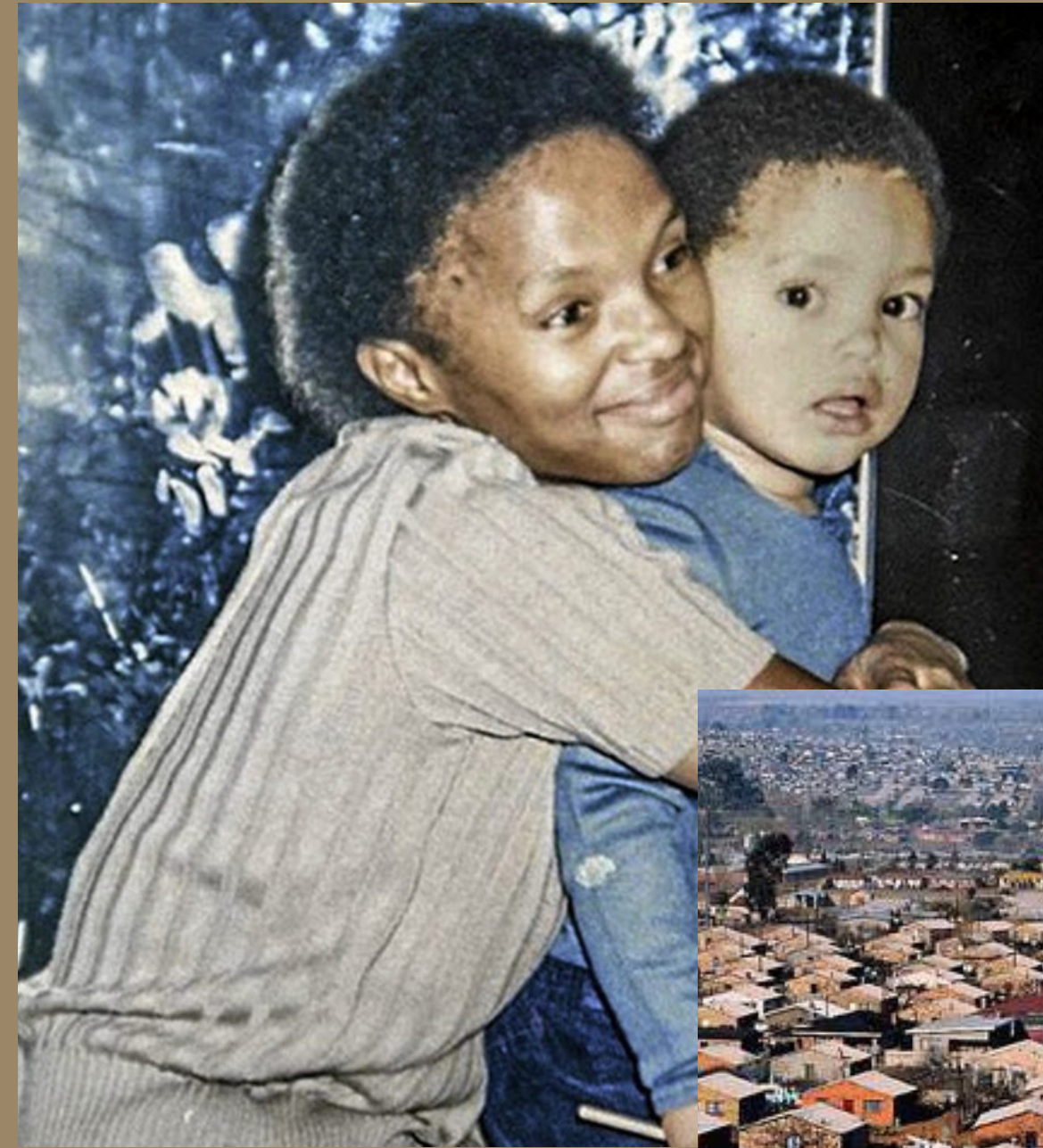
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SUMMARY

Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, gives a touching and comedic recounting of Noah's experiences growing up in South Africa during apartheid—where he was quite literally born a crime.

Due to Noah's status as a mixed-race child living in Soweto, a primarily Black area of South Africa, he often struggled with his identity and sense of belonging. However, Noah's outlook growing up in Soweto gave him a unique perspective—he would not confine himself to the structures of apartheid

It was because of his mother, Patricia, who valued education and taught Trevor to think independently that he was able to break out of the box apartheid put him in. In fact, in many ways this memoir is an ode to Trevor's mother. He ends it with reflecting on the deep bond and unshakeable love he shares with his mother.



LITERARY DEVICES

Setting

South Africa in the
1980s-2000s

Soweto

During and post
apartheid

Style

Memoir written in first person,
each chapter tells a different story
from Trevor's childhood, when he
was a DJ and up until he started his
comedy career

Chapters are interspersed with
information about apartheid and
the time period

Tone

Humorous
heartfelt
engaging

His upbringing living with his
single mom, poor in apartheid
was rough---but he often uses
humor to describe his
hardships

“In Soweto you were always hearing about men getting doused with pots of boiling water- often a woman's only recourse. And men were lucky if it was water. Some women used hot cooking oil. Water was if the woman wanted to teach her man a lesson. Oil meant she wanted to end it,” (37).

Themes



Freeing your mind
and oppressive state
through education,
experiences & religion

"When I look back I realized she raised me like a white kid- not white culturally, but in the sense of believing that the world was my oyster, that I should speak up for myself, that my ideas and thoughts and decisions mattered.

(73)

Identity shaped by
love, family and
community

"She poured herself into me," (71)

Racism & Apartheid
as a tool to separate

"That's what apartheid did, it convinced every group that it was because of the other race that they didn't get into the club," 120.

Lessons



*"The only way to make
apartheid work, therefore was
to cripple the Black mind " (62)*

*"But after a while the bruises
fade and they fade for a
reason--because now its time
to get up to some sh*t again"
(91)*



**Apartheid through
the perspective of
someone who lived
during the it and
post**

**Education is truly
liberating**

**The love and value of
a mother is
unmatched**

**Your identity isn't
defined by your
circumstances or
what society
confines you to**