

**File 16 p. 168 • My Prisoner, My Friend**

Mandela, both a dignified prisoner and at the same time a great leader of men, set my young mind racing. I saw his respect for my job and his understanding that I had to make him keep to a harsh regime if we were both to survive. I saw him scrubbing floors, emptying his toilet bucket, cleaning the exercise yard—sometimes on his knees. [...]

He addressed me, a mere boy, as Mr Brand. I called him Mandela. Together, across our different worlds, over time, we somehow came to be friends who were able to show each other kindness and consideration. [...] On the day of his release, it was decided he should walk free out of prison gates with his wife Winnie beside him and no warders<sup>1</sup> in sight. So I watched the extraordinary moment on TV at my home, with a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. Unbelievably, I told myself, our journey together was over.

But Mandela called me a few weeks later. He wanted to catch up with me again. I have been in his life ever since, there at most of the important moments and honoured to still be considered part of his extended family today.

He wrote of his 'long walk to freedom', and I walked some of that road with him, an incredible journey that defines my life today, as well as his.

In truth, my life began so much later than his. A white Afrikaans boy born into the very culture that created Mandela the revolutionary, I'd had no idea it was going to lead me to him.

Christo Brand, *My Prisoner, My Friend*, 2014

1. *geôliers, gardiens*

Dr King's<sup>1</sup> dream for equality between all people inspired thousands around the world who suffered under the yoke<sup>2</sup> of oppression, including those living in South Africa. Just like Dr King, South Africa, under the leadership of former President Nelson Mandela, envisioned a unified nation where race and gender no longer defined individuals.

As the first democratically elected President, Mr Mandela laid a strong foundation for the country, based on the ideals of non-racialism, freedom, equality, dignity for all and national reconciliation. His own story as articulated in the "Long Walk to Freedom" has, like Dr King before him, inspired millions of people around the globe to work for a better world.

Government continues to champion Mr Mandela's dream of national healing<sup>3</sup>, nation building and social cohesion. [...] As we enter Heritage Month this September under the theme "Reclaiming, restoring and celebrating our living heritage", it is time to once again reflect on Mr Mandela's dream for our diverse heritage to be respected and equally recognised. Celebrating our heritage is part of government's efforts to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. [...]

Undoing the damage of the apartheid system in a short space of time was a great accomplishment; however nation building is a process and government continues in its efforts to build a cohesive<sup>4</sup> society. [...] The National Development Plan 2030 is an important instrument through which government would like to ensure that all South Africans attain a decent standard of living through the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality by 2030.

P. Williams, South African Government News Agency, 2013

**File 16 p. 170 • Cape Town: Two cities, one mountain**

Being a tourist in the city of Cape Town is a strange feeling. [...]

On one hand, the city of Cape Town is a paradise. We spend our days exploring mountain ranges that spill towards picturesque coastline, enjoying thriving gourmet food, wine, and coffee. To our naive and wide travelers' eyes, we've stumbled across an Eden.

Yet, just twenty minutes away there are millions of people living in unhygienic conditions in shanty towns<sup>1</sup>. [...]

Flying into the city of Cape Town for the first time, the vision of Table Mountain rising above the city bowl and the turquoise bay is captivating. The landing is equally so, but for very different reasons: directly under the landing path<sup>2</sup> lies the messy, impoverished tangle of tin shacks<sup>3</sup> that make up the Cape Flats township. In many ways, this city and its mountain are symbols of South Africa's highs and lows.

But during the apartheid years, it was this imposing mountain that divided a people and a nation. Black and colored populations were removed from vibrant multicultural neighborhoods like District Six and forcibly relocated to the other side of the mountain in the low-lying Cape Flats area.

Despite twenty years of progress and work to reunite these communities after Mandela's commitment to "heal the old wounds and build a new South Africa", the signs of the apartheid era still linger<sup>4</sup>.

In 2012, a census<sup>5</sup> discovered that the average black family earns about one sixth that of the average white family's salary. That same census calculated around 35% of black and colored students complete high school, compared with 75% of white citizens.

Yet there are glimpses of hope. In spite of its social issues, South Africa remains a wealthy, prosperous country with a brilliant tourism industry. In recent years, they've played host to the Football and Cricket World Cups, and claimed the title of World Design Capital in 2014.

*thecommonwanderer.com*, March 10, 2017

1. *bidonvilles*
2. *piste d'atterissage*
3. *cabanes en tôle*
4. remain
5. *recensement*

## File 16 p. 171 • The Fees Must Fall movement

For more than a year across South Africa, students have been marching for free higher education—many of their parents fought apartheid and they say this is their generation's cause.

“It is something that the youth has been calling for over 20 years now. We want more black students to be able to come to university and to have a better chance of participating in the economy,” said Busisiwe Seabe, a leader of the Fees Must Fall movement at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). Like tens of thousands of others across the country, she is saddled with crippling<sup>1</sup> student debt. [...]

### **Mpendulo Mfeka, law student**

“Only two of us at the public school I attended were able to get to Wits. It pains me that most of my high school mates, who were as good as I am, couldn't make it to Wits because of financial means<sup>2</sup>. The issue of free education is not a student issue, it's a national issue. People need to understand that when someone gets financially excluded, it is not just the individual being excluded but it's the entire family, the black community.”

Thabile Vilakazi and Brent Swails, *CNN*, October 2016

**1.** *handicapante*

**2.** *moyens financiers*

“... And the breaking news of the day. Citizens were shocked today as a flying man was allegedly seen demolishing an armoured vehicle believed to have been hijacked. Police have been unavailable for comment on this issue.”

“It seems Gold City’s mysterious flying phenomenon has a name: Kwezi! This would-be hero seems to have gained quite a following online, choosing to make himself known to the public.”

“Following stunning displays of superhuman ability around our city, the mysterious phenomenon; known as Kwezi, has been spotted more and more frequently by regular citizens and at times actually engaging directly with them. It is unclear at this point what Mr. Kwezi’s intentions are but defence officials are said to be taking precautionary measures.”

Loyiso Mkize, *Kwezi*, issue 3, 2014

## File 16 p. 177 • South Africans reflect on Mandela's "Rainbow Nation"

At the 1964 trial that convicted Nelson Mandela and his co-accused, and sent them to prison for life, he made a statement to the packed courthouse, which he repeated on his release in 1990, after 27 years in detention.

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live in harmony and with equal opportunities." [...]

Equality for all South Africans, regardless of race or colour, was at the core<sup>1</sup> of the struggle against apartheid. In 1994, when Mandela was sworn in<sup>2</sup> as the first black president in the country's first democratic elections, he said the battle to promote a non-racial South Africa must continue. Nineteen years on, what is the status of race relations in his so-called Rainbow Nation?

I feel that I belong here.

Political commentator Justice Malala describes growing up as a young black man during the height of apartheid. "When I was 20 years old, 23 years ago, I walked in fear in Johannesburg and in Pretoria where I grew up. This wasn't my country at all," Malala says. "Today, I can say with confidence that this is my country. As a black man, I feel that I belong here, and I have dignity."

But Malala notes that economics continue to divide the country, calling it a legacy of apartheid.

"Now, that fact leads to resentment on the part of the have-nots who say, 'Well, whose freedom is this? And why is it working for them? And why isn't it working for

me?', he says. "And so, you can't say racial issues have been resolved in this country." While visiting Mandela's first home in Soweto, Robbie Davis-Hannibal, 51, said he felt South Africa has certainly moved on since the bad old days of apartheid. But is the Rainbow Nation a reality or a myth?

It is a reality in the making, says Robbie Davis-Hannibal. "It's going to take more than a couple of generations before it becomes a proper reality. I think every generation is getting closer and closer because what I see as normal with my grandchildren, when I was a child would have been against the law."

Ofeibea Quiest-Arcton, *NPR.org*, April 2013

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