



WELCOME TO  
BOOK & BAKE



# Key Figures in the Memoir

Trevor Noah: Comedian, former host of the Daily Show, four time host of the Grammy Awards

- Legally classified as person of color; identifies as Black
- Grew up in poverty
- Creative, curious child
- Sometimes considered a destructive child
- Felt ostracized by colored, Blacks, and white
- Creativity and curiosity translated to humor
- Business savvy

# Key Figures in the Memoir

Patricia Noah  
Trevor's mother



- Independent, strong willed, devout in her faith
- “Old Testament discipline”
- Black woman raised during apartheid
- Defiant (resists conventions of what a Black woman should be according to South African government)
- Described as beautiful and wild in her youth; frequented secret bars and nightclubs that encouraged mingling of mixed races
- Learned English and took typing classes resulting in higher paying job
- Broke government laws by having relations with Robert, a white man from Switzerland.
- Victim of domestic violence (Abel)



# Key Figures in the Memoir

## Abel

Patricia's Husband  
Step-father to Trevor

- Charming on the outside yet filled with violent anger on the inside
- Went to technical school; excellent mechanic
- Horrible businessman; owned Mighty Mechanics
- Alcoholic
- Physically abuses Patricia and Noah



## Robert Trevor's Father

- Swiss/German
- First came to South Africa as a businessman
- Met with Trevor 1-2 times during the week, in private
- Clean/neat; Desired to be part of Trevor's life

# Themes to Consider

## Defiance of Oppression

- Born a Crime (title is an immediate sign of oppression)
- His existence is evidence of Patricia's defiance of the South African law
- Patricia leaves Soweto; rents her own apartment which leads to more comfort; Trevor states that defying oppression leads to better life.

## Language as a Cultural Tool

- Trevor and Patricia speak multiple languages which opens doors for them
- "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to a man in his language, that goes to his heart."  
~Nelson Mandela

# Symbols to Ponder

## Food

- Symbolizes wealth (cheese boys)
- Mopane worms - when Abel's business was failing, they survived on worms

## CD Writer

- CD writer is the tool Trevor used to put his business skills into action; otherwise he would have no means to put his talents to use
- "Teaching a man to fish...." does not ensure he will not be hungry. He needs a poll, too

## Quote-Worthy

“The genius of apartheid was convincing people who were the overwhelming majority to turn on each other. Apart hate, is what it was. You separate people into groups and make them hate one another so you can run them all.”



“In any society built on institutionalized racism, race-mixing doesn't merely challenge the system as unjust, it reveals the system as unsustainable and incoherent. Race-mixing proves that races can mix—and in a lot of cases, want to mix. Because a mixed person embodies that rebuke to the logic of the system, race-mixing becomes a crime worse than treason.”



# Quote-Worthy

“I often meet people in the West who insist that the Holocaust was the worst atrocity in human history, without question. Yes, it was horrific. But I often wonder, with African atrocities like in the Congo, how horrific were they? The thing Africans don’t have that Jewish people do have is documentation. The Nazis kept meticulous records, took pictures, made films. And that’s really what it comes down to. Holocaust victims count because Hitler counted them.

**Let’s  
discuss...**

“I didn’t understand what she was going through. I didn’t understand domestic violence. I didn’t understand how adult relationships worked; I’d never even had a girlfriend. I didn’t understand how she could have sex with a man she hated and feared. I didn’t know how easily sex and hatred and fear can intertwine.”

## Quote-Worthy

“In the hood, even if you’re not a hardcore criminal, crime is in your life in some way or another. There are degrees of it. It’s everyone from the mom buying some food that fell off the back of the truck to feed her family, all the way to the gangs selling military-grade weapons and hardware. The hood made me realize that crime succeeds because crime does the one thing the government doesn’t do: crime cares. Crime is grassroots. Crime looks for the young kids who need support and a lifting hand. Crime offers internship programs and summer jobs and opportunities for advancement. Crime gets involved in the community. Crime doesn’t discriminate.”



**Thoughts?**



## Quote-Worthy

“One thing I do know about my dad is that he hates racism and homogeneity more than anything, and not because of any feelings of self-righteousness or moral superiority. He just never understood how white people could be racist in South Africa. ‘Africa is full of black people,’ he would say. ‘So why would you come all the way to Africa if you hate black people? If you hate black people so much, why did you move into their house?’ To him it was insane.”