



Mandela: A Critical Life

Tom Lodge

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Striking in appearance--six foot four and physically imposing--with an aristocratic bearing and incredible charm and self-assurance, Nelson Mandela is the greatest African leader in modern history, an iconic figure the world over.

Now, in this new and highly revealing biography, Tom Lodge draws on a wide range of original sources to uncover a host of fresh insights about the shaping of Mandela's personality and public persona, from his childhood days and early activism, through his twenty-seven years of imprisonment, to his presidency of the new South Africa. The book follows Mandela from his education at two elite Methodist boarding schools to his role as a moderating but powerful force in the African National Congress. Throughout, Lodge emphasizes the crucial interplay between Mandela's public career and his private world, revealing how Mandela drew moral and political strength from encounters in which everyday courtesy and even generosity softened conflict. Indeed, the lessons Mandela learned as a child about the importance of defeating ones opponents without dishonoring them were deeply engrained. They shaped a politics of grace and honor that was probably the only approach that could have enabled South Africa's relatively peaceful transition to democracy.

Here then is a penetrating look at one of the most celebrated political figures of our time, illuminating a pivotal moment in recent world history.

"Authoritative and fair-minded...deserves to be read widely."

--Adam Roberts, *The Economist*

"A fascinating, indeed riveting, and plausible as well as persuasive examination of why Nelson Mandela should have acquired a world following and can remain as he does an iconic figure even in the 21st century. It is certain to provoke much heated debate."

--Desmond Tutu

Mandela: A Critical Life Details

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From Reader Review Mandela: A Critical Life for online ebook

Adam Smith says

After reading Playing With the Enemy, I wanted to learn more about Nelson Mandela. This book focused on his political influences and views more than on his life. I was more interested in his life story. To me this book was boring.

Nabila says

Take an incredibly volatile and unjust time in history, add a leader who is charismatic and inspirational and Tom Lodge managed to come up with the most boring book imaginable. Well done Tom.

Jeffrey Cavanaugh says

An informative, if dry, scholarly examination of the life and politics of Nelson Mandela.

Jane Lantz says

Trying to read is what the shelf for this one should named...

Susan says

Just skimming. Very dense!

Therese says

\$1.99

This book should have been called Mandela's political life because that is what it was basically about -- politics. Granted, I know he was a political figure, and extremely influential one, but I wanted something more personal about the man himself. I was hoping for so much more, but this book, with the exceptions of a few sentences and paragraphs here and there, was boring. I stuck with it because I wanted to learn what I could, and I did learn a little bit even though the author jumped around a bit. I have a feeling it will be a while before I go back to this subject, and after reading the reviews, I think I would have been better off to pass on this bio.
