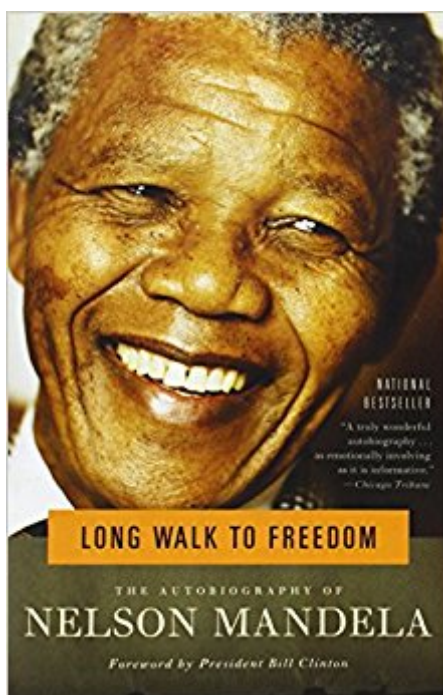


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# Long Walk To Freedom: The Autobiography Of Nelson Mandela



## Synopsis

The book that inspired the major new motion picture *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. Nelson Mandela is one of the great moral and political leaders of our time: an international hero whose lifelong dedication to the fight against racial oppression in South Africa won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the presidency of his country. Since his triumphant release in 1990 from more than a quarter-century of imprisonment, Mandela has been at the center of the most compelling and inspiring political drama in the world. As president of the African National Congress and head of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, he was instrumental in moving the nation toward multiracial government and majority rule. He is revered everywhere as a vital force in the fight for human rights and racial equality. *LONG WALK TO FREEDOM* is his moving and exhilarating autobiography, destined to take its place among the finest memoirs of history's greatest figures. Here for the first time, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela tells the extraordinary story of his life--an epic of struggle, setback, renewed hope, and ultimate triumph.

## Book Information

Paperback: 656 pages

Publisher: Back Bay Books; 1st Paperback Ed edition (October 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316548189

ISBN-13: 978-0316548182

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 896 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

The famously taciturn South African president reveals much of himself in *Long Walk to Freedom*. A good deal of this autobiography was written secretly while Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island by South Africa's apartheid regime. Among the book's interesting revelations is Mandela's ambivalence toward his lifetime of devotion to public works. It cost him two marriages and kept him distant from a family life he might otherwise have cherished. *Long Walk to Freedom* also discloses a strong and generous spirit that refused to be broken under the most trying

circumstances--a spirit in which just about everybody can find something to admire.

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the first democratically elected president of South Africa, Mandela began his autobiography during the course of his 27 years in prison. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Long Walk to Freedom is not only a story of Nelson Madiba Mandela's life but a history of South Africa under apartheid and a history of the African National Congress (ANC). The book goes from Mandela's early childhood in a small village to his early adulthood in the big city all the way through his 27 years of incarceration to his eventual freedom. You get to read about the true machinations of apartheid during its height and during its waning hours. I learned a lot about Nelson Mandela whom I knew so little about. South Africa and apartheid was never a major issue in the U.S. hence I learned absolutely nothing about it in school. I remember a big deal being made about Nelson Mandela's release and his presidency but still I never knew more than apartheid was a mistreatment of Black Africans. To what extent and in what form I never knew. This book delves into how the Afrikaans (White South Africans primarily Dutch) really treated Africans and to what lengths they went to subdue and subjugate the Africans. He discusses the National Party, the various laws enacted and his own political evolution while trying to fight injustice. I learned of the various men and women that were essential to the Africans' fight for equality and about the different groups and organizations that developed as well. Nelson is amazing if for one thing; he could have had money and ease yet he eschewed that for being a freedom fighter. Nelson grew up a part of the household of a Chief. He got an education and became a lawyer and had considerably more money and liberties than most Africans (although considerably less than most Afrikaans). For many Africans that would have been enough to be placated and they would have sufficed with living relatively comfortably. Nelson was not satisfied with that. He desperately wanted freedom for himself and his people. They weren't slaves, but he wanted freedom in the form of equality and the absence of debilitating laws. Nelson sacrificed two marriages and quality time with his children for the "struggle". Being a freedom fighter drew him away from the home for many hours of the day, many days of the month and many months of the year to eventually many years of his and their lifetimes. I grew to respect Mandela a lot through this book. I would have given it five stars if not for its length. Mandela was admittedly verbose. I don't know how many pages the book is because, for whatever reason, my Kindle version never told me. I could ascertain my location, my reading speed and my percent completion of the book but not the page. Whatever the amount of pages it was 115 chapters. I know that

Nelson wanted to mention those things which affected him or were memorable, but it seemed he mentioned too many details. Still, the book is excellent and a must read. I'm so happy I read it and now have a greater knowledge of South Africa's history and a greater appreciation of Nelson Mandela the man.

After seeing Nelson Mandela's exhibit in Johannesburg, I was inspired to read his story and am glad I did. This is an inspiring, larger than life account of a man that spent 8 decades pursuing freedom and equality in South Africa and living long enough to see it achieved! Even after 4 decades in prison and suffering harsh conditions, he never lost his faith in humanity. I recommend this to all of my friends.

This is THE lesson on freedom achieved through self-discipline, self-renunciation and education. The discipline to study, to read and learn in order to penetrate the true essence of the political struggle: that is Mandela's quest. And the strength of his thinking is best seen in his capacity to avoid falling into the racist and excluding forms of freedom. He knows that even family ties, working relationships and even friendship cannot be forged in slavery. Self-care here is carried to its utmost meaning! Self is finally not the individual but only that which is common to all individuals: SELF is the political assertion of "we are equal in that we are different" to put it in Hannah Arendt's words. Mandela treads the question "Freedom to what end" freedom is not an end in itself. It is a means by which a people can live according to their desire. But he knows you must begin by achieving it. What a bountiful lesson of life. What a grand affirmation of the fact that human beings even in the most dire of circumstances can give origin to the most unimagined feats. Mandela redefines the concept of humanity and practices 'love' in an unprecedented manner.

The title of this book is NOT a joke - this book is an incredibly long walk! It's huge, and took me forever to read it, but it was worth it. Mandela writes in a very conversational way, almost like a grandfather telling you stories about his life. Along with the major historical moments, he recounts teaching his wife to drive, and other seemingly mundane stories, but in a way that just adds character to the life of a major world figure. It's well written, informative, and very interesting.

This is an excellent read. This life story is told with warmth and a deep sense of caring for his people. I haven't finished reading it but I do recommend it as a must read. It makes one wish they had known and at the same time makes one feel as if they had.

A great read. Inspirational in many ways. The memoir helped me appreciate Mandela in a new way while empathizing with those who have been or remain oppressed today. Many parts of this memoir will leave you less than comfortable. I was as uncomfortable with Mandela's alliance with communist interests (and his consistent use of "comrade") as I was with the US's and UK's lack of robust support for the fight against the apartheid regime. But I would say that Mandela's forthright point of view helps the reader grasp what continues to be a nuanced global struggle for freedom.

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