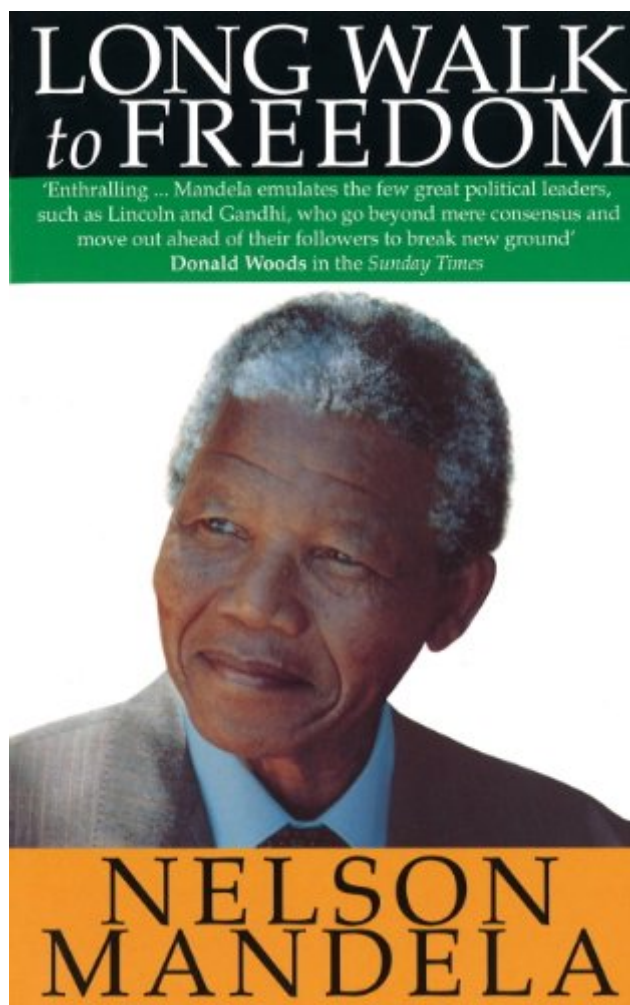


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Long Walk To Freedom (Abacus 40th Anniversary)



Synopsis

The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, Long Walk to Freedom brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. Emotive, compelling and uplifting, Nelson Mandela became the democratically elected, first black president of the republic of South Africa on 27 April 1994. Long Walk to Freedom is the exhilarating story of an epic life; a story of hardship, resilience and ultimate triumph told with the clarity and eloquence of a born leader. 'Burns with the luminosity of faith in the invincible nature of human hope and dignity . . . Unforgettable' Andre Brink 'Enthralling . . . Mandela emulates the few great political leaders such as Lincoln and Gandhi, who go beyond mere consensus and move out ahead of their followers to break new ground' Donald Woods, Sunday Times

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Customer Reviews

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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