

Young Mandela

author: David James Smith

2026-06

Synopsis

author	David James Smith
readBy	Allyson Johnson
inLanguage	english

Nelson Mandela is well known throughout the world as a heroic leader who symbolizes freedom and moral authority. He is fixed in the public mind as the world's elder statesman - the gray-haired man with a kindly smile who spent 27 years in prison before becoming the first Black president of South Africa. But Nelson Mandela was not always elderly or benign. In *Young Mandela*, David James Smith takes us deep into the heart of racist South Africa to paint a portrait of the Mandela that many have forgotten: the committed revolutionary who left his family behind to live on the run, adopting false names, and organizing the first strikes to overthrow the apartheid state. *Young Mandela* lifts the curtain on an icon's first steps to greatness.

Reader's comments

comment 1: Jessica Thompson

David James Smith's 'Young Mandela' provides a captivating glimpse into the early years of one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century. This book is not just a biography; it is an exploration of the complexities and contradictions that defined Nelson Mandela's formative years. Smith delves deep into Mandela's early life, revealing the influences and experiences that shaped his political and personal ideologies. What makes this book stand out is its ability to humanize Mandela, presenting him not as a distant icon but as a young man with ambitions, flaws, and dreams. Smith's meticulous research is evident, as he draws from a wealth of historical sources, interviews, and personal accounts. The narrative is both engaging and informative, offering readers a nuanced understanding of Mandela's journey from his rural upbringing to his rise as a revolutionary leader. 'Young Mandela' is a compelling read for anyone interested in the roots of Mandela's enduring legacy and the socio-political landscape of South Africa during his youth. Smith's portrayal is honest and insightful, making this book a worthy addition to the literature on Nelson Mandela.

â€”â€” Jessica Thompson (2026-05-30 18:27:53)