

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (Part III)

To be discussed on Dec. 17

Chapter 15 – Go Hitler!

1. What were some of the technological changes that helped Trevor copy CDs faster and make more money? What other changes did Trevor make in order to improve his business?
2. At 16, Trevor was making \$50 a week from his music business. Was this good money for that place and time? What qualities did Trevor possess that made him successful in the music business?
3. Trevor compares his life to Andrew's white privileged life and says that without resources, it's hard to make something of yourself. What resource did Andrew provide for Trevor? Could Trevor have been successful without it?
4. When Trevor added a dance crew to his business, who was the star attraction? What does his name mean to black South Africans? Why was it offensive to the audience at their school performance?

Chapter 16 – The Cheese Boys

5. Who were the cheese boys and what was the cheese standard in the hood? Which of Trevor's friends was a cheese boy?
6. Trevor says that gangsters were your friends in the hood and that crime cares. What does he mean? How did that prove to be true for him?
7. Trevor says the hood has a gravitational pull. What does that mean? How did that apply to his friend G?
8. What revelation does Trevor get when he sees the pictures on the stolen digital camera?

Chapter 17 – The World Doesn't Love You

9. When Trevor was arrested, he asked his cousin to help pay a retainer fee for a lawyer. Why didn't he ask his mom? Do you agree with his mom's tough love?
10. Trevor uses his language facility in jail to diffuse a tense situation. Have you had a situation where knowing two languages has allowed you to be a problem solver?

11. Under apartheid people had jobs but no freedom. After apartheid, they had freedom but no jobs, which led some into a life of crime. Which is better? Would you rather have a job and be able to support your family but not be free, or would you rather be free and unemployed?

Chapter 18 – My Mother’s Life

12. Describe Abel. What were his good qualities? His bad qualities? Why didn’t Trevor want Patricia (Trevor’s mother) to marry Abel?
13. Describe the traditional relationship between men and women in Abel’s tribe. How did Patricia respond to this? How did Abel respond?
14. How did the police respond when Abel beat Patricia?
15. How did Patricia and Abel buy Abel’s mechanic’s business? What subsequently happened to this business?
16. Why did Patricia divorce Abel? Describe their living arrangements after the divorce. Do you consider this unusual?
17. What did Patricia want to avoid by divorcing Abel?
18. How did the relationship between Abel and Trevor differ from the relationship between Abel and Andrew? Why?
19. What did Trevor do when Isaac was born? Why did Patricia agree he should do it?
20. Abel shot Patricia in the head. Describe how the bullet passed through her head without destroying anything critical. Was this a miracle?
21. The shooting involved two miracles, the misfiring of the gun and the passage of the bullet more or less harmlessly through the skull. Which was the bigger miracle? Do you believe such events are just statistical accidents or do they involve the hand of God?