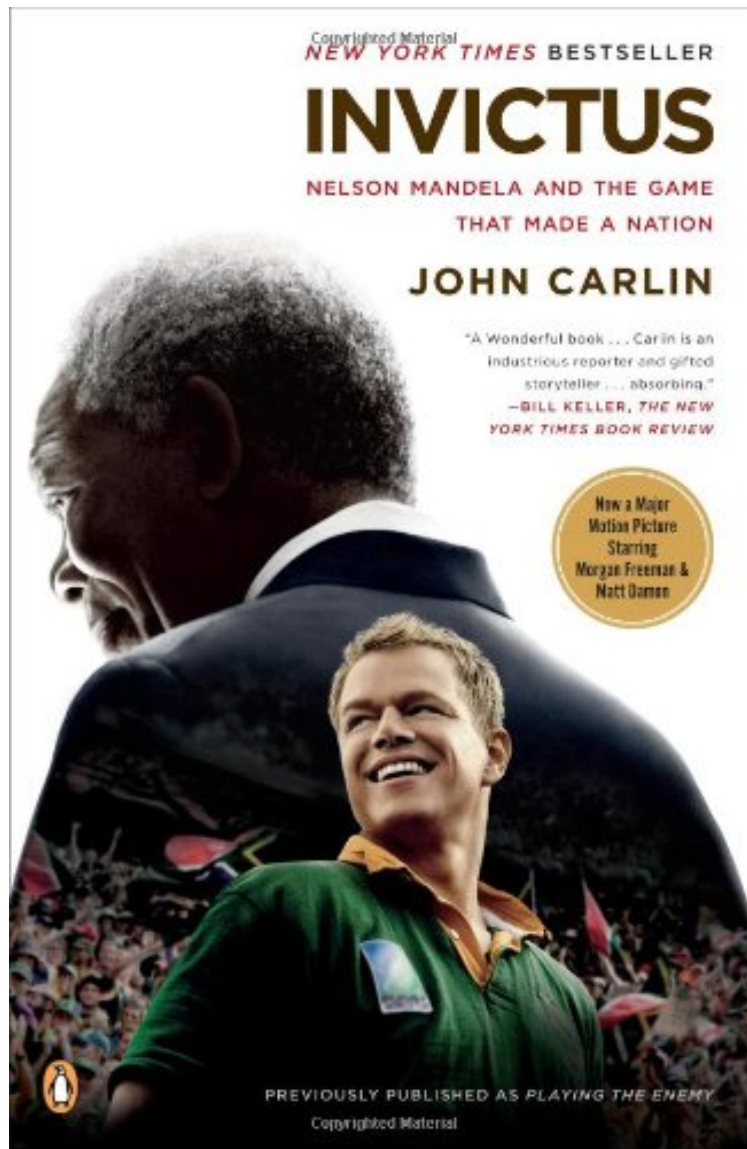


[Mobile ebook] Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation

Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation

John Carlin

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#188249 in Books John Carlin 2009-11-18 2009-11-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .65 x 5.50l, #File Name: 0143117157288 pages Invictus Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation | File size: 34.Mb

John Carlin : Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Power of Love to Heal a Nation By Karen Wingoof *Playing the Enemy* is a wonderful book - moving, touching, filled to brimming with inspiration. This is the story of Nelson

Mandela's rise to the presidency of South Africa, and the power of love (and rugby) to unite a nation. I laughed. I cried. By the time I finished this book, my heart was filled with hope for our world. This book was proof, to me, that nothing - absolutely nothing - is impossible to Love. "Mandela's weakness was his greatest strength. He succeeded because he chose to see good in people who ninety-nine people out of a hundred would have judged to have been beyond redemption...By appealing to and eliciting what was best in them, and in every single white South African watching the rugby game that day, he offered them the priceless gift of making them feel like better people, in some cases transforming them into heroes." His secret weapon was that he assumed not only that he would like the people he met; he assumed also that they would like him. That vast self-confidence of his coupled with that frank confidence he had in others made for a combination that was as irresistible as it was disarming." - from **Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation**- Karen Molenaar Terrell, author of **Blessings: Adventures of a Madcap Christian Scientist**

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely brilliant

By EJI agree with the other reviewers here about this book; it is indeed a "must-read". This book is not really a story of rugby, as later portrayed in the Hollywood movie; it is a story of a country struggling with a massive and long-overdue change in the fabric of its society. John Carlin tells the story of South Africa during the transition period after Nelson Mandela was freed from prison and apartheid ended. Whether you are an expert in this era or a neophyte, Carlin's writing and summary of this time is nothing short of superb. He is able to tell the tale of how South Africa managed an almost incomprehensibly huge change in its society without warfare, which is an incredible feat. Carlin had worked in South Africa and as such had background knowledge of the country as well as access to the many prominent figures that he interviewed for the book, including Mandela himself. The role of rugby in this book is as the thread that ties together the characters from all walks of life who appear throughout the story. It doesn't much resemble the movie in that sense, which relied more heavily on showing the rugby team, games, etc., as the primary driver of the story. The book is far more powerful. Everyone, and I do mean everyone, should read this book. It is well-written, fast-paced, emotional, and tells a story that would have been unbelievable if it weren't true. As a side note, the poem "Invictus", for which the movie was titled, brilliantly captures the bravery of Mandela and all of South Africa shown in this book. "It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll. I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." Excerpt from *Invictus*, by William Ernest Henley

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed and learned about much in this book.

By Bonnie N. Tilton I also struggled through the first part of the book with trying to keep straight the parties of the right and the left and what was what and who was who. I read every word, but I was not sure which side I was reading about. Loved reading about the charismatic Mandela. He was a Godsend of a leader.

Beginning in a jail cell and ending in a rugby tournament—the true story of how the most inspiring charm offensive in history brought South Africa together. After being released from prison and winning South Africa's first free election, Nelson Mandela presided over a country still deeply divided by fifty years of apartheid. His plan was ambitious if not far-fetched: use the national rugby team, the Springboks—long an embodiment of white-supremacist rule—to embody and engage a new South Africa as they prepared to host the 1995 World Cup. The string of wins that followed not only defied the odds, but capped Mandela's miraculous effort to bring South Africans together again in a hard-won, enduring bond. Watch a Video

From Publishers Weekly Carlin offers the final dramatic chapters of how then president Nelson Mandela and his wily strategy of using a sporting event—the Springboks rugby team in the 1995 World Cup—to mend South Africa. Carlin, a senior international writer for *El País*, quotes Mandela: Sports has the power to change the world.... It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers. After giving an informed capsule history of apartheid's bitter legacy and Mandela's noble stature as a leader, the scene is set for the influential rugby match between the solid New Zealand team and the scrappy South African squad in the finals of the World Cup, with 43 million blacks and whites awaiting the outcome. All of the cast in Afrikaner lore are here—Botha, DeKlerk, Bernard, Viljeon—as they match wits with Mandela. Carlin concludes this excellent book of redemption and forgiveness with chapters that depict how a divided country can be elevated beyond hate and malice to pride and healing. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist **Starred** Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in a South African prison because of his position as the military leader of the African National Congress, the leading anti-apartheid organization. Amazingly, while inside, he actually increased his influence as a resistance leader. In 1994, after his release, he was elected South Africa's president in the country's first free election. Realizing that his new government was on tenuous ground and could disintegrate at any moment, he sought a symbolic moment that would unite the black citizenry with white Afrikaners and hit upon the idea of South Africa hosting rugby's first World Cup. The first step was to convince South Africa's national team—the Springboks—to get aboard. Mandela's charm, determination, and patriotism won them over to the point that the team wound up singing the national anthem of the black resistance movement in a much-replayed television spot. Improbably, Springbok—once the sporting symbol of Afrikaner dominance and arrogance—advanced to the cup finals, gathering more fans, black and white, with each win. Carlin, former U.S. bureau chief for the Independent, was assigned to

South Africa during the transition from white to majority rule. He personally interviewed most of the principals involved in this fascinating story and undertook the project with Mandela's blessing. A new slant on the familiar but always inspiring saga of Mandela's rise to power. --Wes Lukowsky "[Invictus] was a terrific film, but wait till you hear the book. [Morgan] Freeman was nominated for an Oscar; I'd give it to Saul Reichlin for his mastery of African accents." THE GUARDIAN "I think the way John Carlin carried out his task in South Africa in the 1990s was magnificent." Nelson Mandela "Revelatory... A tight, gripping and powerful book that shines a light on a moment of hope, not just for one nation but the whole world." The Daily Express"