I'm not robot	reCAPTCHA

Next

Trevor noah born a crime chapter 16 summary

Just as under apartheid, the "fine line" between legal and criminal behavior is ultimately relatively meaningless: the state is full of criminals, most criminals are never punished, and desperate times call for desperate measures. Trevor wants the reader to see that, just as his mother taught him, ethical and personal rules are more important than legal ones (as long as one knows how to avoid legal consequences). This does not mean doing whatever one wants, but rather living by principles instead of by social demands and expectations. In this context, when no work is available in the formal sector, it seems unreasonable to refuse informal work on moral grounds. Before apartheid segregated South Africa's people by color, Black South Africans were divided into tribes. These tribes had a long history of conflict, particularly between the two dominant groups, the Zulu and the Xhosa people, by contrast, tried to learn from the Europeans and resisted their invasion with strategy instead of violence. Resentment between the two tribes grew during apartheid, and it escalated into war once apartheid was ended. Nelson Mandela was Xhosa, like Trevor Noah, the comedian and the author of Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood was born into apartheid and it escalated into war once apartheid and the author of Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood was born into apartheid and it escalated into war once apartheid was ended. in South Africa in 1984. In telling stories of growing up during the years shortly before and after the end of apartheid, he weaves in insights about his home country's history, culture, and traditions. Even though Christianity had been forced on native South Africans by the Europeans, Trevor's mother was a devout Christian who took her family to multiple churches every Sunday. Each church offered something different and catered to a different racial demographic—mostly white, mostly Black, or mixed. Trevor truly enjoyed attending church, but not the logistics of commuting to these churches. The family would have to take a complex succession of minibuses on the mornings when their secondhand car wasn't working. Trevor's mother was never easily intimidated and her faith in God was unwavering. One morning when Trevor was nine years old, a bus driver began to speak menacingly to Trevor's mother, criticizing her for traveling without a man. She threw Trevor out of the bus at an intersection and then jumped out herself. Trevor, bleeding and confused, didn't realize at the time that his mother had likely just saved his life, because bus drivers typically had ties to race gangs. His mother thanked God for saving them both, but Trevor asked if the next time their car broke down, God could meet them at home instead. Chapter 2: Born a Crime In 1652, Dutch colonizers came to Cape Town under British rule and gradually developed their own culture and language. These colonizers, Afrikaners formulated and formalized an advanced system of racial oppression that became known as apartheid. It was an authoritarian state that removed native peoples from their land and forced them into slavery. Trevor grew up during apartheid, with a white father and a Black mother when sexual relationships between races were against the law. Officers had a hard time enforcing this law, and many mixed-race children were born during this time. When Trevor's mother, Patricia, ran away from home to live and work in Johannesburg, it was illegal for Black people to live within the city, someone she felt she could trust not to turn her over to the police. One day, Patricia told the Swiss man she wanted him to give her a child. Eventually, the man agreed, and so Patricia gave birth to a mixed-race child in 1984. Trevor's existence was against the law, so Patricia had to evade questions about her son's light skin. It was dangerous for both Trevor's parents to be seen in public with this cousins, lest he be taken by the police. Trevor became good at entertaining himself alone indoors. Years later, Noah met mixed-race South Africa was her country. She didn't want to leave. Chapter 3: Trevor, Pray South African culture contains contradictions. Their justice system has modern elements: a judge, jury, and lawyers. The laws, however, seem ancient. Well into the twenty-first century, one could be arrested and found guilty by a jury for practicing witchcraft. The only regular male presence in Trevor's young life was Patricia's father, Temperance Noah. Trevor remembers Temperance had bipolar disorder. Trevor learned that Temperance Noah. Trevor synchronic father, Trevor learned that Temperance Noah. Trevor remembers swings from broad charm and sharpminded. Patricia did not find it hard to raise Trevor without the help of a husband. The women of Soweto, many of whom were raising children without male help, formed their personal challenges, and Trevor felt he, too, was being helpful by offering his prayers. Homes in Soweto were typically built piece by piece, and most did not include indoor plumbing. Once, when Trevor was a five-year old, he didn't want to use the outdoor toilet while it was raining. Instead, Trevor had a bowel movement onto a newspaper and placed it in the dust bin. Trevor's blind great-grandmother, Koko, didn't know it was Trevor making noise. Patricia arrived home and discovered the dust bin's contents. When Trevor was asked to pray to God to kill the demon, and Trevor did his best in front of the women in a prayer meeting that lasted two hours. Later, once he was alone, Trevor prayed again. Trevor hoped to be forgiven for wasting God's time on such a trivial matter. Chapter 4: Chameleon Language, Noah believes, is a good tool for perpetuating them, because language is another way for humans to decide who is and isn't like them. The South African government used language to maintain divisions among the South African tribes. Trevor's grandmother Frances regularly beat his Black cousins with a belt. When Patricia asked her mother why she did not beat Trevor the same way, Frances answered that she was afraid to beat a white child, because they bruise so easily. Patricia was the only person who didn't treat Trevor differently because of his light skin. Trevor learned early on that language was the best way to navigate his complex reality, and he made sure he could shift between Zulu, Tswana, and English whenever necessary. There were children of all races and colors at Trevor's Catholic school, Maryvale College. It was easy for Trevor to socialize with his peers until primary school. In the sixth grade, Trevor was not accepted by the Black children in the other classes until he proved that he could speak their African languages. Trevor asked to be pulled out of the advanced classes and placed with his Black peers. Chapter 5: The Second Girl Before apartheid, Black South African children were taught in English mission schools. They learned English and studied science, history, medicine, and law. Bantu, or "native," schools established by the apartheid government were designed to keep the Black populations in poverty. Bantu schools taught mostly agriculture and simple counting and measuring. The distinction between these two approaches, Noah believes, was that the English colonizers gave Black South Africans hope of a better life if they became civilized. The Bantu approach offered no such hope. Patricia's parents, Temperance and Frances, did not have a happy marriage. When Patricia was young, she told her mother she wanted to live with her father. Temperance instead sent her to live with his sister in Xhosa, a semi-sovereign "homeland" nation where Patricia was educated in a mission school. She became self-sufficient, working at a young age so as to not be a financial burden on her family. At twentyone, Patricia began secretarial school in Soweto but was forced to send her wages back to her family. Looking back, Patricia refers to this as the "black tax": before her hard work could benefit her personal advancement, it must first support the older generations. This expectation was given to Patricia even in her name— "She Who Gives Back." When Patricia gave a name to her son, she intentionally chose one with no Biblical or familial ties—"Trevor." Patricia made sure Trevor had a way to free his mind, and she fostered in her son a love of reading and thinking. Shortly after Nelson Mandela was released from prison, marking the beginning of the end for apartheid, Patricia moved with her son to a town called Eden Park. Though they lived very modestly, Patricia raised Trevor to believe in his own voice and the possibilities of his future. She saw that their world would change, and she wanted her son to be ready. Chapter 6: Loopholes The racial divides of South African apartheid were not logical to Noah. Chinese immigrants were classified as Black, while Japanese immigrants were classified as white. However, many South Africans were not able to distinguish between Chinese immigrants and Japanese immigrants were classified as white. However, many South Africans were not able to distinguish between Chinese immigrants and Japanese immigrants and Japanese immigrants, so it made for a confusing social and legal stratification. Trevor was an active and mischievous child. Patricia had some unique ways of handling her son's misbehavior. Patricia and Trevor began exchanging comically formal letters when Trevor was around eight years old. The pair would argue in writing over Trevor's chores or his poor grades, as they preferred not to address the conflict in person. Trevor became a fast runner and was quick to evade punishment. On the rare occasions when Patricia was able to catch Trevor, she made sure her son knew why she was spanking him and that she still loved him. Patricia surprised Trevor by occasionally supporting his rebellious side when they both disagreed with a rule he broke at school. Trevor learned from Patricia to challenge authority, and he soon developed a reputation for being disobedient. Patricia's boyfriend, Abel, lived in the garage of a white family in Eden Park. One day, Trevor was playing with matches and a magnifying glass in the garage and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire, but no one could think of a punishment for Trevor was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire with the punishment for the fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire with the fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire was playing with matches and inadvertently started a fire able to forget painful things quickly. Chapter 7: Fufi It is unusual for Black South Africans to own cats as pets as many of them believe cats are witches and carried jinxes. One South African soccer player was jailed for beating a cat to death when it interrupted a match. Once Patricia had moved her son from a Black neighborhood to a mixed-race neighborhood, she brought Trevor two black cats. Someone in their neighborhood killed the cats and left the bodies on Trevor's front gate. Soon, Patricia brought Trevor two black cats. Someone in their neighborhood killed the cats and left the bodies on Trevor's front gate. Soon, Patricia brought Trevor two black cats. Someone in their neighborhood killed the cats and left the bodies on Trevor's front gate. Soon, Patricia brought Trevor two black cats. Fufi, and he marveled at her ability to jump high. Fufi liked to jump over their walls, roam the neighborhood, and then wait outside the gate for Trevor and Patricia to come home. One day, Trevor found Fufi in another boy's yard. Trevor argued with the boy, who believed that Fufi was his dog, until Patricia offered to buy Fufi from the other family. Trevor was upset that Fufi loved another boy; he was hurt that his dog had betrayed him. Patricia reminded Trevor applied that lesson later on in life. Trevor still reminds his friends that they do not own the object of their love. Chapter 8: Robert Once Trevor was older, Patricia encouraged him to seek out his father. Patricia hoped that Trevor would find a piece of himself, and that it would be good for him to show his father who Trevor had grown up to become. As a grown man, Trevor Noah has still never met his Swiss grandparents, or his father's sister. Noah still doesn't know much about the man he never called "Daddy." Robert never understood apartheid, and he hated racism. He opened one of the first racially integrated restaurants in Johannesburg. The steakhouse was very successful until complaints were filed, and Robert decided to shut down the restaurant rather than cater to only white customers. Once apartheid ended, Trevor began visiting his father regularly, and the two celebrated some special occasions together. As Trevor entered his teenage years and Robert moved to Cape Town, Trevor and Robert moved to Cape Town, Trevor and Robert lost touch. About ten years later, once Trevor had become a successful radio and television host, Trevor resumed contact with his father and began visiting him again. During that first visit, Robert revealed that he had been tracking Trevor's career. In return, Trevor tried to get to know Robert better by spending time together. PART II Chapter 9: The Mulberry Tree Most mixed-race, or "colored," South Africans are not connected to their roots in the same way that Black South Africans are, and mostly assimilated into Afrikaner cultures. Noah believes, for this reason, that mixed-race South Africans have had a more difficult history than Black South Africans. As a mixed-race child, Trevor felt more animosity from the mixed-race community than from other racial groups. Under apartheid, there was a real threat that white citizens would be reclassified as colored, so white parents often had to prove their children were not mixed-race. As a class, mixed-race South Africans were lower than white citizens but higher than Black ones. When apartheid ended, Black citizens came to enjoy a higher status than mixed-race ones. This power shift increased tensions between mixed-race and black communities. Trever felt hated by white people for having a perfect English accent. Trevor recalls being bullied by some mixed-race kids in his neighborhood. They started throwing mulberries, and then small rocks, at Trevor until he went home crying. Patricia's boyfriend Abel, beat the other boys with a switch and forced their leader to apologize to Trevor until he went home crying. Patricia's boyfriend Abel, beat the other boys with a switch and forced their leader to apologize to Trevor until he went home crying. Patricia's boyfriend Abel, beat the other boys with a switch and forced their leader to apologize to Trevor until he went home crying. then started a fight with the boy's father, and Trevor saw what a dangerous man his mother's boyfriend was. Chapter 10: A Young Man's Long, Awkward, Occasionally Tragic, and Frequently Humiliating Education in Affairs of the Heart, Part I: Valentine's Day Patricia spent a lot of time teaching Trevor how men should interact respectfully and effectively with women. Noah wishes he had learned more from his mother about how to be a boy and how to talk to girls, but Patricia insisted that Trevor's friends encouraged him to ask Maylene, the only mixed-race girl in his school, to be his Valentine. Though he had been assured that Maylene would say yes, Trevor was nervous about asking her. The pair often walked home from school together, and one day Trevor's Valentine, and then they kissed outside of a McDonald's. This was Trevor's first kiss. He saved up money to buy Maylene gifts for Valentine's Day and eagerly awaited his opportunity to give them to his new girlfriend. The day came, and Trevor greeted Maylene to be his Valentine. Trevor was heartbroken, but he gave Maylene her gifts anyway. Though he was disappointed, Trevor still understood why Maylene had picked this other boy, Leonard was white and good-looking. Chapter 11: Outsider Patricia was so reluctant to buy gasoline, an expensive commodity, that her car would not recognize him while he pushed his mother's car along the road. In the eight grade, Trevor began attending Sandringham High School. Trevor's classmates were a mix of white, Black, mixed-race, Indian, and Chinese students. Each racial group had wealthy, middle-class, working-class, and township students. As in most social settings, Trevor had a hard time figuring out which group to join. Since Trevor would race to be first in line at the nearby food truck to buy snacks. Students quickly learned that they could pay Trevor to buy snacks for them, and Trevor soon began taking orders from his wealthy classmates. This role gave Trevor the chance to hone his humor, shed his position as a social outcast, and earn some extra pocket money. Chapter 12: A Young Man's Long, Awkward, Occasionally Tragic, and Frequently Humiliating Education in Affairs of the Heart, Part II: The Crush Noah does not regret anything he has done, but he is often filled with regret from girls, in part, he feels, because he suffered from severe acne during puberty. However, talking to girls came easy to Trevor because he could make them laugh. Trevor's classmate Johanna was best friends with a beautiful girl named Zaheera. Though he was only in the ninth grade, Trevor devised a plan to ask Zaheera to the matriculation dance, their senior prom. Trevor became Zaheera's friend, and he talked to her as often as he could. Whenever Zaheera and her boyfriend broke up, Trevor was there to talk her through it. Once Zaheera did not return to school. Johanna told Trevor that Zaheera how he felt but was too afraid. After winter break, Zaheera did not return to school. Johanna told Trevor that Zaheera how he felt but was too afraid. Trevor was even more devastated when Johanna told him that Zaheera had always wished Trevor would ask her out. Trevor knew he missed the chance to be with Zaheera because he never had the courage to tell her how he felt. Chapter 13: Colorblind Highlands Park was a largely Jewish, entirely white neighborhood until Patricia found one house for sale that was in poor condition. Trevor longed to be friends with the other children living in Highlands Park, but he was never invited to join them. Some families allowed their domestic workers to live with them in the servants' quarters, and Trevor became friends with many of these children in his neighborhood. Trevor and his friend Teddy regularly got into trouble together. One day, the two boys were caught stealing from a store and were chased by a mall cop. Trevor looked for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor went home to wait there for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor went home to wait there for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor went home to wait there for Teddy during the chase, but he was able to evade the cops. Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Trevor looked for Teddy at Teddy's house, and then Teddy's house, and the teddy's house, and afternoon, Teddy's parents came to Trevor's house to tell Patricia that Teddy had been arrested for shoplifting. Teddy said he was alone, but Patricia did not believe that Trevor was not also involved in the theft. The next day, Trevor was called into the principal's office to identify the other boy caught on the security camera shoplifting with Teddy. In the low-quality black-and-white footage, Teddy's accomplice looked like a white boy. The principal believed that Trevor, being Teddy's best friend, would know which of their white classmates was shoplifting with Teddy. Trevor gave no name. He waited for weeks to be caught and punished, but the call never came. Chapter 14: A Young Man's Long, Awkward, Occasionally Tragic, and Frequently Humiliating Education in Affairs of the Heart, Part III: The Dance Even though there are eleven official languages spoken in the country. Most South Africans speak enough English and Afrikaans to navigate effectively. Sometimes this complex social system works, and sometimes it doesn't. By Trevor's senior year, he convinced Patricia that he needed a computer for school. This allowed Trevor sell his bootleg CDs. Trevor also used the computer to look at pictures of naked girls on the internet. Trevor wasn't spending time with girls at his school, and he didn't think he would be attending the matriculation dance. Tim, an unpredictable presence in Trevor's life, offered to find a date for Trevor was introduced to his date, Babiki, he thought she was the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen. Trevor and Babiki went out in groups several times, but the pair were never alone and Babiki was shy. The dance was coming up, and Trevor asked for permission to borrow Patricia's boyfriend's car. Abel owned a BMW, and Trevor wanted to impress Babiki. Abel initially refused, but he relented once he saw how beautiful Babiki was. Sizwe, another middleman in Trevor's CD business, convinced Trevor to have his hair braided into cornrows. Trevor thought the final result looked good, but Patricia teased him about how pretty it looked. When the night of the dance arrived, Abel broke his promise to lend Trevor the BMW, and Trevor had to take his old Mazda. Trevor was so late to pick up Babiki that she almost refused to get in the car. When the pair finally arrived at the dance, Babiki wouldn't get out of the car. Eventually, Trevor learned that Babiki did not speak English. Trevor was ashamed, thinking back over his relationship with Babiki. During the month they had been dating, Trevor had never asked Babiki about herself. He had been too distracted by her beauty to think about her feelings, just like the naked women he looked at online. PART III Chapter 15: Go Hitler! The German education system does not teach students about slavery and segregation with the same awareness and humility, Noah believes. South Africa takes a similarly detached approach to teaching about apartheid. While he was in the ninth grade, Trevor made a friend named Daniel who sold bootleg CDs. When Trevor learned that Daniel had trouble getting his Black customers to pay on time, Trevor offered to help Daniel collect payments in exchange for a portion of the profits. When Daniel graduated, he gave the business, including the equipment, to Trevor had money of his own. Trevor had begun making mixed CDs, expertly curated with smooth transitions between songs. Sizwe knew that he and Trevor could make a lot of money showcasing Trevor's song mixing talents in front of a live audience. After Trevor graduated, he and Sizwe set up on a street corner selling CDs, playing music, and dancing. A young man named Hitler was the best dancer in their group. Many Black South Africans chose European names like Hitler, Mussolini, or Napoleon out of a vague sense that these were powerful men whom white people fought against. The Holocaust is the worst moment in history for many people in Western cultures. For many black Africans, Hitler was seen as little more than a significant historical figure. This disconnect led to a heated argument Trevor had with a teacher at a Jewish school. Trevor and Sizwe's group was hired to perform at the King David School. Trevor did not understand her hostility, and he believed this white woman was reacting in a racist manner to his Black friends. These white people couldn't handle a group of talented Black dancers, Trevor thought. Chapter 16: The Cheese Boys Noah explains how squatter settlements like the Johannesburg township called Alexandra (known to most residents as just "Alex") will never grow into cities the way Soweto was able to. The people who moved to Alexandra were not given land by the government. Nonetheless, today Alex is home to nearly 200,000 people. Sizwe was from Alex, where he became known as a protector of other children from the township. One day after graduation. Sizwe invited Trevor to visit Alex for the first time. Trevor was captivated by the energy of the "hood," as Sizwe called it. At any moment, the busy streets of the grid system township could be interrupted by an altercation between gangsters and cops. Sizwe and his friends were known as "cheese boys," because they could afford to add cheese to their food orders. Trevor made a plan to move to Alex to sell bootleg CDs in order to afford university tuition. Sizwe expanded their business into buying and selling stolen goods, like DVD players and designer shoes. Moms were the best customers, and they trusted Sizwe and Trevor to take their daughters to parties. In exchange, Trevor and Sizwe would forgive any debt the moms owed them. However, success in the hood did not last. At one of the parties, cops shot Trevor and Sizwe took their dance group to a competition against Soweto, hoping to take home the cash prize. Their minibus was stopped by cops, who found a gun. The cops recognized that Sizwe and his friends were from Alex and started hitting the boys, calling them trash. It was clear that the group was expected to bribe the cops to avoid jail time, but they had run out of money. When the group was taken to jail, Trevor called a friend from Highlands Park to send the boys bail money. Trevor realized that his friends from Alex had fewer options in life. Unlike Sizwe and Hitler, Trevor would be free to leave "the hood" whenever he chose. Chapter 17: The World Doesn't Love You When Noah was ten years old, he was caught shoplifting batteries. Patricia told the cops that she would not come pick him up from jail, because her son needed to learn his lesson. The cops thought no mother would leave her ten-year-old in jail, so they let Trevor go, assuming he was an orphan. Trevor was pulled over by a cop and asked if he was the car's owner. The car was not registered to Trevor, so he was arrested. Trevor borrowed money from a friend to hire a lawyer. On Trever's third day in jail, the cops brought in a large, muscled Tsonga man. Trevor and the other prisoners dropped their tough acts in the face of this truly intimidating criminal. Trevor recalled what Nelson Mandela had said about the power of speaking to someone in their language, and when Trevor began talking to the man in Tsonga, he guickly discovered that this man was not the hardened criminal he appeared to be. The two men shared stories, and Trevor felt compassion since he knew that his new friend would face a long sentence. When Trevor was transferred to the holding cell to wait for his court hearing, he realized his companions were nothing like the gentle, petty thief he had just met. Hundreds of criminals waited with Trevor, all organized into the same racial groups Trevor had seen on the school playground. Trevor chose to stand with the white men, one of whom advised Trevor to cry in front of the judge. Eventually, Trevor was sentenced and released. Trevor's cousin drove him home, where Patricia was waiting for him. Trevor was shocked to learn that his mother had, in fact, paid for Trevor's lawyer. Patricia was waiting for him. Trevor was shocked to learn that his mother had, in fact, paid for Trevor's lawyer. him. Chapter 18: My Mother's Life Patricia preferred to treat any of her son's maladies with church and prayer rather than with medicine. She felt Trevor was lucky when he fell ill on a Sunday since he could be healed at church by Jesus. When Trevor had his hair braided he started getting more attention from girls and began dating. Patricia teased Trevor for spending more money on his hair than she spent on hers. When Trevor was young, Patricia would take their family Volkswagen to an auto shop called Mighty Mechanics when it broke down, which was often. Trevor liked spending their regular visits with the charming mechanic whom Patricia called Abie. However, that feeling changed for Trevor after Abel beat up the neighborhood bully. Trevor was concerned when Patricia told him she and Abel were going to be married. They should have known Abel's true nature; his Tsonga name meant "Be afraid." Trevor's half-brother Andrew was born a year after Patricia and Abel married. Patricia did not fit in with Abel's family, who expected women to be subservient to men. Trevor saw that he and his mother were slowly losing their independence. Abel did not like his wife to be at church all day on Sundays, and he refused to drive Trevor saw that he almost burned down the house. Patricia tried to call for help, but Abel argued with her. Trevor watched the fight escalate until Abel struck Patricia across her face. Patricia took her sons and walked to the police station. She told them to charge her husband with assault, but they refused and allowed Abel to take his family home. Patricia's mother, who had been beaten by her husband for years, convinced Patricia again for many years. Patricia used her savings to help Abel buy the Mighty Mechanics shop, but Abel was a better mechanic than he was a businessman. Soon, Patricia needed to sell her home to keep the shop running, and the family moved into the shop's cold warehouse. Trevor preferred to sleep in the cars, rather than the concrete floor. His schoolwork suffered because he had to work in the shop running, and the family moved into the shop running, and the family moved into the shop running. when they ran out of money to buy food. After a year, Patricia gave up and found a job as a secretary, and Abel's shop was sold to pay off his debts. Once again, Patricia did not hit Andrew the way she had hit Trevor when he was younger. Trevor, despite being surrounded by violence, was a gentle boy. Patricia saw the love her oldest son used to build his relationships. But Abel did not change and began hitting Trevor when he was in the sixth grade. Trevor knew these beatings were different from the smacks he'd received, out of love, from his mother. Once Patricia started working again, Abel resumed his violence toward her. Abel's outbursts were infrequent at first, but they became more common over the years. Trevor came home one day to learn that Abel had bought a gun. Patricia feared that Abel would use it on Trevor, who was now able to defend himself. Trevor moved into a flat, near enough that he could still see his family often. Patricia, now in her forties, had another son named Isaac, and Trevor felt less welcome in his family. The beatings got so bad that Patricia moved with her youngest two sons out of the main house and into a shack in the yard. At this point, Trevor told Patricia he could no longer be part of their family if she stayed married to Abel. Trevor thought it was a simple matter of willpower, but Patricia knew that Abel would kill her if she left him. One Sunday morning after a long separation from Patricia and his brothers, Trevor got a call from Andrew, who seemed calm, also broke down crying when Trevor arrived. Patricia was awake and calmly awaiting surgery, more worried about her middle child than the gaping hole in her face. Andrew explained to Trevor that Patricia had remarried they had left Abel. She had taken her family to church, and they had returned to her new home to find Abel, who was drunk, waiting. Abel announced that he was going to kill all of them. Andrew pleaded with his father, but he saw no love in the man's eyes. Abel pointed the gun at his sons, but Patricia in the head, but the gun misfired. Patricia managed to get into the car, but Abel fired one last shot through the window that hit Patricia in the head. Andrew drove her to the hospital, he explained to Trevor. At this point, Andrew was interrupted by a nurse. Patricia had cancelled her health insurance and would be transferred to a state hospital. Trevor knew that his mother would not want him to be burdened with the debt of her hospital bills, but he agreed to pay whatever it cost. When the doctor updated Trevor and his family, he told them that the outcome was a miracle. Both bullets had missed all major arteries and organs and had left no bullet fragments. Patricia's injuries were minimal, and she would return to work four days later. Patricia joked when Trevor cried at her bedside that night. Later they learned what had happened to Isaac, who was four at the time. Abel explained to his youngest son that he had killed Patricia because he was very sad. Abel left Isaac with a friend and planned to kill himself. A cousin who Abel visited to say goodbye told him to face what he had done, and Abel then turned himself in to the police. He made bail a month later, pled guilty, and served no time in prison. Trevor was able to pay Patricia's hospital bill the day she was released. He tried to explain to Patricia disagreed. Jesus had given her a son who could afford to pay her hospital bill, and that was the only insurance she needed.

