



# Conversations with Myself

By Nelson Mandela

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"[Nelson Mandela] has done so much to change his country, and the world, that it is hard to imagine the history of the last several decades without him." ?from the foreword by President Barack Obama

Foreword by President Barack Obama

Nelson Mandela is one of the most inspiring and iconic figures of our age. Now, after a lifetime of recording thoughts and events, hardships and victories, he has opened his personal archive, which offers unprecedented insight into his remarkable autobiography.

From letters written in the darkest hours of his twenty-seven years of imprisonment to the draft of an unfinished sequel to *Long Walk to Freedom*, *Conversations with Myself* gives readers access to the private man behind the public figure. Here he is making notes and even doodling during meetings, or transcribing troubled dreams on the desk calendar in his prison cell on Robben Island; writing journals while on the run during the anti-apartheid struggle in the early 1960s, and conversing with friends in almost seventy hours of recorded conversations. Here he is neither icon nor saint.

An intimate journey from the first stirrings of political consciousness to his galvanizing role on the world stage, *Conversations with Myself* is a rare chance to spend time with Nelson Mandela the man, in his own voice: direct, clear, private.

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## Conversations with Myself By Nelson Mandela Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The South African statesman and former political prisoner bares his mind and soul in this inspiring collection of writings and interviews. Culled from Mandela's letters, notebooks, taped conversations, prison diaries, calendars, and an unfinished autobiography, the material includes reminiscences of the antiapartheid movement, lessons in revolutionary theory gleaned from his guerrilla training, vignettes of prison life, seething protests to authorities, tender missives to loved ones, canny political strategizing and quiet philosophical reflections. The entries recall moments of high drama, days of dreary routine and interludes of random strangeness, including a prison screening of *Revenge of the Nerds*. Mandela registers his anger at the humiliations and hardships imposed on him by apartheid, and his anguish over his long separation from his family (officials even denied his requests to attend his mother's and son's funerals). But what comes through most strongly is his steadfast resolve--"the knowledge that in your day you did your duty and lived up to the expectations of your fellow man is in itself a reward"--and a shrewd, ebullient humanity that finds and embraces the good even in his prison guards. The result is a moving account of Mandela's struggle and a testament to his triumph. Photos. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

He has been called the most famous person in the world. Certainly for 27 years he was the most famous prisoner until his release in 1990 and then his election in 1994 as the first president of a democratic South Africa. He was welcomed by the pope, the queen, and world leaders everywhere. But even with the shelves of books by and about him, this volume of personal papers, published worldwide in 21 editions and languages, adds much that has never been said before about Nelson Mandela, including diary entries from his time in the underground, debates about passive resistance and guerrilla warfare, letters from prison, and recorded reminiscences with former fellow prisoners. Mandela knew that his letters, even those to his young daughters, might not get past the prison censors, so he kept copies in a journal that was always with him. Now official archivists have arranged this material chronologically, including some facsimiles in Mandela's own handwriting. Yes, readers will skip some of the bits and pieces, but not much. He is as eloquent about the personal, such as his two-year "honeymoon" with his wife, Winnie ("We kept warning each other we were living on borrowed time"), as he is about the universal (his letter from Robben Island to the authorities about the rights of prisoners). Sure to spark debate is Mandela's answer to the famous criticism that he hurt his family to help the nation: he had to do it because "hundreds, millions, in our country are suffering." With a foreword by Barack Obama, this insightful volume includes a time line, map, and detailed notes on related people, places, and events. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"A prisoner became a free man; a liberation figure became a passionate voice for reconciliation; a party leader became a president who advanced democracy....He has done so much to change his country, and the world, that it is hard to imagine the history of the last several decades without him." *?from the foreword by President Barack Obama*

"A literary album...Intensely moving, raw, and unmediated...Provides the fullest picture yet of Nelson Mandela...A necessary book." *?Peter Godwin, The Observer (London)*

"There are fascinating glimpses of the inner man, and flashes of his celebrated humor....*Conversations*

presents a Mandela more people may feel they can emulate.” ?*Chicago Tribune*

“This book will reduce the reader to both rapture and tears....Deeply moving.” ?*Financial Times (London)*

“A truly unprecedented moment in publishing...Stunning...Nothing short of a monumental historical document.” ?*The Daily Beast*

“This book will reduce the reader to both rapture and tears.” ?*Alec Russell, Financial Times*

“Outstanding for what it offers. . . Its collection of letters and meditations, together with its thorough index and appendix, belongs on the shelf of anyone interested in the nature of power and resistance.” ?*J.M. Ledgard, The New York Times Review of Books*

## **Users Review**

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#### **Tara Wilson:**

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**Courtney Osteen:**

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