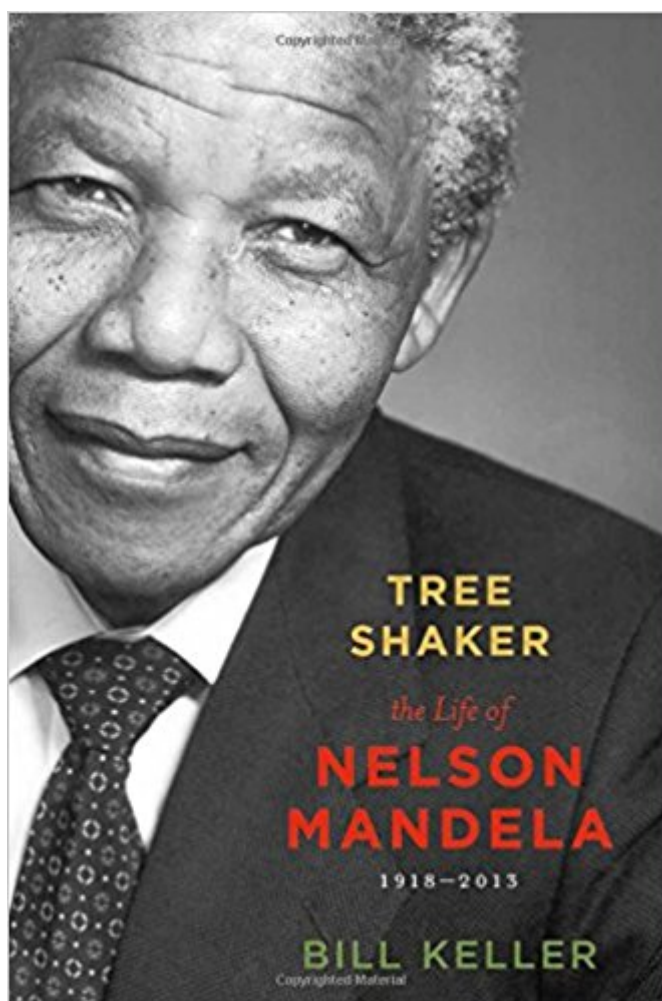


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# Tree Shaker: The Story Of Nelson Mandela (New York Times Books)



## Synopsis

This fascinating biography looks at the life of Nelson Mandela, placing his awe-inspiring accomplishments in historical context for a new generation to admire. On a February day in 1994, Mandela visited Robben Island, a desolate rock where he had been held during his twenty-seven years as a prisoner. Days later, he triumphed in an election that rescued South Africa from the climate of oppression that had held sway for so long. By New York Times executive editor, Bill Keller, *Tree Shaker* looks at the events that led Mandela from his tribal homeland to the center of the struggle for racial equality in South Africa. From early acts of protest to the leadership of an apartheid-free nation, this is an honest portrayal of the astonishing life of a modern political and social icon.

## Book Information

Series: New York Times Books

Hardcover: 128 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 215.9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up  
Keller draws on his years of experience as the Johannesburg bureau chief for the New York Times in this compact profile of South Africa's leading political figure. Beginning with the 1994 visit of Mandela and his surviving fellow former prisoners to Robben Island, he looks back to the history of white colonization and the National Party's introduction of formal apartheid in the mid-20th century. The treatment of Mandela's rise from a student headed for a career in tribal government to leader and revolutionary in the antiapartheid resistance movement, then political

prisoner and eventual president of his country, is absorbing and fair-minded. Keller doesn't gloss over the less-savory aspects of Mandela's character ("He sometimes misled his allies and manipulated his followers. He was willing to let innocent people die in the cause of liberation"), but paints a portrait of a man of courage and leadership who, when faced with difficult choices, did whatever was necessary to achieve his goal. The period spent in prison ("Robben Island University") is covered briefly, and the author's compelling first-person account of postapartheid unrest emphasizes the messy reality of the major social upheavals that make up history. Articles from the Times and other sources provide historical viewpoints on apartheid and Mandela's story. Well-chosen black-and-white and full-color photographs enhance the text. A good first purchase for biography and current-events collections.

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“With its striking layout, bright graphics and photographs on almost every page, Keller's biography of Mandela vibrates with the feeling of history come alive.”

• “Keller's vivid writing brings to life his subject and the complex history of South Africa.”

• “On-the-spot reporting of the end of apartheid, of Mandela's release from prison, and the excitement of the country's first democratic elections makes this more than the usual biography.”

Booklist

I expected more of a children's story, and was pleasantly surprised at the variety of ages this will appeal to. Older elementary through high school is appropriate to read on their own, and parts could be shared with younger children, because Mandela is such a great role-model. Enjoy!

If you are interested in knowing Madela's life history; this is the book for you. I have read many books about him. This was was the best indepth factual one about his life.

5 stars!

TREE SHAKER is a very informative and colorful book written by Bill Keller, the Executive Editor of The New York Times. The entire book is written like one long article, broken up by chapters and festive with many colorful pictures. It tells the story of Nelson Mandela's life -- from childhood to becoming the first black South African president -- and his impact on South Africa and the

world. This book was very informative; somewhat like a history textbook but with many colorful pictures and interesting story and dialogues in between the factual parts. This book is highly recommended for anyone who wants to learn about the life of a man who impacted the world with his brilliance and determination for black equality among a white supremacist country. Reviewed by: Steph

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