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Native Nostalgia



Synopsis

Challenging the stereotype that black people who lived under South African apartheid have no happy memories of the past, this examination into nostalgia carves out a path away from the archetypical musings. Even though apartheid itself had no virtue, the author, himself a young black man who spent his childhood under apartheid, insists that it was not a vast moral desert in the lives of those living in townships. In this deep meditation on the experiences of those who lived through apartheid, it points out that despite the poverty and crime, there was still art, literature, music, and morals that, when combined, determined the shape of black life during that era of repression.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jacob Dlamini is a writer whose work has appeared in a number of publications, including the Sunday Times and Weekender.

I am very impressed with the strength and nostalgic innocence of Jacob's account of life in the township. He gives one a sense of a good life lived in Katlehong when he was growing up. Even if life did not have all the elements of comfort, well-being, safety, health, wealth and so many other things that we so easily take for granted, yet it was life well lived under trying circumstances, but a life well lived. Jacob pertinently points out that the township is so poignantly sought out by the same protagonists who refer so harshly to Townships as rat holes without any nostalgic thoughts of the other side of township life which made so many of us. Well done Jacob for setting the proper balance of who we really are as a free and vibrant people of today, thanks to what the township

awoke in us then and today.

According to this book a grounded future of South Africa is impossible without the future of its black townships. I agree.

For an interesting interview about the book and some of Dlamini's other work, search for "Africa Past and Present," a podcast about Africa, and go to episode 59, which is an interview with Dlamini.

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