Chapter Summaries

5 & 6

Chapter 5: The Second Girl

* **Setting**: Sophiatown, Soweto, Orlando, Xhosa (all recapping Patricia’s childhood) and Eden Park (her and Trevor moved there when the apartheid fell)
* **Narrator**: Trevor Noah
* ​​Patricia always told Trevor that she wanted to have him to feel like she belonged because her parents (Temperance and Frances) did not have a happy marriage.
  + A year into their marriage, the government seized their home and bulldozed the area to become a white suburb.
  + They moved together to Soweto, but divorced soon after and his grandmother moved with the kids to Orlando
* When Patricia was young, she did not get along with her mother and told her mother she wanted to live with her father.
* Patricia loved her father and vowed for his attention.
  + 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 learned English.
* She became self-sufficient, working at a young age so as to not be a financial burden on her family. At twenty-one, Patricia began secretarial school in Soweto but was forced to send her wages back to her family.
  + Called it “the black tax”, which is known commonly today as the racial wealth gap.
    - Before her hard work could benefit her personal advancement, it must first support the older generations.
  + The meaning of “Patricia” is: “She Who Gives Back.”
    - When Patricia gave a name to her son, she intentionally chose one with no Biblical or familial ties, so Trevor had a way to free his mind, and she fostered in her son a love of reading and thinking.
* English was Trevor’s first language and The Bible was his first book.
* Nelson Mandela was released from prison, the apartheid was slowly ending, and Patricia thought the family needed to relocate.
  + Patricia and Trevor moved 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.
  + Nelson Mandela was released when Trevor was 6 and democracy began when he was 10; change did come!

Chapter 6: Loopholes

* **Setting**: Eden Park (when Trevor was in grade/elementary school), Orange Grove (a white family neighborhood)
* **Narrator**: Trevor Noah
* Trevor was an active and mischievous child. His babysitters and his teachers would always have a hard time dealing with his high energy and need for attention.
* But, Patricia had some unique ways of handling her son’s misbehavior. Once, Trevor really wanted a toffee apple and his mom pretended to not be his mother. Strangers (and even Trevor) really believed her!
* 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.
* In school, he was not afraid of discipline. He even was tested by a psychologist to see “what was wrong with him” to behave in such a calm way during punishments.
* Trevor always found loopholes and challenged people around him. He ate the entire bag of Eucharist and grape juice out of spite because he wasn’t Catholic.
* Patricia surprised Trevor by occasionally supporting his rebellious side when they both disagreed with rules 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 with his friend and inadvertently started a fire. It burned the whole shed down and Abel had to leave. He lived with Trevor and Patricia from that day and on
* No one could think of a punishment for Trevor. Trevor’s cousin Mlungisi, who is well behaved, could not believe the things Trevor got away with.
* Trevor got his resilient spirit from his mother; they were both able to forget painful things quickly.