

Praise for the South African Edition

"Probably the finest piece of non-fiction to come out of South Africa since the end of apartheid."

- Martin Plaut, *Times Literary Supplement*

"Cerebral yet intimate, and beautifully written."

- Richard Calland, *Mail and Guardian*

"Anyone who wants to go beyond those clichés, and also to understand what has happened in South Africa since the end of white rule should read [this]. In the process they will get swept up in an extraordinarily compelling and at times infuriating and tragic story... Far and away the most authoritative book on Nelson Mandela's successor... Gevisser – one of South Africa's foremost journalists – writes with passion and conviction... Neither simplistic nor synthetic. Rather it is one of the great explanatory narratives of South Africa over the past 60-odd years."

- Alec Russell, *Financial Times*

"Retraces in great detail the president's life from his childhood in rural Transkei to his 28 years in exile and his ascent to power. In the process he sheds considerable light on more than half a century of South Africa's difficult history. ... essential reading for anyone intrigued by South Africa's complex philosopher-king."

- The Economist

"Deep and fascinating [study] ... a human portrait of a man variously called an enigma, Machiavellian, an intellectual, a visionary and Stalinist."

- The Times (SA)

"Exemplary work... with his depth of research, quality of thought and analysis, matched by his talents as a writer, [Gevisser] presents his subject with psychological insight, intellectual vigour and great delicacy."

- citation, *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Prize, 2008 (SA)