



LIFETIMES: UNDER APARTHEID

NADINE GORDIMER
DAVID GOLDBLATT

We have come a long way, with our country: a lifetime. Both of us were born white and slowly learned to leave that fatal isolation through the lessons of our work: the images and words.

We believe that what white South Africans have done to black South Africans seeps like an indelible stain through fiction and photographs. The repression and tragedy of black lives is there; we did not have to look for it, only to let it reveal itself as honestly and deeply as we could. The distortion and coarsening that white people brought upon themselves is there. These cannot be hidden; the image and word give back what is behind the face and place. For us, the images and words in this book move with what they depict, to an end that was always present. It is just not possible to live *that way*. Now the country is on the edge of an unspeakably cruel civil war. It is also on the threshold of the new life that must come; the disaster is that the war need never, should never, have been.

Nadine Gordimer
David Goldblatt

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With more than 60 photographs

This book brings together extracts from the widely-acclaimed novels and stories of Nadine Gordimer and the remarkable photographs of David Goldblatt. They say: 'We have come a long way, with our country, South Africa; a lifetime. Both of us were born white and slowly learned to leave that fatal isolation through the lessons of our work; the images and words. We believe that what white South Africans have done to black South Africans seeps as an indelible stain through fiction and photographs. The repression and tragedy of black lives is there; we did not have to look for it, only to let it reveal itself as honestly and deeply as we could. The distortion and coarsening that white people have brought upon themselves is there. These cannot be hidden; the image and word give back what is behind the face and place.'

A unique combination of talents has combined to create a book in which words and pictures speak independently and yet complement each other in rich and startling imagery, spirit and subject. The result is far more than a collection of intimate writings and photographs from the mines, the farms, the cities, the white suburbs, the black ghettos, the squatter camps, the weddings, the funerals, the streets, the crowds and the lonely, the luxurious bedrooms and the grim hostels – it is a synthesis rare in literature and powerful in its evocation of life and the indomitable urge towards liberation in South Africa.