A Prisoner in the Garden by The Nelson Mandela Foundation

**Very Interesting Depiction Of Mandela's Negotiation**

An extraordinary visual journey documenting Nelson Mandela’s twenty-seven years in prison on Robben Island, Prisoner in the Garden contains previously unpublished images, documents, and diary and letter extracts, as well as some original notes from the writing of Mandela’s bestselling autobiography, A Long Walk to Freedom, and other archival material that helps illustrate the life in jail of the world’s most famous political prisoner. As moving and inspirational as its predecessor, A Long Walk to Freedom, Prisoner in the Garden digs even deeper into Mandela’s prison years. This groundbreaking book is an international publication event. It is being published by Penguin South Africa, UK, Canada, and USA. Rich in imagery, Prisoner in the Garden provides compelling insight into the prison life of one of the elder statesman of our time.

**My Personal Review:**
I have been for many years a very interested reader of non-violent leaders, mainly MLK and Gandhi. The Mandela that shines through in this book recalls the spirits of those other great leaders.

Mandela’s negotiation skills shine through along with his humanity. We are confronted with many of his letters, some of which demonstrated frustration at censorship, some of which showed his tremendous skills negotiating with a government that held him prisoner. It is outstanding to see a man take power from a prison cell, and negotiate in a position of strength with a government that holds total control over his life.

The main aim of the book is not the one I am reflecting. The book is in fact a reflection of Mandela’s life in prison and all the records that have been gathered of his time there (and the interesting stories of each record). This is not a history book or even a biographical book -- if you are looking for those, look elsewhere. This is a record (with a lot of pictures) of a time in his life and his new project, in the form of the Center for Memory, as an attempt to avoid the mistakes of the past by remembering them.
This is a very interesting book. I have not read his biography, so I cannot compare, though I am impelled to read it now. Mandela is an outstanding man, a towering figure of the 20th century that helped usher in the 21st. One finishes this book with faith restored.

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