



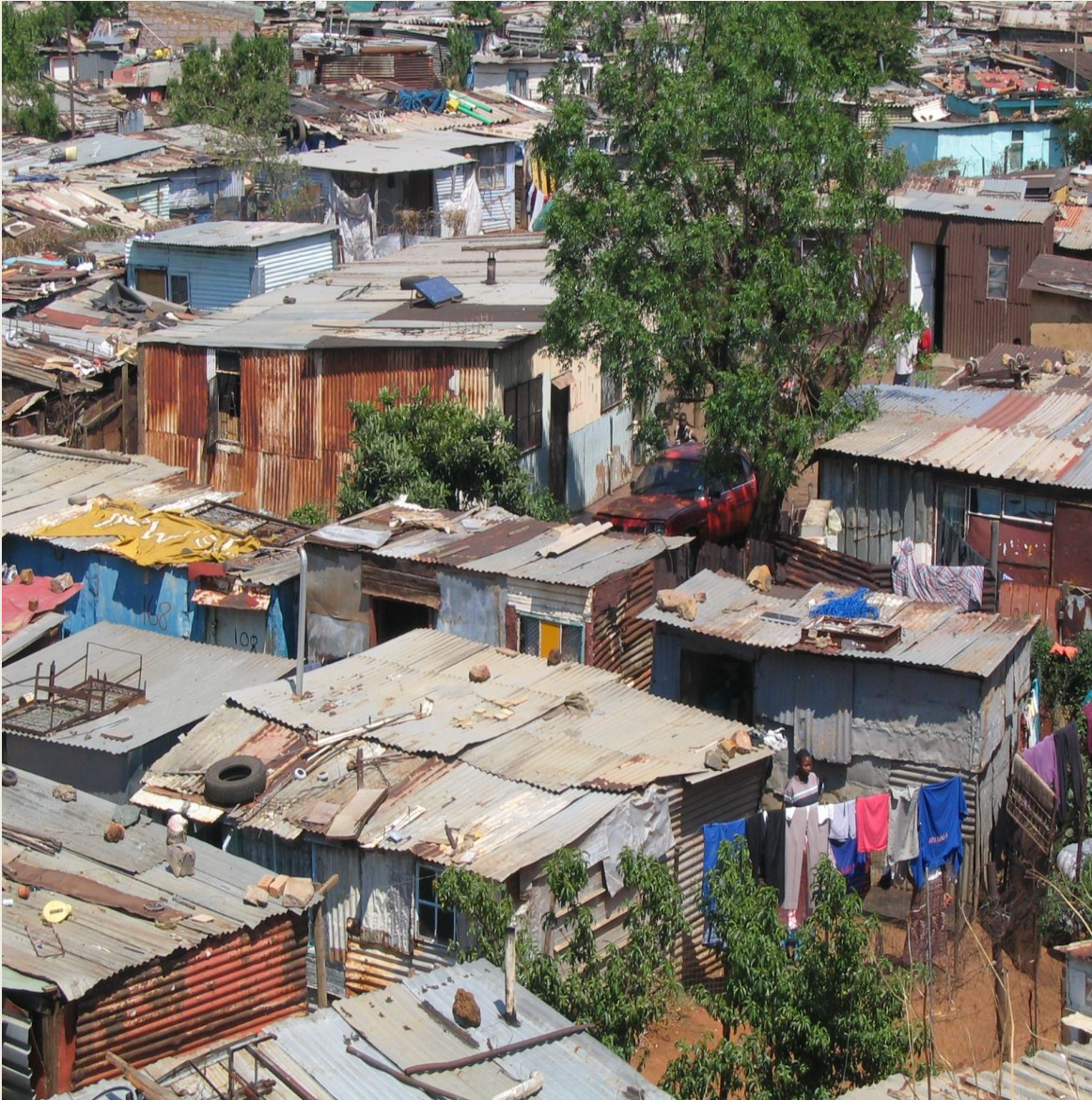
MARK MATHABANE

Early Life

- Born in Alexandra, South Africa in 1960.
- His father was Jackson Mathabane, a laborer who had an income of \$10 a month.
 - Abusive
- Magdalene Mathabane was Mathabane's mother.
 - She had been sold to Jackson Mathabane as a wife at the age of fifteen by her mother.
 - Jackson and Magdalene Mathabane had seven children, of whom Mark Mathabane was the eldest



Life in Alexandra



- Mathabane and his family lived in a one-square-mile ghetto which was also home to more than 200,000 other individuals.
- These living conditions lacked the modern commodities of paved roads, electricity, and even sewer systems.
- Food was scarce in this ghetto, and the homes were nothing more than rough shacks.
- Mathabane never even had his first pair of shoes until he was fourteen years old.

Alexandra Continued

- Mathabane's early life in apartheid South Africa was devastating. He has stated that "living in apartheid was like living in Hell."
- At the young age of six, Mathabane joined his first gang. Mathabane has stated that this lifestyle was horrific but that he did learn to cope in this environment.
- However, he has stated that it was the elements of this environment which suppressed his spirit with which he was not able to cope.
- This suppression of his spirit even drove Mathabane to the brink of suicide at the age of ten.





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Gideon Mendel



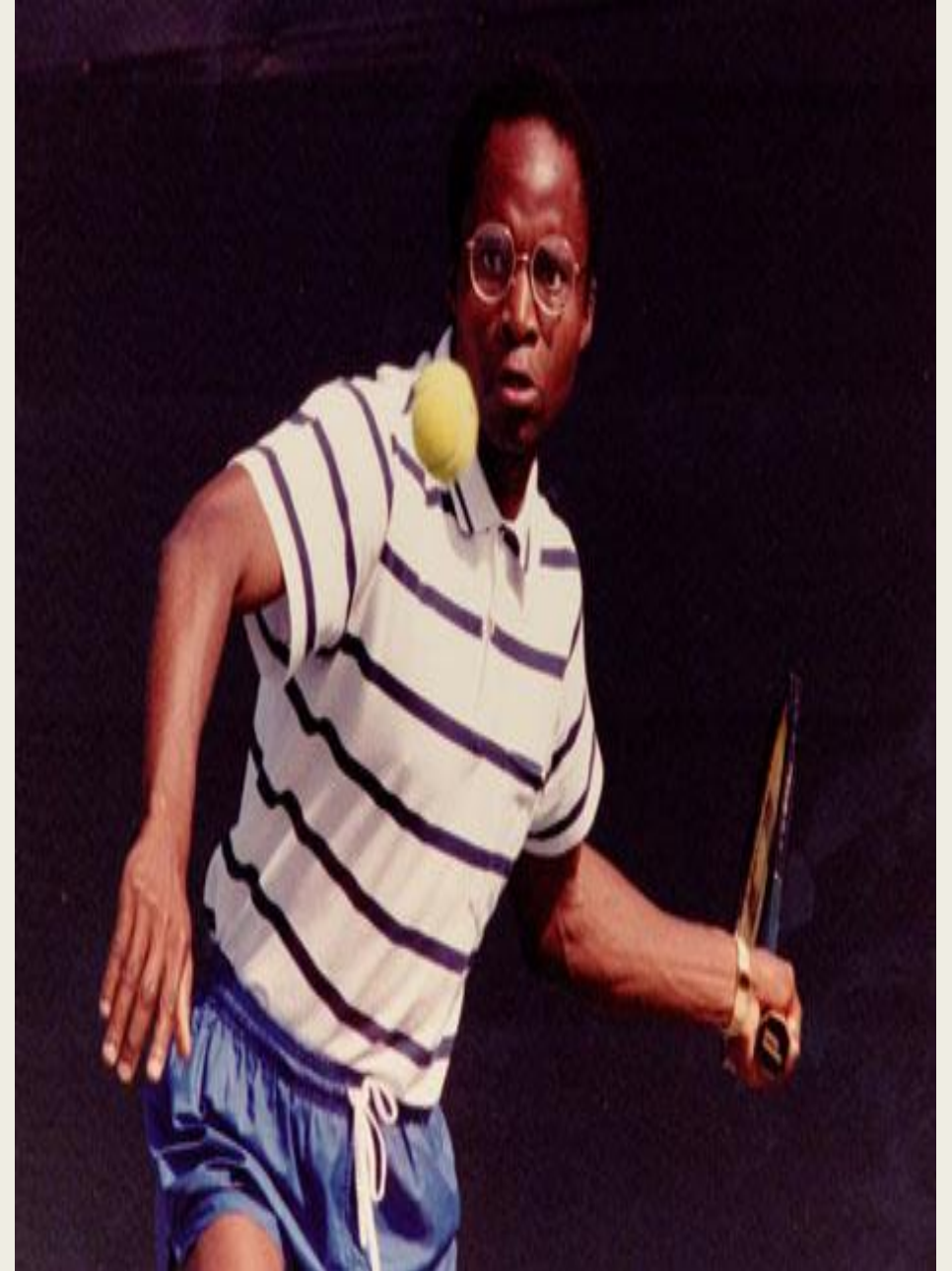
Mother's Influence



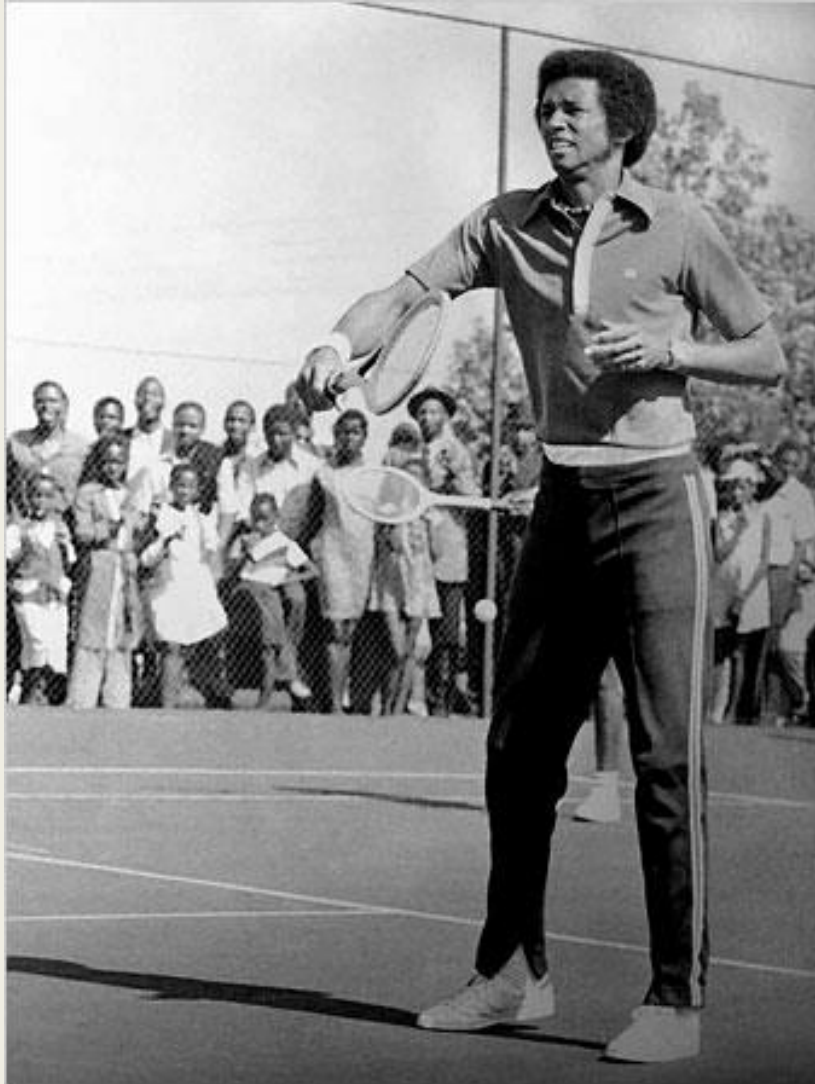
- Mathabane has credited his illiterate mother with encouraging him to excel in education and to escape the confinements of apartheid South Africa.
- He has repeatedly mentioned her ability to always display love and encouragement even in her troublesome lifestyle. Mathabane's mother took a job to send him to school when he was seven.
- Many problems ensued from this endeavor since his father did not support the idea of obtaining an education

A Way Out

- Grandmother worked for a white family as a gardner and Mark helped her one day.
- The white family did two things for him:
 - Gave him books to read
 - Got him into tennis



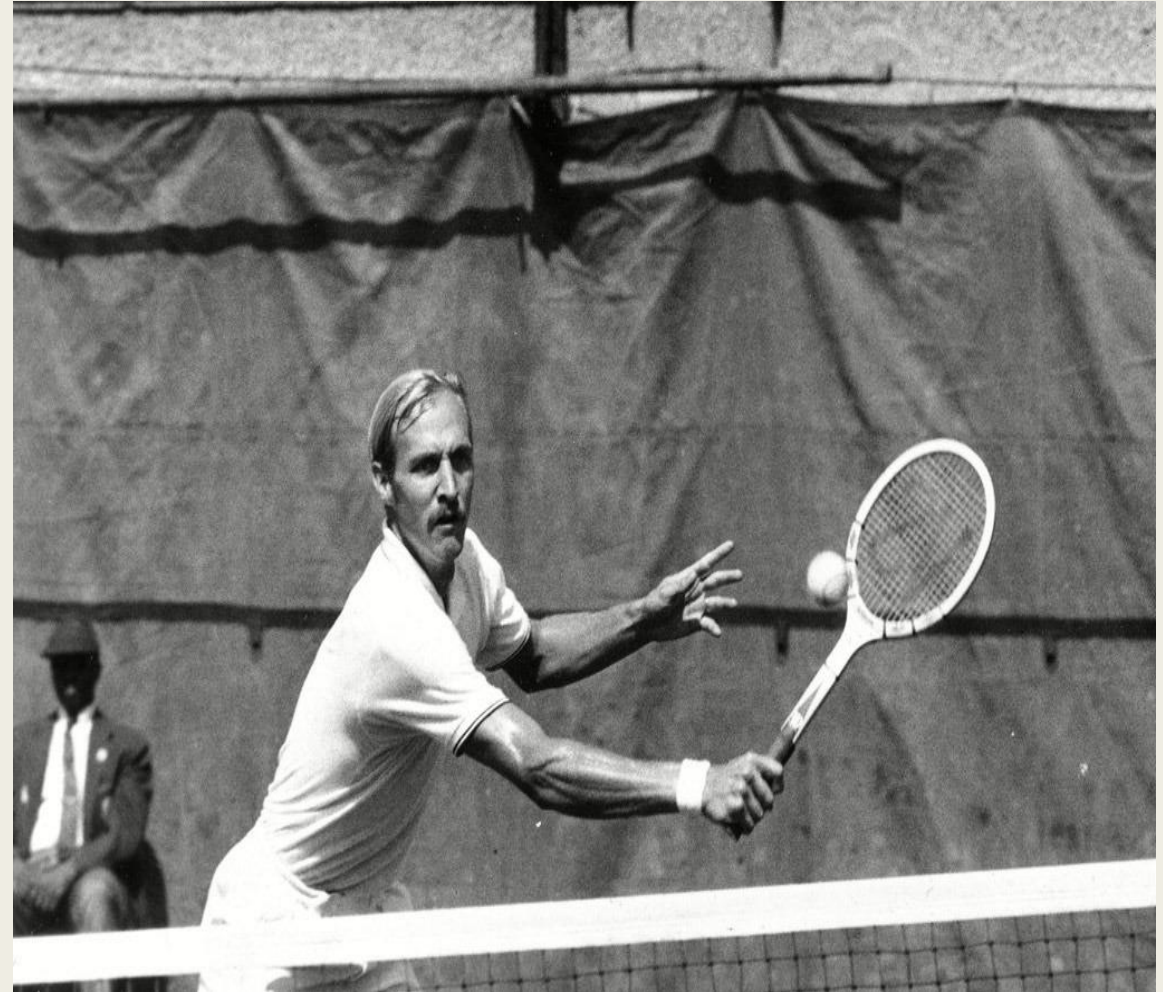
Arthur Ashe



- Mathabane saw Arthur Ashe play in a tournament and decided he wanted to be a professional tennis player.
- Ashe spoke out against apartheid and this made Mathabane idolize the tennis pro and civil rights activist

Stan Smith

- In 1977 Stan Smith saw Mathabane playing tennis.
- The two became friends and Smith helped him to escape South Africa.
- In 1978, with the aid of Smith, Mathabane moved to the United States and started attending Limestone College in South Carolina.



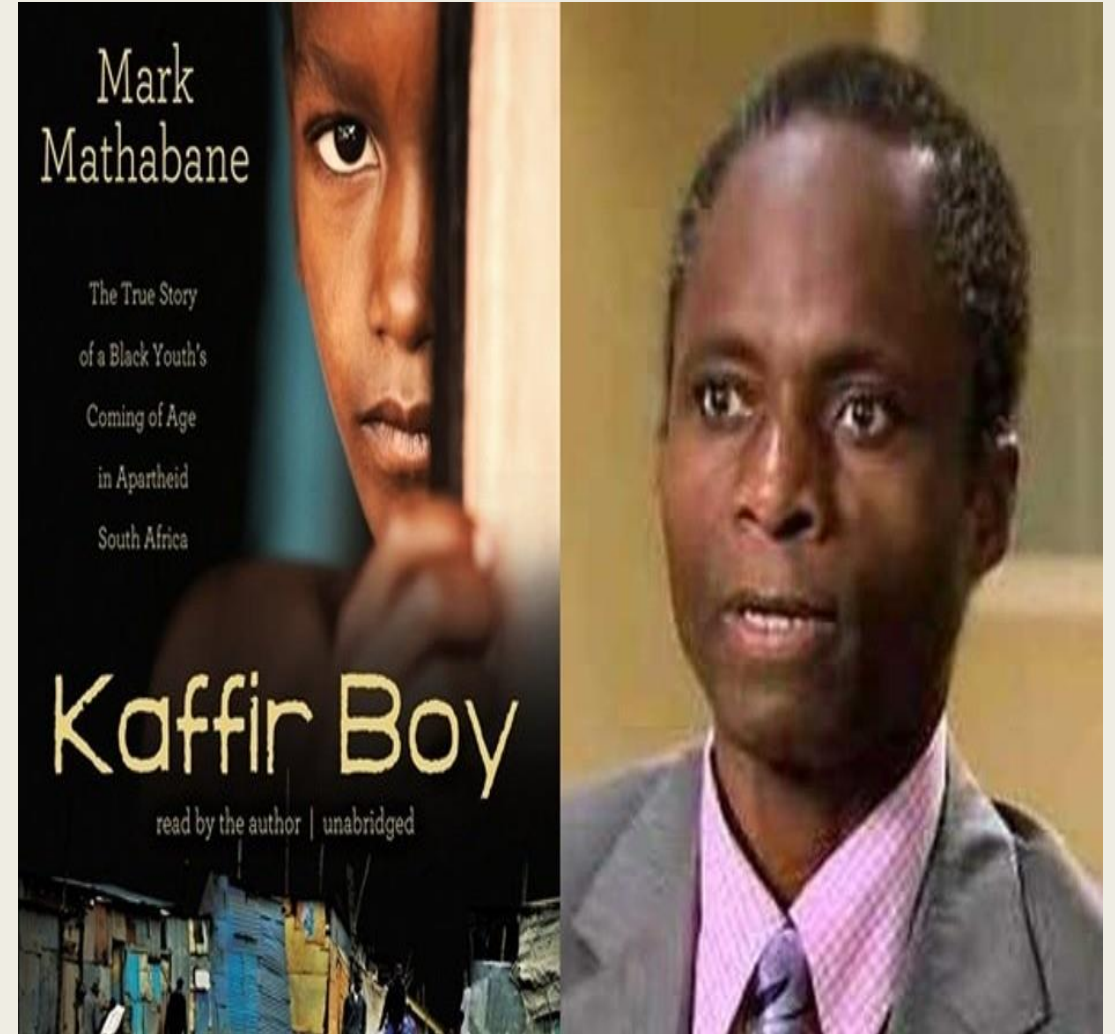
College Life



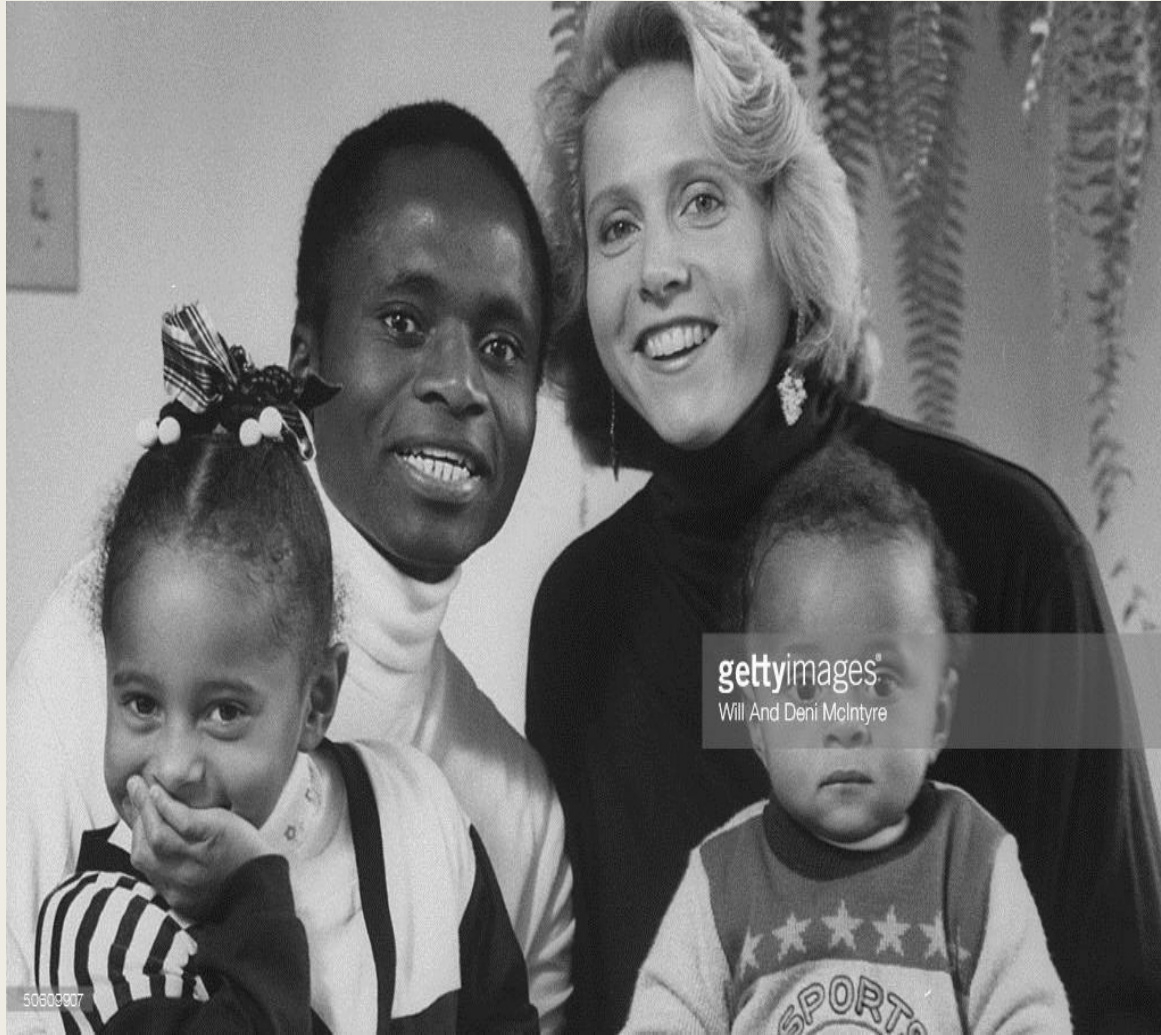
- Mathabane was faced with a whole new world in America. Even though he had escaped apartheid from South Africa, racial discrimination and prejudice still existed in America.
- Mathabane attended Limestone College in 1978 and then moved to Saint Louis University in 1979. Following that, Mathabane attended Quincy College in 1981 and then moved to Dowling College.
- While attending Dowling College Mathabane became the first Black editor of the school magazine. He graduated Dowling College cum laude with a degree in Economics in 1983. Mathabane also pursued graduate level studies at Poynter Institute and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Kaffir Boy

- Mathabane wrote his autobiography, *Kaffir Boy*, in 1986.
- *Kaffir Boy* illustrated his prior life in apartheid South Africa, and became a national best-seller.
- After reading *Kaffir Boy*, Oprah Winfrey invited Mathabane to appear on her show. Mathabane went on to write several other literary works.
 - Winfrey used her influence to fly Mathabane's family to Chicago. He had not seen them in over 10 years



Family Life



- Mark met his wife in college.
- Obviously she is white.
- Faced racism during the 80's because of this interracial relationship.
- Subject of his book *Love in Black and White*.

Today

- Living in Portland, Oregon and still publishing novels.
- Work has moved away from South Africa and Apartheid as a topic.
 - *The Proud Liberal* is his most recent novel. The novel is a political thriller.

