*Kaffir Boy*

Chapter 16

* On the day Mark & Papa return, Mama gives birth to a baby girl, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Mark, Papa, and George stay with a neighbor for two weeks during Mama’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ period (the seclusion period is a time when it’s forbidden for her to be near \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).
* Money becomes even tighter with the new baby. They can’t afford diapers and must use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead. The family does not celebrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that year.
* Six months later, the authorities announce that Alexandra is going to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is a “black spot” and the state wants to create it into a place where whites can live. Those with permits would be relocated to Soweto.
* Mark’s family doesn’t have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nor do they have a home in the tribal reserves. Besides, Mama comes from a different tribal reserve, and they can’t return to the same reserves. The whole family worries about what they will do and where they will go.
* But then the authorities decide not to demolish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all at once. This means that the family has time to look for a place to live that is not scheduled for demolition.
* Eventually, they find a place on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and that’s where they move.
* One day, walking along the street, Mark comes across a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He sees pictures of beautiful big houses that are white people’s houses. He takes the picture home and tells his mother that someday, he will have enough money to buy her a house like that.
* That’s when Mama tells him that it is illegal for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to own houses in South Africa. Mark wants to know who makes such stupid laws?
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people, Mama replies.
* Mark wants to know why they can’t make their own laws, when they live in a different world than whites, and Mama tells him he’s too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be talking about such things.
* The place where they live is a rat-infested \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In fact, one day, Mark hears the health inspector saying just that: a sewer is better than where they live.
* But for the kids that played there, it was a treasure-trove. They would dig in the mounds of dirt and find bones and play witch doctor. They would create small boats and race them in the moat of urine that surrounded the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they live in begins to fall apart.
* Mark asks Mama why Papa doesn’t fix the house, and Mama replies that it’s not his house and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ doesn’t want to fix it either. She gets mad at his persistent questions until she screams at him to be quiet.
* Mark accepts the horrific conditions in which he grows up because he knows no other world. But things continue to get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Chapter 17

* Papa was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ again, and hunger is Mark’s constant companion.
* Despite warnings from his mother not to beg for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mark continues to do so until Mama catches him and beats him.
* Mark admits that he’s not getting enough to eat at home. But Mama says that no matter how hungry he is, he shouldn’t eat strangers’ food because it could be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Several of their neighbors were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who liked to poison food and feed it to children. Two women from whom Mark had often received food were certainly witches, Mama continued.
* Mark is scared out of his wits, admitting that he had just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food made by these two women the day before.
* Mama says they’ll just have to wait and see, since the witch doctor isn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The next few hours are pure torture for Mark as he waits to see if he lives or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* A month later, Mama says the poison must have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Mark wants to know if he can ever eat food made by other people, and Mama says he can eat food at the houses of some of his friends.
* One day, a stranger gives Mark some food. He brings it home and Mama places it in a small bowl and leaves it near a rat hole.
* The next morning, sure enough, there’s a dead rat near the bowl, and the piece of meat pie is gone.
* Mark always wondered how that rat died.