

## zbirka Republika izbire

### John CARLIN: **INVICTUS** /NEPREMAGLJIV Nelson Mandela and the Game that made a Nation

Biografski zapis o Nelsonu Mandeli; The Penguin Press, New York, 2008, ponatis 2009.  
Ph RED, zbirka Republika izbire, Bled, februar 2010

Biografija tega edinstvenega državnika s poudarkom na spektakularnem svetovnem prvenstvu v JAR v rugbyju leta 1995, v katerega je aktivno in preroško posegel tudi Mandela in naredil navidez neizvedljivo: združil bele in črne na celini, ki je desetletja gorela v razdruževanju.

*Na krilih nacionalnega ponosa, ki smo jih razprli z nedavno zmago nad navidez nepremagljivim nasprotnikom, odhajamo z nogometno reprezentanco v poletju 2010 na svetovno prvenstvo prav v domovino Nelsona Mandele. To razumemo kot srečno naključje, v katero sem verjela že v začetku tega leta, ko je več slovenskih založniških hiš licenciralo za nakup avtorskih pravic za to izjemno knjigo.*

**Zgodba o Nelsonu Mandeli** (roj. 18. VI. 1918) je ena od najbolj osupljivih v sodobni zgodovini: borec za pravičnost, ki ga je zatiralski režim obsodil na doživljenjski zapor, je bil po 27 letih l.1990 spuščen, tri leta zatem je dobil Nobelovo nagrado za mir in bil l. 1994 izvoljen za predsednika svojega naroda. Po ukinitvi apartheidja je pomagal vstati iz pepela izčrpani Južnoafriški republiki: z osupljivo potezo je leta 1995 združil belo in črno raso na prvenstvu v rugbyju, kakršnega svet še ni videl. Predvsem tej srečni epizodi se posveča knjiga, opremljena tudi z avtentičnimi fotografijami. Nelson Mandela se skozi jasno izriše kot plemenit človek in zagnan športnik, predvsem pa kot eden od redkih neomadeževanih svetovnih voditeljev z jasno vizijo: **svoboda za vse**.

Clint Eastwood je po tej knjigi pravkar dokončal film z istim naslovom. Glavna igralca Morgan Freeman in Matt Damon sta dodatno zagotovilo, da prihaja eden od vrhuncev Eastwoodovega ustvarjanja. Prvotni naslov knjige je bil **Playing the Enemy**, ugledna založba Penguin Press pa se je odločila za redko, a gotovo dobro potezo: ponatis je izdala z naslovom **Invictus**, ki ga je uvedel prav Eastwood. Kritike po decembrskih predvajanjih, ki so namenjena predvsem Akademiji Oskarjev, uporabljajo o Freemanovi igri same presežnike.

**Knjiga, ki predstavlja dejanja in misli osebe, ki je utelešenje boja proti nestrpnosti in prizadevanja za svobodo vseh ljudi, je za Slovenijo potrebna in smiselna. Z njo postajamo del zgodbe, ki bo ponesla tega nepremagljivega duha tudi v Slovenijo.**

## Odzivi svetovnih medijev o knjigi

'Very few books match the historical sweep and world shaking urgency of this one...'  
**Independent 'Books of the Year'**

'This wonderful book describes Mandela's methodical, improbable and brilliant campaign to reconcile resentful blacks and fearful whites around a sporting event, a game of rugby... There are scenes that will open your tearducts... If *Playing the Enemy* were not so well written, it would deserve a place among the management tomes and self-help books that dominate business bestseller lists – a guide to leadership that plays to people's better angels... Don't wait for the movie.'

**Bill Keller, *New York Times***

'Mr Mandela's story never fails to inspire...[but John Carlin] is the first to tell the tale through the prism of the sport... Many writers reveal the nuts and bolts of South Africa's transformation to non-racial democracy. But few capture the spirit as well as Mr Carlin.'  
**Economist**

'Best-written of all is John Carlin's fantastic *Playing The Enemy*...Carlin makes a convincing case for the 1995 Rugby World Cup final as the pinnacle of Nelson Mandela's career, the moment he had worked towards for decades... Carlin is superbly equipped to chronicle the rebirth of a nation, and his account... is utterly compelling.'  
**Independent**

'A triumphant conversion... A book that captures both the miracle of South Africa's transition and the miracle of Mandela the politician... This is not a sports book. It is a portrait of South Africa's answer to George Washington and it works because Carlin got so close to Mandela and the people Mandela seduced... This is, above all, the book of a great reporter.'

**Simon Kuper, *Financial Times***

'It's one of the greatest sports stories of them all - and John Carlin does the perfect job telling it... Carlin...is a wonderful and clever storyteller, as anyone who has read his previous work about Real Madrid...will probably agree. This is a brilliant and hugely informative read.'

**BBC Radio 5 Live**

'Forget rugby: this is an all-knowing portrait of Nelson Mandela by one of the journalists who knows him best.'  
**Financial Times 'Books of the Year'**

'The best sports books are often as much about the individuals and societies around them as they are about the endeavours themselves. Further proof comes from John Carlin's *Playing the Enemy*.'  
**Observer 'Books of the Year'**