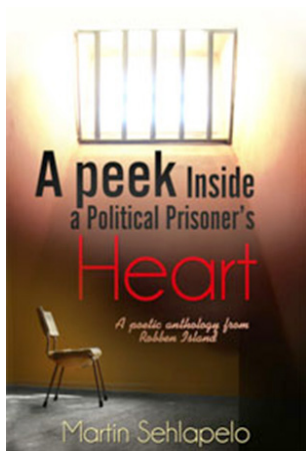


SEPARATION BY MARTIN SEHLAPELO



*A terrible
separation,
in distance.
In proximity,
a separation too.
Prison's
most wicked ways
are the horrible denials
to touch
and express love
to those loved.
Another prey
of the notch system*

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New Voices in Psychology
Volume 11 | Number 1 | 2015
pp. 160–162

Print ISSN 1818-6874
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*I became;
all prisoners are,
though,
in different ways.
For one day
I was lucky
but remained unhappy.
A fault of fate
gave the moment.
And
for the moment
we were free,
to kiss,
and our hands,
could touch.
Yet
in our freedom
we were not free,
disbelieving the senses
and fearing the unknown
swallowed the moment.
Dirty partitioning glass
between us
again.
From my lips
I sucked dreams
her eyes
conveyed wishes
that never become,
in separation.
though separated
love's wonderful days
never end in our thoughts*

Title: *A peak inside a political prisoner's heart.*

Author: Martin Sehlapelo

Date: 2014

Publisher: Martin Sehlapelo using Reach Publishers

ISBN: 978-0-620-57197-5

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE



MARTIN SEHLAPELO spent five years on Robben Island Prison after being found guilty of terrorism. Currently he is the Group Chief Information Officer at Transnet. He is also reading for a doctorate in Information Science at the University of South Africa.