Prisoner 46664 : Nelson Mandela Synopsis

Scene 1 (2013) : Mandela sitting in his garden with his 3rd wife Graca, remembering old times. The doctor visits.

Scene 2 (1925) : Now aged 10, it is his first day of school. How he was given the name of Nelson.

Scene 3 (1925) : Schoolboy Mandela interrupts a meeting of the tribal elders, asking why they are not being taught African history at school.

Scene 4 (1941) : Now aged 23, Mandela is in Johannesburg. He meets Walter Sisulu, who helps him find a job as a lawyer's clerk.

Scene 5 (1941) : A gathering at Walter's house. Albertina Sisulu explains why the African National Congress cannot accept white members and Madiba joins the cause.

Scene 6 (1948) : Nelson & Walter meet a racist paper-seller. The news is the Nationalists have won the election and the Apartheid regime is coming to South Africa.

Scene 7 (1948) : Two political speeches to two audiences : President Daniel Malan for the Nationalists and Nelson Mandela for the ANC.

Scene 8 (1957) : Mandela now runs a law firm with Oliver Tambo. Mandela meets Winnie.

Scene 9 (1957) : Winnie and Nelson eat dinner at an Indian restaurant. Love is in the air!


Scene 11 (1961) : An English reporter interviews Mandela, who is avoiding the authorities.

Scene 12 (1962) : Mandela is on the run, in a car, when Sgt Vorster arrests him and sees through his disguise. The sentence could be death.

Scene 13 (1963) : The Trial.

Scene 14 (1963) : The Trial five months later. Walter advises Nelson not to make a statement in court.

Scene 15 (1963) : Mandela reads his statement in court. The death sentence is reduced to life imprisonment.

Scene 16 (1964) : They arrive at Robben Island Prison. Mandela is given the number 466 and 64 for the year of incarceration. He is no longer a name, he is now a number - 46664.

Scene 17 (1964) : Time passes slowly in prison. Mandela writes to Winnie. The guard tears up the letter.

Scene 18 (1966) : Walter Sisulu and Nelson Mandela are in the prison yard breaking rocks.


Scene 20 (1969) : Nelson and Walter play chess in prison. They are given sunglasses after a three year campaign.

Scene 21 (1982) : Mandela is invited to a meeting with the Prison Governor. We learn Mandela has earned his degree by post whilst in prison and fought for many improvements. The Governor is moving them to a prison on the mainland, so life will be a little easier. He informs Mandela that President Botha is offering him his freedom if the ANC renounces violent action against Apartheid.

Scene 22 : Zindzi visits her father Mandela in prison. He gives her a letter to read at a rally – it is his reply to Botha.
**Scene 23 (1985)**: At Soweto stadium Zindzi reads the letter from her father. Mandela is rejecting the offer of freedom at this price.

**Scene 24 (1989)**: Mandela and Walter at Pollsmoor prison discuss the news – the new President of South African De Klerk is doing away with Apartheid.

**Scene 25 (1990)**: De Klerk receives Nelson Mandela in his office. De Klerk is releasing Mandela the next day. Mandela wants to stay in prison a week longer to prepare but De Klerk wont hear of it. They agree he will be released in Capetown.

**Scene 26 (1990)**: Mandela walks free with Winnie by his side. He goes home.

**Scene 27**: At home Nelson and Winnie Mandela decide to separate.

**Scene 28**: A montage on film of images following Mandela’s release.

**Scene 29 (1994)**: Walter and Nelson are on the election trail.

**Scene 30 (1994)**: Mandela is elected president of South Africa.

**Scene 31 (2013)**: Back in the garden, Mandela is again an old man, hearing voices. De Klerk and Winnie speak at his funeral. Walter is waiting for him somewhere where “there is peace”...