**Characterization of Mxolisi**

**By Timmy Vaughan**

In the following I am going to chacterize Mxolisi the oldest son of Mandisa. He has a younger brother which is named Lunga and a younger sister which is named Siziwe. But Mxolisi is the only son Mandisa has with China.

He is orginally named Hlumelo, but Chinas family renames him because they believe that they have traditionally the right to name the baby. In the Book Mxolisi is 20 years old but has only the education of a middle school child because of the school system and his own fault. Mxolisi and Mandisa have not a good relationship because Mandisa blames him for all the things she couldn’t do because of the pregnancy and because of the situation that she became pregnant without having sex. She blames him for taking her virginity without having sex. Mandisa however tries to compensate for resenting her son by paying more attention to him, which made problem with Siziwe and Lunga. They accuse Mandisa to favouring Mxolisi. Mxolisi had at first a good and nice childhood but when he witnessed the police killing his two friends Zazi and Mzamo, his life turned 360 degrees. He didn’t speak for many years and was traumatized. After a few years he regains his speech and Mandisa sends him to school. But he didn’t have a good time at school. Teacher beat him and discouraged him for continuing to pursue his education. After a while he gave up school for supporting his family. Mandisa didn’t accept his decision and sent him back. At school he was confronted with politics and became active when he joined the Young Lions. He now missed more often school to patrol in the neighbourhoods. I would describe Mxolisi as a lazy, impulsive, unpredictable and maybe a bully character. He had a traumatic childhood which made a big change in his life and with the poor conditions his Mother Mandisa could give him it strokes his hatred against the white privileged immense. Joining the politically active group “Young Lions” made the hate even bigger. His education is very low because of the bad conditions the white privileged offered the blacks. Maybe that’s also a point which made him at the end stabbing Amy Biehl with a knife. He surrounded with his friends the car of Amy Biehl and stoned her till she ran away to save her life. But she got stabbed on the way out from the angry mob. But all in all I think Mxolisi is a victim of the Apartheid era and he was mislead over a longer time period. Now he faces life in prison for the crime. But he clearly feels guilt and regrets for what he has done. That shows the part at the end of the novel from “Mother to Mother” where he speakes with Mandisa in the safehouse.