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(Ismé)

When I go back to South Africa it's almost like two South Africas. When I go visit my sister and we go shopping in the incredible shopping malls, where there's nothing you can't get and there's wonderful restaurants in South Africa. That's exactly what it was when I left 40-50 (can't do the math) years ago. You can absolutely almost isolate yourself from today's South Africa. You drive through the parts of Johannesburg, where my sister lives, and you think you're in Beverly Hills. It's still very luxurious, probably more luxurious looking. When I've been in Cape Town, ...there's all the BMWs and Mercedes and nice areas and wonderful apartment buildings. So, you could absolutely just take a photograph of that, but then there's the rest. The major change is in any store or bank or restaurant you go to, the help (the staff) is Black and very efficient, normally. So that's a wonderful plus when I go back. I think wow, you know this could not have happened when I lived there". But, by the same token there's still huge Black poverty. There are huge awful slums. The terrible things that have happened, and I've just heard of a new one that happened, is the violence and crime. It doesn't stop. It's horrible. My sister had a break-in and was strangled and...made it out of it all. She's a very strong person and survived it and has moved on. But my niece last week, Easter week, no, about ten days ago, went to her yoga class with a bunch of women to a yoga teacher's house. They were broken into by two men. The women were tied up, the house was ransacked. The women had to give up all their jewelry. Fortunately, their purses were somewhere else but the house was ransacked. They drove off with the house owner's keys and they'd taken all her possessions like her iPad. Fortunately, the car and the iPad had trackers on them and they managed to track the car and get most of the belongings back. But that was ten days ago and my own family. That's South Africa. That is with me all the time. I think about it all the time. That danger for...obviously for my family, because it's happened twice but, that's so prevalent and is so horrible.

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