

OLOGUE

itch colonial empire brought differ-
ults, in what have become variously
Brazil, or Sri Lanka, or Indonesia, or
ilar South African combination gave
ex-colonial, racially discriminatory
African variant, however, was super-
ment of worldwide European decol-
to mere coincidence—a stringently
ssification. Its name, simply enough
bring infamy upon this otherwise rel-
d of the world”: *apartheid*.
what apartheid’s imposition meant for
e time this book was first published in
quarter century during which to trans-
a colonial city. Although racial differ-
inescapably, a major determinant of
7, the city was still in 1948 one of the
in sub-Saharan Africa. It is my con-
erb city was then remade in the image
the forty-year period during which
rulers of South Africa. Given the city’s
intercontinental trade and slavery—of
majority of Capetonians have been nei-
mixed-race” persons designated “Cape
rictly to impose a legal system of water-
ial” categories upon a million or more
nd culture makes them impossible to
n it be done?

ough in the sense of approximation and
3. After all the mapping and documenta-
the regressive transformation of Cape
also to apartheid’s human costs. You will
alled Coloured Capetonians in this book,
one of apartheid’s central laws: the Group
ented carefully conceived urban plans de-
n White control. In Cape Town it so hap-
ple in the way of these plans were those
ed. And the neighborhood which provided
Cape Town was



Catherine, a Coloured resident of Mowbray, at her wedding in 1946.

