



The Heart of a Woman

By Maya Angelou

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The Heart of a Woman By Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou has fascinated, moved, and inspired countless readers with the first three volumes of her autobiography, one of the most remarkable personal narratives of our age. Now, in her fourth volume, *The Heart of a Woman*, her turbulent life breaks wide open with joy as the singer-dancer enters the razzle-dazzle of fabulous New York City. There, at the Harlem Writers Guild, her love for writing blazes anew.

Her compassion and commitment lead her to respond to the fiery times by becoming the northern coordinator of Martin Luther King's history-making quest. A tempestuous, earthy woman, she promises her heart to one man only to have it stolen, virtually on her weding day, by a passionate African freedom fighter.

Filled with unforgettable vignettes of famous characters, from Billie Holiday to Malcolm X, *The Heart of a Woman* sings with Maya Angelou's eloquent prose - - her fondest dreams, deepest disappointments, and her dramatically tender relationship with her rebellious teenage son. Vulnerable, humorous, tough, Maya speaks with an intimate awareness of the heart within all of us.

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Oprah Book Club® Selection, May 1997: Maya Angelou has had more lives than the proverbial cat, and in *The Heart of a Woman* she continues the account of her remarkable life begun in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. In the first book of her bestselling autobiographical series, she describes her traumatic childhood in the small, segregated town of Stamps, Arkansas, during the 1930s. *Gather Together in My Name* picks up the story in the postwar years, when Maya, a single teenager with an infant son becomes, in short order, a cook, a madam, a dancer, and a prostitute. Next comes *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*, an account of her twenties and her unsuccessful first marriage to a white man. *The Heart of a Woman*, the fourth in the series, takes us through one of the most exciting and formative periods of Angelou's amazing life: her beginnings as a writer and an activist in New York.

Angelou has a happy knack of attracting the best and the brightest into her orbit, and *The Heart of a Woman* offers a veritable cornucopia of black luminaries in its pages. Singer Billie Holiday, writers John Ellins and Paule Marshall, jazz musicians Max Roach and Abbey Lincoln, and actors Godfrey Cambridge and James Earl Jones--Maya meets and learns from them all. Political activism soon follows as Ms. Angelou first organizes a theatrical benefit for the Reverend Martin Luther King and then becomes the director of the New York Southern Christian Leadership Conference office. Her involvement in the civil rights movement eventually brings her into contact with African freedom fighters Oliver Tambo and the charming Vusumzi Make, whom she marries and follows to Africa.

The Heart of a Woman is as honest, painful, funny, outraged, and outrageous as Angelou herself. From her debut at the Apollo Theatre to her meeting with Malcolm X, Maya Angelou gives us something to cheer about and plenty to ponder as well.

Review

"I know that not since the days of my childhood, when people in books were more real than the people one saw every day, have I found myself SO moved."

-- James Baldwin

"Full of laughter and tears, love and hate, failures and triumphs, and above all, understanding."

-- John O. Killens

"Gather Together in My Name

"Gather Together in My Name is part of a select body of literature that includes The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Claude Brown's *Manchild in the Promised land*, and Ernest J. Gaines's *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. Maya Angelou regards the world and herself with intelligence and wit; she records the events of her life with style and grace."

-- William McPherson, The Washington Post Book World

"Here the 'caged bird' soars, and sings in a voice as rich and funny, passionate and mellow as any writer I know."

-- Shana Alexander

From the Hardcover edition.

From the Publisher

This engaging book chronicles the changes in Maya Angelou's life as she enters the hub of activity that is New York. There, at the Harlem Writers Guild, she rededicates herself to writing, and finds love at an unexpected moment. Reflecting on her many roles--from northern coordinator of Martin Luther King's history-making quest to mother of a rebellious teenage son--Angelou eloquently speaks to an awareness of the heart within us all.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Johnson:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even an issue. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside the former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take The Heart of a Woman as the daily resource information.

Tony You:

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Cheryl Taylor:

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Steven Deloatch:

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