



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 wedding 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

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:

German Montoya:

This The Heart of a Woman are generally reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The reason why of this The Heart of a Woman can be one of the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you actually with information that might be will shock your previous knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this The Heart of a Woman giving you an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Sheri Reagan:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled The Heart of a Woman can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Dan Gray:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled The Heart of a Woman your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The The Heart of a Woman giving you one more experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Donna Hufnagel:

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