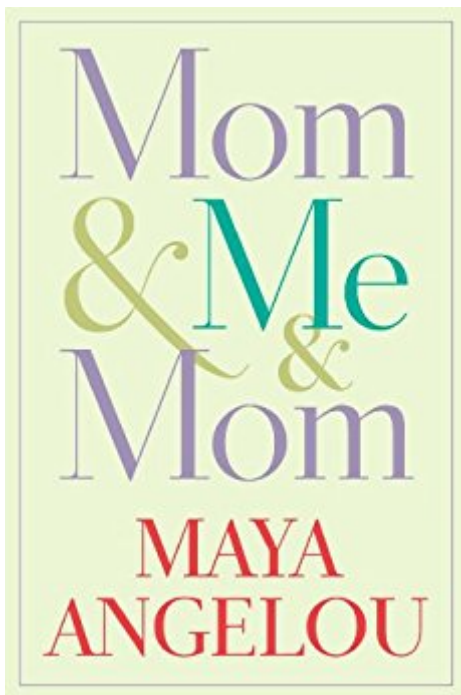


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# Mom & Me & Mom



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Book club pick for Emma Watson • Our Shared Shelf • A moving memoir about the legendary author's relationship with her mother

The story of Maya Angelou's extraordinary life has been chronicled in her multiple bestselling autobiographies. But now, at last, the legendary author shares the deepest personal story of her life: her relationship with her mother. For the first time, Angelou reveals the triumphs and struggles of being the daughter of Vivian Baxter, an indomitable spirit whose petite size belied her larger-than-life presence—a presence absent during much of Angelou's early life. When her marriage began to crumble, Vivian famously sent three-year-old Maya and her older brother away from their California home to live with their grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. The subsequent feelings of abandonment stayed with Angelou for years, but their reunion, a decade later, began a story that has never before been told. In *Mom & Me & Mom*, Angelou dramatizes her years reconciling with the mother she preferred to simply call "Lady," revealing the profound moments that shifted the balance of love and respect between them. Delving into one of her life's most rich, rewarding, and fraught relationships, *Mom & Me & Mom* explores the healing and love that evolved between the two women over the course of their lives, the love that fostered Maya Angelou's rise from immeasurable depths to reach impossible heights.

Praise for *Mom & Me & Mom*

• "Mom & Me & Mom is delivered with Angelou's trademark good humor and fierce optimism. If any resentments linger between these lines, if lives are partially revealed without all the bitter details exposed, well, that is part of Angelou's forgiving design. As an account of reconciliation, this little book is just revealing enough, and pretty irresistible."

—The Washington Post

• "Moving . . . a remarkable portrait of two courageous souls."

• "People [The] latest, and most potent, of her serial autobiographies . . . [a] tough-minded, tenderhearted addition to Angelou's spectacular canon."

• "Elle • Mesmerizing . . . Angelou has a way with words that can still dazzle us, and with her mother as a subject, Angelou has a near-perfect muse and mystery woman."

• "Essence • True to her style, [Angelou's] writing cuts to the chase with compression and simplicity, and there in the background is a calypso smoothness, flurries and showers of musicality between the moments of wickedness. . . . A tightly strung, finely tuned memoir about life with her mother."

• "Kirkus Reviews • In this loving recollection of a complicated relationship, Angelou for the first time details the mother-daughter journey to reconciliation and unwavering connection and support. . . . Angelou vividly portrays a spirited woman. . . . [A] remarkable and deeply revealing chronicle of love and healing."

• "Booklist • Written with her customary eloquence . . . follows in the episodic style of Angelou's earlier volumes of

autobiography, pulling the reader along effortlessly. The lessons and the love presented here will speak to those trying to make their way in the world.â Publishers Weeklyâ In straightforward style, Mom & Me & Mom dives deeply into Angelouâs complicated relationship with her mother. . . At 84, Angelou shows few signs of slowing down.â BookPage

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this book was like a gift from maya angelou to her readers: a little look-see into her personal world with her family, and was really interesting. this may be socially unacceptable, but i have never read "i know why the caged bird sings," or any other maya angelou work for that matter....but i think after reading this that i am going to go through and purchase everything of hers i can because she is so beautiful: in writing, in loving, in forgiveness. i learned a lot, actually, on how to forgive, after reading this book, and aspire to love as strongly as she and her mother love. i would recommend this book to anyone who didn't grow up surrounded by SUPER love because a person can learn it.

At three, a child understands a wide range of emotions; may get upset at major changes in their

routine, and separates easily from mom and dad. Maya Angelou and her brother, Baily, Jr. were three and five years old when their parents separated. It was painful. But they were cared for by their paternal grandmother in Arkansas. She and Baily received a generous supply of love and encouragement from their grandmother. Ms. Angelou's social and emotional development had changed dramatically when she and her brother were reunited with their mother ten years later. Ms. Angelou had to loosen her armor and reconnect with her mother, whom she called Lady. Ms. Angelou's mom was an unusual character to say the least. She was tough-minded, plucky, owned various undertakings, had no filter, and admitted when they were young, she had no time for infants and toddlers. Slowly, mother-daughter relationship blossomed. Although her mom was no June Cleaver (Leave it to Beaver) or Clair Olivia Huxtable (Cosby Show), she was the type that would have your back when blindsided by undesirable events. Everything considered, from the start, this was not your typical mother-daughter relationship. Yet, over the years evolved a healthy, loving, and meaningful bond between Ms. Angelou and her mother. I gave this book four stars.

I've been a fan of Dr Angelou for as long as I can remember. Her books and poems are written in such a manner that it feels as though you're seated at the knee of your own family matriarch, hearing a sacred tale. Her writing is no different. Understanding the middle passage of her life is only accomplished through gaining insight into the relationship between life with her grandmother, in early childhood, and life with her mother, as she grew older. Dr Angelou shares here, the complexities of the transition alongside the journey to finding a way to see her mother as Mom. This is a well written autobiographical account of a part of life that reads much easier than it must have been to live.

I love how Maya explains her relationship with her mother. I also love how the personality, and force, of Vivan Baxter has been sketched. Simply amazing. The way Maya has written about 'the power of love' and 'how it heals' touched my heart. Beautiful lines. Would recommend this book to anyone who has had a difficult relationship with their mom. 3 stars because parts of the book are a little slow. All in all, a must-read if you enjoy understanding the complexities of relationships.

I love Maya Angelou and her story of her mom and grandmother. She had suffered great hardships and through it all maintained a strength I can only admire since I don't think I would have been as strong. She became a great artist, I was only familiar with her poetry prior to reading this book and

finding out she sang and danced as well. If you love stories of strength and poetry, please read this book

That which colors us are many things. My gave the reader incite into areas of her life so we can see the elements that colored her. Her life in Stamps, AK, her experience asa young unwed mother and her early struggles to exist with a sick child are all layers that shaped her. As you read her story many may wonder how one can bounce back from some of her experiences. The answer is simple or not, but she had to. Read to learn how she found the strength. It is a fascinating story.

I love MAYA ANGELOU writings but this book is disjointed with lots of missing timeframes. You have to had read her previous books to piece some of the timelines together. I realized she wrote this book late, late in life so her memory many have been somewhat fuzzy on some events.

To think of Maya only in literary terms is to deprive yourself of discovering the zest for living and the DNA and experience of her mother. This is a good book for people who cannot reconcile hurt while growing up to the gifts a real but imperfect mother gives you.

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