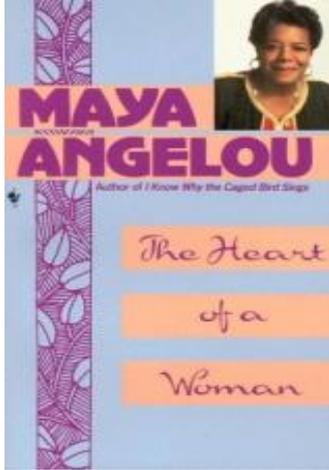


The Heart of a Woman

by Maya Angelou



About the Book

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.

Discussion Guide

1. What is the significance of Maya quitting show business to become a civil rights activist?
2. Maya's husband Make is a freedom fighter--yet he treats Maya as a possession. Why do you think Maya stays with him? Do you think Make sees his own hypocrisy, and why or why not?
3. When approached by a friendly stranger, Maya's mother remarks, "He's colored and I'm colored, but we are not cousins." What episodes in the memoir might evoke the same response from Maya?
4. The memoir concludes with a poignant scene, as Guy bids farewell to Maya before he goes to college. Guy is characteristically wise, brave, and mature for his years. What do his parting words say about his perceived role in their relationship? How has Maya's role changed?

Author Bio

Poet, writer, performer, teacher and director Maya Angelou was raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and then moved to San

Francisco. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, beginning with *I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS*, she also wrote a cookbook, *HALLELUJAH! THE WELCOME TABLE*, and five poetry collections, including *I SHALL NOT BE MOVED* and *SHAKER, WHY DON'T YOU SING?* She passed away on May 28, 2014 at the age of 86.

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