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## Mom & Me & Mom

By Maya Angelou

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**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Book club pick for Emma Watson's 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.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“In straightforward style, *Mom & Me & Mom* **dives deeply** into Angelou’s complicated relationship with her mother. . . . At 84, Angelou shows few signs of slowing down.”—*BookPage*

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### **Mom & Me & Mom By Maya Angelou Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

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Angelou's highly acclaimed autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), chronicles her growing up in Stamps, Arkansas, with her paternal grandmother and the trauma that resulted from a visit to her mother's family. 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. After their reunion in San Francisco, angry and resentful at what she viewed as the abandonment of her and her brother, Angelou took years to warm to her mother, Vivian Baxter, calling her Lady rather than Mother. But Baxter's unconditional acceptance and appreciation of her daughter, through unwed motherhood, a failed marriage, and career ups and downs, won Angelou's love and respect. Angelou vividly portrays a spirited woman, unbowed by the limitations of race and sex, who ran a boardinghouse and gambling house and taught her daughter the determination, street smarts, and survival skills that have helped Angelou carve a space for her identity and formidable talents. Photos enhance this remarkable and deeply revealing chronicle of love and healing. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** The celebrated author gives the backstory on *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969) in this revealing look at her relationship with her mother, which is sure to receive a tsunami's worth of publicity. --Vanessa Bush

Review

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#### About the Author

**Maya Angelou** was raised in Stamps, Arkansas. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *The Heart of a Woman*, she wrote numerous volumes of poetry, among them *Phenomenal Woman*, *And Still I Rise*, *On the Pulse of Morning*, and *Mother*. Maya Angelou died in 2014.

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##### **Jay Burke:**

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