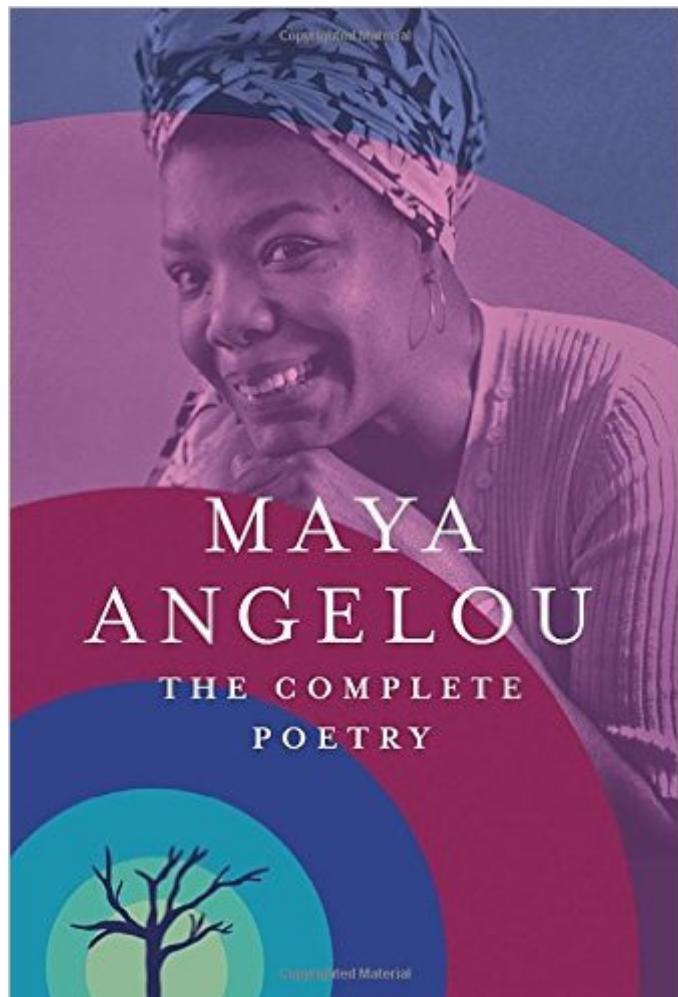


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# The Complete Poetry



## Synopsis

Throughout her illustrious career in letters, Maya Angelou gifted, healed, and inspired the world with her words. Now the beauty and spirit of those words live on in this new and complete collection of poetry that reflects and honors the writer's remarkable life. Every poetic phrase, every poignant verse can be found within the pages of this sure-to-be-treasured volume "from her reflections on African American life and hardship in the compilation Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water" before I Diiie (â œThough there's one thing that I cry for / I believe enough to die for / That is every man's responsibility to man •) to her revolutionary celebrations of womanhood in the poem â œStill I Rise • (â œOut of the huts of history's shame / I rise / Up from a past that's rooted in pain / I rise •) to her â œOn the Pulse of Morning • tribute at President William Jefferson Clinton's inauguration (â œLift up your eyes upon / The day breaking for you. / Give birth again / To the dream.â •). Maya Angelou: The Complete Poetry also features her final long-form poems, including â œA Brave and Startling Truth,â • â œAmazing Peace,â • â œHis Day Is Done,â • and the honest and endearing Mother: â œI feared if I let you go You would leave me eternally. You smiled at my fears, saying I could not stay in your lap forever •. This collection also includes the never-before-published poem â œAmazement Awaits,â • commissioned for the 2008 Olympic Games: â œWe are here at the portal of the world we had wished for At the lintel of the world we most need. We are here roaring and singing. We prove that we can not only make peace, we can bring it with us.â •. Timeless and prescient, this definitive compendium will warm the hearts of Maya Angelou's most ardent admirers as it introduces new readers to the legendary poet, activist, and teacher "a phenomenal woman for the ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nina Simone once said "an artist's duty, as far as I'm concerned, is to reflect the times." • Without a doubt, Maya Angelou's work did just that. With singular grace and style, she penned lyrical poems and rhythmic prose. And she captured the complex dimensions of life--love, loss, separation, abuse, joy, intimacy, liberation, oppression. Her work is deeply political. From the necessary critiques of American democracy ("America," "Family Affairs," "These Yet to Be United States") to her carefully painted depiction of Black women's unique isolation within the American body politic ("Our Grandmothers"), Angelou's work shows the various ways in which the personal is always political. As one reads the collection, it becomes clear that Black Southern Womanhood served as a source of inspiration for much her work. Images of Blackness, womanhood, and the South are visceral throughout. When I was in elementary school, I memorized the poem "Woman Work" and recited it at a contest. All these years later, reading this poem within the larger collection gave me a whole new perspective and appreciation of it. Angelou's writing is an anthology of Black feminist liberation texts, a productive actor within itself. What a blessing. I tried to select a favorite poem or line, and it was impossible to do. So I'll quote one that left an indelible mark on me:

The Memory  
Cotton rows  
crisscross the world  
And dead-tired nights of yearning  
Thunderbolts on leather strops  
And all my body  
burning  
Sugar cane reach up to God  
And every baby crying  
Shame the blanket of my night  
And all my days are dying.

I was acquainted with the late beloved Dr. Angelou's books years ago but recently delved deeper into her works particularly her poetry. I had came across a taping of her in London and was moved to tears while listening to her recite *Woman Work*. That is what led me to purchasing this collection of her poetry. However, I was disappointed to find that poem in particular was shortened. Her recital of it was a bit longer in that video so I am very curious as to why this is so. Besides this, the book is definitive treasure.

Maya Angelou, in the *Complete Poetry* (which is simply a collection of her separately published books of poems), is confident and self-possessed. She explores her femininity, her spirituality, and African American history usually with allegories that relate in more ways than one to her personal experiences.

The book content is great--but just threw it into a box and the dust cover was torn when I received it and also the quality of the paper looks like a "second" or reject. Would not order again due to quality of the product

Maya Angelou and her poetry touched, inspired and healed generations in our time. Timeless and boundless in her embrace of the worlds of the soul, she will keep rising in our hearts, defiant, powerful and deeply sensitive â “ a phenomenal woman! This collection, as are Kahlil Gibranâ ™s Treasured Writings, and The Gift by Hafiz, is a pearl of the human spirit, a book to read and feel beyond its pages, and store deep in our hearts.

I bought this as a present for my best friend and I think she'll love it!! It looks like a good collection of her work. The only thing I wasn't crazy about was the pages aren't straight, like the book wasn't assembled correctly (see picture - my apologies it's not high quality)

Ah, the works of Maya Angelou. Her work is a highly recommended read. Even though we do not share the same background I see similar struggles, and it brings me comfort.

I enjoy this collection constantly. It is nothing short of amazing. To have a book of poetry by Maya at my disposal is a life pleasure.

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