



Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes

By Maya Angelou

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Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes By Maya Angelou

Throughout Maya Angelou's life, from her childhood in Stamps, Arkansas, to her world travels as a bestselling writer, good food has played a central role. Preparing and enjoying homemade meals provides a sense of purpose and calm, accomplishment and connection. Now in *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table*, Angelou shares memories pithy and poignant—and the recipes that helped to make them both indelible and irreplaceable.

Angelou tells us about the time she was expelled from school for being afraid to speak—and her mother baked a delicious maple cake to brighten her spirits. She gives us her recipe for short ribs along with a story about a job she had as a cook at a Creole restaurant (never mind that she didn't know how to cook and had no idea what Creole food might entail). There was the time in London when she attended a wretched dinner party full of wretched people; but all wasn't lost—she did experience her initial taste of a savory onion tart. She recounts her very first night in her new home in Sonoma, California, when she invited M. F. K. Fisher over for cassoulet, and the evening Deca Mitford roasted a chicken when she was beyond tipsy—and created Chicken Drunkard Style. And then there was the hearty brunch Angelou made for a homesick Southerner, a meal that earned her both a job offer and a prophetic compliment: "If you can write half as good as you can cook, you are going to be famous."

Maya Angelou is renowned in her wide and generous circle of friends as a marvelous chef. Her kitchen is a social center. From fried meat pies, chicken livers, and beef Wellington to caramel cake, bread pudding, and chocolate éclairs, the one hundred-plus recipes included here are all tried and true, and come from Angelou's heart and her home. *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table* is a stunning collaboration between the two things Angelou loves best: writing and cooking.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Readers familiar with Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will find what may be the secret ingredient of her success in this collection of tear- and laughter-provoking vignettes with 73 savory recipes. Here's Angelou's grandmother's Chicken and Dumplings, Crackling Corn Bread and Caramel Cake. Big brother Bailey makes a mean batch of Smothered Pork Chops and knows how to stretch them for a week's worth of meals. Mother, who "cooked wonderful meals and was very poignant about how to present them," can make a Roasted Capon play second fiddle to Red Rice. As the wider world beckons, Angelou dines. Sometimes she's the worker; having passed herself off as an experienced Creole cook, she becomes one with her Braised Short Ribs. Other times, she's the hostess serving what M.F.K. Fisher pronounces "the first honest cassoulet I have eaten in years." A batch of spoon bread nets Angelou a job and compliment: "If you can write half as good as you can cook, you are going to be famous." She does, and the food world widens (tamales, paté, minestrone, chachouka), and the fellow diners often have famous names (Oprah, Jessica Mitford, Rosa Guy). The food remains delectable and comfortable, and Angelou's directions are minimal but clear enough for experienced cooks. Color photos not seen by *PW*.

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From [Booklist](#)

Angelou has feasted at both ends of the food spectrum and everywhere in between. Her appreciation of good food has given her stamina and has enriched the texture of her days. In this memoir of significant meals, the poet recalls her grandmother's ironic discovery that rich folks relished wilted lettuce while she was investing in ice to keep her greens crisp. In another recollection, Angelou recalls her brother Bailey's advice on how to stretch a pork chop or two into enough different meals to please even her ravenous young son. As Angelou's renown swells, so does her purse, and before long she's sitting down to tables where nothing is impossible. Humble beef stew becomes beef Wellington and lemon meringue pie elegant eclairs. But Angelou's savoring of well-made food is a single continuum. Her recipes for favorite dishes derive from traditions as diverse as the origins of menudo, minestrone, spoon bread, tomato souffle, and hog head cheese. Angelou's fans curious about their hero's appetites will find tasty satisfaction here. *Mark Knoblauch*

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Review

"With the same sweet, strong voice she uses in her award-winning poetry and best-selling books, Maya Angelou now turns to a favorite and long enduring passion--food...In *HALLELUJAH!* she kneads together wonderfully re-created recollections from throughout her life with the foods that made them memorable. We taste the crackling cornbread warm from her grandmother's oven, feel her pride as she roasts a turkey and makes cornbread stuffing for a group of scholars in an Italian villa and laugh when she recounts a tale of pot roast and Brillo pads." -*Chicago Daily Herald*

From the Compact Disc edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Esta Banks:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information currently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even restricted. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes as the daily resource information.

Ronald Stauffer:

The publication untitled Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes is the publication that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to a person. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

Alexander Taylor:

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