“THOSE WHO BAN BOOKS”
by Maya Angelou

An original poem written exclusively for RHI Magazine

They were scared of sexes and hexes and multi-colored sheets.

And men and women doing even consensual things.

They banned a same-sex marriage room and Judy Blume

Charles Dickens Chicken-Lickin and Why the Caged Bird Sings

There is a poster which shows the likeness of Dickens, James Baldwin, Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, Shakespeare, Judy Blume and Maya Angelou. I know that puts me into wonderful company, but I pity the young students who, because of someone else’s ignorance, and at someone else’s whim, are unable to read Twain, Baldwin, Shakespeare and Angelou. They will miss some delight.

About the Writer

MAYA ANGELOU, poet, writer, performer, teacher, and director, 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 has also written a cookbook, Hallelujah! The Welcome Table; five poetry collections, including I Shall Not Be Moved and Shaker, Why Don’t You Sing?; and the celebrated poem “On the Pulse of Morning,” which she read at the inauguration of President William Jefferson Clinton. To Have the Heart to Hope, an essay collection, is being published in the Fall of 2008.
Books by Maya Angelou

All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes
Vintage, TR, 978-0-679-73404-8, 224pp., $13.00

Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem
Random House, HC, 978-1-4000-6558-5, 32pp., $9.95
Also available in a Young Readers edition illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
Schwartz & Wade, MG, 978-0-375-84150-7, 40pp., $17.99
Schwartz & Wade, HC, 978-0-375-94327-0, 40pp., $20.99

And Still I Rise
Random House, HC, 978-0-394-50252-3, 84pp., $15.00
Also available in Random House Audio Voices, CD, 978-0-375-41949-2, $12.00

Celebrations: Rituals of Peace and Prayer
Random House, HC, 978-1-4000-6610-0, 128pp., $16.95

The Collected Autobiographies of Maya Angelou
Modern Library, HC, 978-0-679-84325-8, 1,184pp., $40.00

The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou
Random House, HC, 978-0-679-42885-4, 288pp., $25.95

Even the Stars Look Lonesome
Bantam, TR, 978-0-553-37972-3, 160pp., $12.00

Gather Together in My Name
Bantam, TR, 978-0-553-37997-6, 224pp., $14.00
Bantam, MM, 978-0-553-26066-3, 192pp., $6.50

Hallelujah! The Welcome Table
A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes
Random House, TR, 978-0-8129-7485-0, 240pp., $19.95

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