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

Maya Delivers

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.

I’m famous for haunting thrifts, looking for cookbooks from days gone by, but I bought this one new in New Orleans. I picked it up, intending only to leaf through it, then put it back. But I opened the book on page 145, saw the recipe for Decca's Chicken Drunkard Style and thought, "That's pretty gosh darned simple." And I immediately knew how it would taste. I have a pretty good memory. I could have made my own variation without any problems, but I bought the book.

And though there are a few things here I'd never make, Liver and Onions and the Tripe recipes, for example, there is plenty in here to enjoy, like the Roasted Turkey on page 117. And as an added bonus you get a lifetime of Maya Angelou's memories, written down as only she can write them. Wonderful recipes and Ms. Angelou's delicious writing. What more could you ask of a cookbook?

Review submitted by Captain Katie Osborne

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Hallelujah! The Welcome Table: A Lifetime of Memories with Recipes by Maya Angelou - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!