

seven years old. Bailey felt exciting about his father's desire but it was not for Maya, she was sad because she did not want to leave her grandmother.

Bailey was excited, but seven-year-old Maya was very upset. She was unsure about her father and was frightened to leave Stamps and Momma. She did not want to be separated from Bailey, however. She loved him dearly—he was often her only ally. So she resigned herself to leaving, and watched as Momma sewed new jumpers and skirts for her new life (Stewart 20).

When Maya had arrived in California, her father took her and her brother to her mother, Vivian in St. Louis. Actually she did not want to meet her mother because she still remembered when she had sent to her grandmother. However, when she met her mother, she was amazed to look her. She thought that her mother was too beautiful to have children, besides her “fresh-butter see-through clean color,” straightened hair, and red lipstick, her mother liked to laugh, told jokes, and had fun all the time (Cox 4).

Living with her mother, she has experienced of rape because her mother's boyfriend, Mr. Freeman. That man threatened her to say nothing to Bailey if she wanted her brother will still life. Her mother found the stained underwear the next day as she changed the sheets on the bed. Maya was forced to say what happened with her, she said to her parents. Mr. Freeman was arrested immediately but he was killed by someone (Stewart 24). After that incident, Maya took to Stamps again. Because of those experiences, she decided to live in silent for several years and starts to write poem (Cox 18).

She started writing around the age of nine, during her silent period. “It was my way of keeping in touch, I guess,” Angelou said years later.

“And I loved poetry.... I just loved it. I must have been the most tiresome kind of child—you know, not talking and weeping over poetry, which I half understood at that” (18).

In her silence years, her grandmother introduced her to her friend, Mrs. Bertha Flowers. She was the wealthiest Black woman in Stamps, she was also beautiful and obviously well educated (Stewart 28). Mrs. Flowers introduced her to an assortment of literary classics, including the works of Charles Dickens. She was one of the important women in her life because she was able to get Marguerite to talk, having her read from works that in themselves were demanding recitation. Her way was so effective that it must have carried over into Maya's poetic career, in the production of such “oral” poems as “*Still I Rise*” and “*Phenomenal Woman*” (Bloom 5).

Graduated from her elementary school in Stamps, she continued her study in San Francisco, lived with her mother family. But, in her fifteen years old, she decided to work instead attending to school, her job was a conductor for the Market Street Railway Company in San Francisco. She was the first Black streetcar conductor in San Francisco (Cox 21). One day, Maya worried about her sexuality, she has no a boyfriend, she suspected that she was a lesbian. To find out if she was, she asked a popular neighborhood boy to have sex with her. Three weeks later, Maya discovered she was pregnant. She hid her condition for more than eight months until her graduation from high school (22). She gave birth to her son, Clyde Bailey Johnson in her seventeen years old. Being a mother, Maya thought that getting a job was more important than ever, she did not want to burden her mother (Stewart 40).

Maya has married three times in her life. In 1950, she married with Tosh Angelos, a Greek sailor. Being married to Angelos made her must still in the home, he

did not allow Maya to work. She became a good housekeeping advertisement, cooking well-balanced, gourmet meals and molding fabulous jello desserts. My floors were dangerous with daily applications of wax and our furniture slick with polish (Cox 34). After two and a half years, they decided to divorce (34). Then, she looked for a job and changed her name became Maya Angelou (a variation of her married name, Angelos) (35). Besides married with Tosh Angelos, she also ever married with Vasumzi Make, a South African Activist and Paul Du Feu, a White Briton. However, none of her relationships survived.

She began a career as a professional entertainer in the 1950's as a singer-dancer at the Purple Onion, a cabaret in California. She was invited to audition for a production of *Porgy and Bess* (1935). In 1957, she appeared in the Off-Broadway play *Calypso Heatwave* and recorded "Miss Calypso" for Liberty Records (Cox 36).

The 1950s ended, Maya shifted her interest from entertaining to writing. She had always written poetry, but never felt sure of herself. She met John Killens, a talented Black author, when he came to California. He told her she had promise, but if she really wanted to grow as a writer, she should consider moving to New York. There was a talented group of Black writers there who had formed the Harlem Writers' Guild to help one another with their writing, and then she became member of the Harlem Writers' Guild (Stewart 61).

In 1960, Angelou got a job offer she could not refuse. She became Northern coordinator for the SCLC (the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) at the invitation of Martin Luther King, Jr., with whom she worked (Cox 48). Maya and her son spent a number of years living in Cairo, Egypt and Ghana. During that time she worked as a newspaper editor and teacher of dance and drama (Kirkpatrick 4). In 1970,

ugliness about the town, too. Like the rest of the South in the 1930s, racial inequality was normal. Although slavery had been abolished since President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, little had changed for African Americans in the following seventy-some years (Stewart 14).

Based on what Maya had experienced above, at the time the society in the South was controlled by Whites. Laws forbade Blacks from being seated at restaurants. They could not use the same drinking fountains or bathrooms as Whites. This condition made Maya aware that the town of Stamps was divided. The Quarters (location of African American residents, around Maya's grandmother store) was Black and separated from the White part of town by railroad tracks and the Red River. Most Black residents in Stamps worked for White plantation owners. They picked cotton or worked as maids in White homes (14-15).

In Stamps, there was also a racist organization of White people. They was called Ku Klux Khan, the gang of Whites hooded their heads with only their "eyes of hate" showing as they beat, maimed, or killed Blacks (Cox 2). They did that because there was ever a Black man alleged to speak rudely to White woman (Stewart 16).

Maya ever seen directly, in the front of her grandmother's store there were White girls who she called them "poWhitetrash" girls insulted and mocked her grandmother, just because their skin was White and hers was Black. Seeing the girls' act, Maya wept and thought of getting her uncle's rifle also wanted to throw lye and pepper on them and scream at them "they were dirty, scummy peckerwoods" (Bloom 21).

Maya also had experienced of discrimination and segregation to herself. When she went to movie theatre with Bailey, the ticket seller did not allow her to watch the theater in same place with White children but she took their money. While, there was a White girl who bought a ticket, she gave her and asked politely to her to watch the theatre (Stewart 17).

The discrimination also happened when her eighth-grade graduation ceremony in 1940, she had experienced of graduation disappointment. The graduation speaker, a White politician said in his speech about White schools in Arkansas and how graduates from those places would have many opportunities in life. Some might go on to be artists, inventors, or scientists. He emphasized that Blacks and Whites were not equal and Black opportunities were different. According to him, the opportunities of Black in careers as maids, handymen, and if they were very lucky, they could be athletes. However, they really had no future anywhere else (Stewart 31). His words were terribly depressing to her whereas she was excited in her graduation before. She became more sorrowful when she did not hear her name called or her honors listed since she was one of the top students in her class (Cox 19).

There was also hurt experience besides her experiences above. She had a toothache, and her grandmother tried to took her to a dentist, White dentist. He refused to treat her toothache, even though he had once borrowed money from her grandmother to save his business. He told to her that he would “rather stick my hand in a dog’s mouth” than in a Black person’s (20).

When Maya was an adult, she and her son, Clyde, went to her grandmother in Stamps again. She did not realize that Stamps had not changed. It was still divided by hate, and Blacks were expected to know their place. Maya, however, had changed. She

had experienced racial equality in San Francisco (27). Someday, after her eight days in Stamps, she walked to White general store to buy a sewing pattern. In the store, she and the White saleswoman were both in the same narrow aisle. The saleswoman ordered her to move to the side in a narrow aisle and demanded, "How do you pronounce your name, gal? Speak up" (27). Maya did not like to call "gal" because there was no one who called her like that include of White people. Maya objected to treat like that, the saleswoman was startled and she was rude and insulted Maya (27).

3.3 Maya and Love

In Maya's life, she had experienced of falling in love for many times. Her first love was Curley, a navy man fourteen years older than she. She met him when she worked in restaurant as cook of Creole. He was one of customers in that restaurant. When he learned that Maya was a single mother, he was sympathetic. His kindness touched her heart, and she quickly fell in love with this 31-year-old man (Cox 25). They had dated for two months. Someday, he said that actually he was engaged, his fiancée lived in another state and they would be getting married soon. This fact did not matter for Maya, she chosen to ignore Curley's admission. She saw how good he was with her baby and enjoyed every minute she spent with him.

It did not matter that he told her, he would marry his real girlfriend in New Orleans when her job in San Diego ended. She pushed that fact out of her mind when they played with Clyde at the park or rode the Ferris wheel (25).

She was fallen in love again with her partner in dancing when she worked as a nightclub dancer. Her partner was R.L. Poole, a nightclub tap dancer. Because she and Poole often performed together in the front, she had special feeling to him, she was

fallen in love to Poole. Not long she felt that feeling, his early former dance partner and her girlfriend was back to Poole and she thought that the time of her work was over, as well as her feeling to Poole. Frustrated and discouraged, she felt as if she were going nowhere fast (Stewart 46). She was loneliness, she often imagined that she wanted to have a husband and a good father to her son. In order to forgetting her loneliness, she was using marijuana, to deal with the loneliness and frustration she felt (46).

After she resigned from her job as a dancer, she decided to work as a cook in a restaurant, while her son taken care by her neighborhood baby sitter, Big Mary. One day when she was worked, she noticed by a man, L.D. Tolbrook, who as old as her father. He looked like a rich man, driving a silver blue-lincoln, have much many in his pocket and a diamond ring in his finger. His job was a gambler. Though he was married, he promised to leave his wife for Maya. His politeness and kindness impressed her. Once again, she fell in love.

One night at the restaurant, she met a forty-five-year-old gambler named L.D. Tolbrook. He was married, but he told Angelou that he planned to leave his wife. Although Tolbrook was more than twice her age, they began a relationship. In Angelou's mind, he would eventually marry her and be a loving father to Clyde (47).

Her love to Tolbrook is too much, she helped him when he had \$5,000 gambling debt, and he did not have money to pay it, he asked Maya to help him, Maya answered that she will do anything to help him. The word "anything" turned out to be prostitution. She volunteered to be a prostitute and give him the money. Although she was not proud of what she was doing, she felt there was nothing wrong with her situation. "I reassured myself," she later wrote, "I was helping my man" (47). She

believed that after paid off his man's debt, she will out from prostitution and will have a good life with Tolbrook and Her son.

Her love to Tolbrook is not long resisted as Clyde was lost because he was taken by her baby sitter. She just realized how naive she had been. Everyday she did not have many times with her son, she spent many her time in prostitution to help her man. "I had been stupid, again", she writes in *Gather Together in My Name*. "And stupidity had led me into a trap where I had lost my baby (48). Finally, she found her son in Big Mary original home and she decided to break up with Tolbrook at that time.

Back to San Francisco, Maya began job hunting again and she got a job in a restaurant. Soon after that, once again, she met a man, Troubadour Martin. As her love experience before which she always do anything for her love if she believed that the man would be a good husband for her. Martin was an addict. Though she knew about him, Maya fell in love again. She decided she would shoot up heroin if it would attract Troubadour to her (Cox 30). However, their relationship also not long resisted, because she was realized that it was not good thing for Clyde if she become an addict. She was done with the dark, dangerous underbelly of life (31).

Maya's love experience was not ended yet. She met again with a man who was one of her costumer in a store where she worked. He was Tosh Angelos, a Greek sailor who turned into an electrician. She felt that he was a type of man who she wanted. He was handsome and quiet. He liked Charlie Parker and other Black jazz and blues musicians. He and Clyde liked each other very much. She accepted when he proposed (34). However, Maya's mother disagreed with her decision to accept his because of his job and he was a White man.

