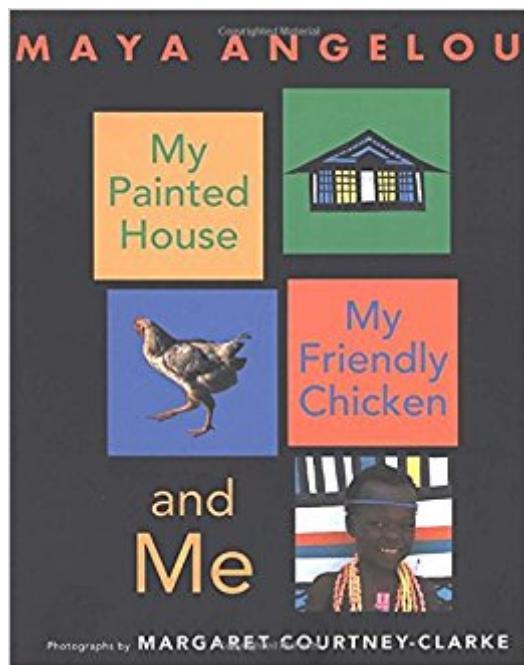


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# My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, And Me



## **Synopsis**

Full color photographs. "Hello, Stranger-Friend" begins Maya Angelou's story about Thandi, a South African Ndebele girl, her mischievous brother, her beloved chicken, and the astonishing mural art produced by the women of her tribe. With never-before-seen photographs of the very private Ndebele women and their paintings, this unique book shows the passing of traditions from parent to child and introduces young readers to a new culture through a new friend.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Crown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 11, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375825673

ISBN-13: 978-0375825675

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.2 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #149,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa #44 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art > Painting #85 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

The poet laureate here adopts the voice of an eight-year-old Ndebele girl of South Africa, who addresses the reader as her "stranger-friend." Thandi, whose name means Hope, describes some of her favorite things: the chicken to whom she confides her secrets, the intricately painted houses in her village, the beads her mother strings. Thandi's narration is strong and direct, and provides a lively introduction to a long-neglected people and culture. Its attempts to embrace the reader, however, seem somewhat strained ("You may call me friend, and I would like to call you friend"), and the use of many sizes and arrangements of type creates some choppiness. The accompanying photographs, on the other hand, do full justice to the brilliant colors of the beadwork, blankets and decorated houses of Thandi's village, and to the various attitudes of the carefully adorned people in it. Regrettably, they offer no more than a glimpse of the landscape nor any larger view of the village

as a whole, thus inadvertently narrowing the book's scope. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 1-3-A superb portrayal of Ndebele village life and art for young children. "Hello Stranger-friend" begins eight-year-old Thandi as she stands in front of a brightly painted house. In a thoroughly child-true voice, she tells about her beloved chicken, her people's ideas of "good" (which is as close as they come to saying "beautiful"), their ways of making designs in paint or beads, her brother, and going to town. Courtney-Clarke's full-color photographs are stunning. The bold geometric wall-painting designs, for which the Ndebele are famous, dominate the attractively laid out pages, and the typeface varies with the information and emotions expressed by the narrator. This should be a particularly good choice for reading aloud, given its special qualities of language and its visual vitality. Beyond the delights it offers aesthetically, it will leave children with important impressions about the Ndebele (and thus about South Africa): that village life is warm and fun; that village and town life are different; that people there care a lot about beauty, that they care about doing well, and that they are very talented. A unique book that honors Africa by projecting images that are true and honors American children by giving them the very best. Loretta Kreider Andrews, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm a great admirer of Ms. Angelou. And I love Africa, African art, and the idea for this book. But I was disappointed in a couple of things. "You have to have very strong eyes to paint good...." I'm sorry, but if Ms. Angelou has authored a book that contains a grammar mistake such as this, kids are going to accept it as correct. It was her responsibility to set an example of good writing for them. Also, I find the layout confusing. It is hard to follow the text sometimes and the changes of font are blaring, too busy. Plus, in the paperback version, one has to pull the book opened flat to read the text that bleeds across two pages. I fear the paperback binding won't last long because of this. Nice premise, well intentioned, but I'm not a total fan.

Our Organization, Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc., offers youth enrichment programs featuring history, culture and heritage using 'the arts' to enhance the learning experience. This book will complete our 'story time' hour. We ordered; it was shipped and we're pleased.

God blessed this woman! Awesome insight. Everyone should read her works!!!!

My granddaughter loved this. Although she is only 5, she could read some of it herself. I'm glad to have given it to her for a growing collection of Maya Angelou pieces.

BEAUTIFUL as all Magazine Angelou

Wonderful children's book. A must for every library.

My daughter loved the bright pictures. This is such a great book for a little one!

Maya Angelou is awesome and if you love her books, you will love this one too. Great as a gift.

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