

# Obama’s Sister Releases Touching Children’s Book, ‘Ladder to the Moon’

Kam Williams,  
Special to *The Skanner News*

“My daughter Suhaila was born a full decade after my mother died... Becoming a parent made me think of my own mother with both intense grief and profound gratitude. More than anything, I wished that my mother and my daughter could have known and loved each other...”

My mother was a remarkable woman. I hoped that I could teach Suhaila some of the many things I learned as I grew up witnessing my mother’s extraordinary compassion and empathy. It was then that I decided to unite grandmother and grandchild through a story in which my mother could meet one of her granddaughters and share the moon with her.”

*Excerpted from Author’s Note*

When Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng was growing up on the island of Java, her mother pinned a postcard over her bed of a Georgia O’Keefe painting entitled “Ladder to the Moon.” The surreal tableau, which featured a ladder suspended in the desert air and stretching towards a lonely half-moon hanging high in the sky, served to whet the imagination of the bright youngster with an insatiable curiosity. It’s important to remember that



when the phrase “Reaching for the Moon” was originally coined, it was intended to be applied to the implausible aspirations of fanciful dreamers. However, if the historic lunar landing of 1969 taught the world anything, it was the priceless lesson that even a destination as seemingly unattainable as the Moon was actually within our grasp all along. So, why not dream big?

This was the essence of the message Maya and her big brother, Barack, were raised with by their mom over the course of their childhood. Consequently, both of these trailblazers overcame the odds en route to enjoying phenomenal success in their chosen fields of endeavor.

Now, Maya has opted to pass along

a measure of her late mother’s inspiration via an enchanting children’s tale appropriately entitled “Ladder to the Moon.” Illustrated by a delightful array of delicate, airbrush drawings, the evocative narrative relates a mythical meeting between the author’s daughter, Suhaila, and the grandmother she unfortunately never actually had a chance to meet.

In the story, dearly-departed Grandma Annie appears outside Suhaila’s window at bedtime, and together they embark on an eventful journey by ladder up to the Moon. The lucky, little girl learns some valuable life lessons along the way, while the two simultaneously make the most of the posthumous opportunity to bond.

Overall, a remarkably-rich, instant classic likely to strike an emotional chord deep within the souls of kids from 2 to 92.

To read an interview with Soetoro-Ng, visit [www.theskanner.com](http://www.theskanner.com).

To order a copy of “Ladder to the Moon,” visit *The Skanner* aStore.

**Ladder to the Moon**  
by Maya Soetoro-Ng  
Illustrated by Yuyi Morales  
Candlewick Press  
Hardcover, \$16.99  
44 pages  
ISBN: 978-0-7636-4570-0



Maya Soetoro-Ng

# FAST FIVE

**“THE BEST ONE YET – A HARD-DRIVING, ADRENALINE-PUMPING BLAST.”**  
*Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICE*

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS AN ORIGINAL FILM/ONE RACE FILMS PRODUCTION  
A JUSTIN LIN FILM VIN DIESEL PAUL WALKER “FAST FIVE” JORDANA BREWSTER TYRESE GIBSON CHRIS LUDAKIS BRIDGES MATT SCHULZE SONG KANG  
PRODUCED BY AND DWAYNE JOHNSON MUSIC BY BRIAN TYLER BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY GARY SCOTT THOMPSON PRODUCED BY NEAL H. MORITZ VIN DIESEL MICHAEL FOTTELL  
ORIGINAL FILM PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13  
INTENSE SEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AND ACTION  
SERIAL CONTENT AND LANGUAGE  
www.fastfivemovie.com  
IN THEATERS AND IMAX

WATCH A SNEAK PEEK OF FAST FIVE WHEN YOU OWN  
“VIA BD-LIVE™” ON INTERNET-CONNECTED BLU-RAY™ PLAYERS BEGINNING 4/12/11 PG-13  
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES  
MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text FAST with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)!

GET “FAST FIVE THE MOVIE: OFFICIAL GAME” ON IPHONE, IPAD AND ANDROID DEVICES!  
DOWNLOAD NOW AT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAMELOFT](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CAMELOFT)

# “HILARIOUS, SWEET AND RELATABLE.”

Mike Sampson, *JOBLO*

**“BRIDESMAIDS REACHES LEVELS OF HILARITY AND HEART THAT MOVIES LIKE THESE HAVEN’T REACHED IN OVER A DECADE.”**  
Peter Sciretta, *SLASHFILM*

**BRIDESMAIDS**

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA AN APATOW PRODUCTION “BRIDESMAIDS” KRISTEN WIG MAYA RUDOLPH ROSE BYRNE WENDI McLENDON-COVEY ELLIE KEMPER MELISSA MCCARTHY CHRIS O’DOWD PRODUCED BY KRISTEN WIG ANNE MUMOLO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PAUL FEIG PRODUCED BY JUDY APATOW CLAYTON TOWNSEND BARRY MENDEL WRITTEN BY ANNE MUMOLO & KRISTEN WIG DIRECTED BY PAUL FEIG  
RELATIVITY APATOW PRODUCTIONS  
RESTRICTED R UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN  
SOME STRONG SEXUALITY AND LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT  
www.bridesmaidsmovie.com

**STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 13**  
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES