

Awaking in New York

Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

Curtains forcing their will
against the wind,
children sleep,
exchanging dreams with
seraphim. The city
drags itself awake on
subway straps; and
I, an alarm, awake as a
rumor of war,
lie stretching into dawn,
unmasked and unheeded.

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Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

William Low, *A Day in Parkchester*, 2011