



The Complexity of Thomas Jefferson

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Jefferson's Monticello

I shared with you an earlier work about the US Supreme Court by the artist Maira Kalman—a combination of wonderful drawings and prose. She has done [another work](#) in her series titled *And the Pursuit of Happiness*. This one is about Thomas Jefferson and much more. Kalman believes that if you wish to understand the United States and its people you need to visit Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia. She does a nice job of illustrating his remarkable talents and contradictions, which in many ways mirror those of the country. Robin and I visited Monticello at the start of our honeymoon, and then moved on to Gettysburg—another avenue for understanding America. We ended up in Cooperstown at the Baseball Hall of Fame, which just demonstrates that it was a patriotic honeymoon and I was willing to do whatever she wanted.