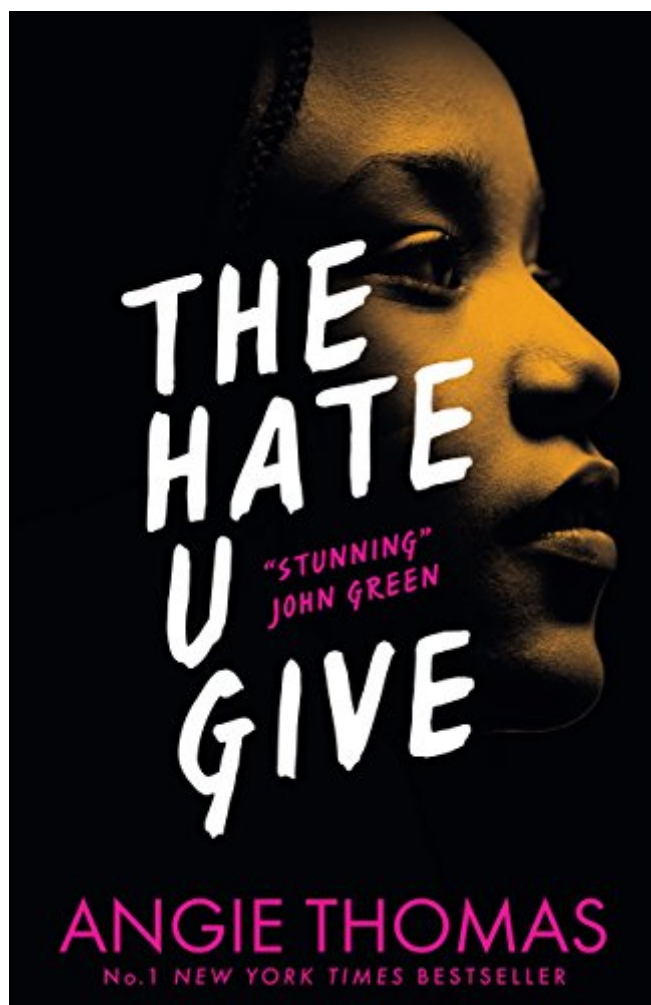


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The Hate U Give: The Book Everyone's Talking About



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice. Movie rights have been sold to Fox, with Amandla Stenberg (The Hunger Games) to star.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had originally said I was not going to read this book, I didn't know how well I would like it, and I don't tend to get involved with things that can make life at work harder for me. I literally work with the police, I am a dispatcher, so it is a huge part of my life. I knew going in it was revolved around the BLM movement, and police brutality and I made the decision to read it anyways. I had heard so many good things about it and I just needed to see for myself. First I want to say, it does not at any point in this book bash police officers. It talks about some of the problems in the world and how

things happen but it never attacks or sets out to make them out to monsters. I really liked that because most aren't, they just aren't, they are humans. Now, Starr is the main character who is involved in a horrible tragedy that leaves her friend from childhood Khalil dead by an officer involved shooting. It was horrible and it was really sad. I hated reading it, I cried my eyes out, Thomas did such an amazing job of making a horrible action into beautiful fiction that made you feel like you were right there. I was so broken by this part of the story. Then reading later on into Starr's grief was just hard. I don't know any other way to describe it but there will be tears, so very many tears. That isn't it though, you see her as they have to fight the system basically, and you are with them through all those emotions. Going to the funeral and seeing his family, destroyed, his mother broken, knowing this isn't just something that happens in fiction, you cannot help but be moved. Now there was some real good in this book too, like some parts that I laughed until I cried. The scene when her parents are arguing in the middle of a prayer I have read an thousand times since finishing the book because it is the funniest thing I have ever read. Her parents were amazing by the way, her dad was an ex-con but he loved her, he admitted his mistakes but he was there for her. Their relationship was really touching to read because I have always been really close to my own dad. Then there was her mom, and her Uncle Carlos, who was actually a cop and lived in a really good neighborhood too. This was really refreshing to read because so many books, YA especially make parents out to be monsters that don't care, that aren't there for their kids. I mean it is like a trope or something for these stories and it isn't actually the norm and gets annoying to read, so this book did an amazing job with the parents and family. All around though this story just floored me, it gave me a perspective I have never considered before, offered insights into a world I am not a part of, and I loved every minute of it. I don't know what it is to watch one friend die by violence of any sort, much less two in the time of my life and I am 26, she is a teenager. It is jarring to see that as someone's existence when it is not your own. It taught me to open my eyes... I love it... Honestly I just wanted to pick it right back up and read it again.

In January, uber popular author, John Green, tweeted that *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas would become a classic. I believe him. I can see this book in decades being required reading in schools. I can see multiple editions—special editions, anniversary editions, movie tie-in editions, and hell, maybe even a graphic novel—being released. I can see this book being read by my generation and passed on to the next generation, and then the next. I can see this book lasting, not because it's timeless (hopefully the struggles addressed in *THUG* will be no more, as Starr prophesied), but because it's a flashpoint in

American history that shouldn't be forgotten even if it's rectified. Angie Thomas's debut is the kind of transformative and accessible novel that can touch a variety of readers and have long-lasting effects. Why do I feel this way? What do I love about this book? Every f***ing thing. But let me try to be more specific. I love the writing, which is brilliant and absolutely genuine. I love the characters, who are phenomenal and so real. I love the character dynamics as well, which I think is the shining point of the novel. They're vigorous and honest, Angie Thomas's words giving them breath, blood, and life. If you've read the blurb, then you know the Black Lives Matter movement inspires this novel. But, *The Hate U Give* isn't about a movement. It's about black lives living, and about black lives loving, and about black lives pursuing happiness and deserving freedom – just like everyone. This novel's protagonist is sixteen years old, and she lives without an ulterior motive or agenda. Starr is just a girl who experienced a horrific tragedy, and the novel follows her journey through her grief and self-actualizations. I love Starr. I love this book. It begins with the shooting of Khalil on chapter two. It's harrowing and devastating, but not shocking for anyone who has been paying attention. Experiencing the effects of that moment from Starr's perspective is gut wrenching, although, I can foresee some readers feeling numb. Starr goes through all the stages in a visceral outpouring of grief. Her rage over her friend's murder is the emotion that steals the show, never leading to traditional acceptance. Angie Thomas is so damn talented and smart, I'm jealous. I had so many expectations going into this book, but mainly, I was nervous. I mean, with all the hype it's impossible not to go into this book with some expectation and my greatest fear regarding *THUG* was that it would piss me off. I expected the subject matter would be intense and that there would be some moments when I'd want to punch a wall. There were those moments when I was heated – intensely emotional, very angry and also immensely sad. But, what surprised me most about this book, and why I love it so much, and why I am going to recommend it to all the people, is that it is beyond multidimensional and multifaceted. Honestly, I experienced the gamut of emotions; I mean every single one. Let's get all the clichés out there: There were moments when I cried, obviously, and there were moments when I raged also obviously. Also there were so many times when I felt light and joyful, and not just hopeful, but plain happy. There are a lot of scenes, especially the ones with Starr's family that made me feel practically effervescent, which was made more memorable because they were just so alive in the midst of all the harshness of their reality. As I said, Angie Thomas is so

f***ing talented that I can't stand it. She layered this book with every feeling. I know I'm going on, and nauseam, but this novel moved me. If you're planning on reading this then move it up your list! If you're hesitant about it, for whatever reason, then please take a chance on this book. I am urging you, no, begging you to give Starr a chance, because her story deserves to be told.

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