

The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas

Reviewed by: Anika 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Starr Carter lives a complicated life in a poor black neighborhood where crime runs rampant in the streets. Her parents, with their own complicated lives, worked hard to get her into a top-notch school full of privileged kids. Starr switches between these two worlds constantly, managing to get by. But then her best friend, Khalil, is shot by an officer and her world turns upside down. Accusations and insults are thrown around her neighborhood as people protest for different sides. Starr is the only one who truly knew what went on that night and she's knows Khalil wasn't the one at fault. The officer was the one responsible for this whole mess and he isn't going to make up for it. Starr is afraid to speak up and relive Khalil's brutal death, but her words could change everything or be the end of it all.

The Hate U Give was an incredibly eye opening and powerful story. It gave me an insight into the reality of police violence and that is something I will never forget with the shootings that occur now. Angie Thomas talks about a variety of issues related to race like the differences in wealth, treatment, and the lives in general of people from different races. Along with bringing a light to controversial issue, The Hate U Give was also a very well written story. Every character seemed so real. They all had relationships with bad, good, funny, sad, and happy moments. Sometimes I couldn't help but smile at the funny moments the author wrote in this book. I felt, I cried, I smiled along every step of the way with them. I was simply attached to these characters and their lives. They all taught me about the value of family, bravery, and so much more.

There are some things readers may find offensive or controversial within this book, police brutality, race, violence, and mature language are some examples. These things are used thoughtfully in the book to give a greater impact on the reader. But they shouldn't stop you from reading this book. All the negatives within this book don't make the story's greater message any less important. I highly suggest this book for anyone, if they are 13 years or older. For those looking for a heartbreaking, but a world changing story, this book is for you.

Recommended Titles:

Anger is a Gift by Mark Oshiro

They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon