

WHAT
ANGIE
THOMAS
LIVES

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① WHO IS ANGIE THOMAS?

Angie Thomas was born and raised in Mississippi.

She has a degree in Creative Writing from Belhaven University.

Thomas has won many awards for her novel "The Hate You Give" such as: ALA's William C. Morris Debut Award, The Boston Globe-Horn Book Award (USA), the Waterstones Children's Book Prize (UK), and the Deutscher Jugendliteratur Preis (Germany).

In this novel, she speaks out about problems like modern racism and is inspired by the Black Lives Matter Movement.

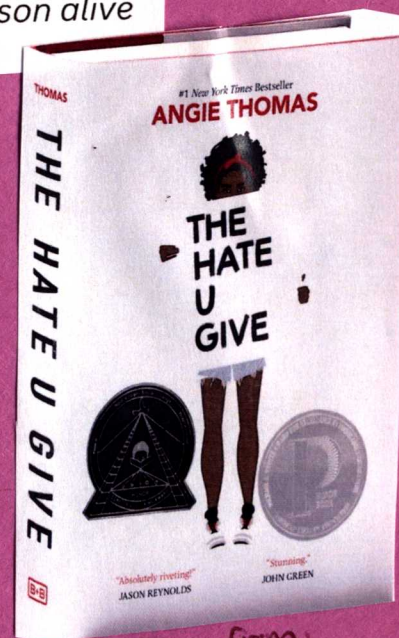
THIS IS HER!



② THE HATE U GIVE

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.



But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

from: <https://angiethomas.com/>

③

INTERVIEW WITH THE CUT

"I know so many girls who have witnessed terrible things. We don't give them enough credit or support. In the book, Starr finds her voice and her strength and her activism. I want young black girls to read this and understand: Your voice matters, your life matters."

"Had I met an author when I was 12, I probably would have done this sooner. There are active efforts to move Mississippi forward. That keeps me there. Those kids keep me there."

"As much as I love Mississippi, I don't feel like it loves me back as a black woman."

WHAT SHE HAS
TO SAY

Quotes from: TheCut.com

④

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Angie Thomas is an author from Jackson, Mississippi whose work focuses on black young women's experiences in the south. In this interview between her and Danya Evans from The Cut, she is talking about why she writes books like "The Hate U Give," that address things like police brutality and the Black Lives Matter movement, even though there could be a controversial discourse surrounding them. She wishes to acknowledge how much black women go through, the prejudices in her own community, and she keeps writing with the hopes that her work will inspire others to make a change. With her writing, she hopes to reach two groups of people in particular: the Black community - especially Black women - and those who need to be educated on Black life experiences so they can understand things that have never affected them.

Thomas wishes to reach out to young Black women and let them know that they are not alone. That others care about what they have to say. As a woman of color herself, Thomas knows exactly how they are feeling at this age: angry, lost, unheard, and frustrated. She writes where her character, Starr, has to learn to speak out and hold her ground; that what she thinks and says matters. Thomas does this to, in a way, teach other young women how to find their own voice and strength by relating Starr to experiences they may have had.



Picture from:
canva.com

One of the main themes in "The Hate U Give" is racism. Thomas has grown up and lived with racism her entire life so she can write from experience. She even says in this interview, "As much as I love Mississippi, I don't feel like it loves me back as a white woman" showing how much this hurts (Thomas). To love where you come from and the people close to you, but then feeling constantly invalidated and attacked from a community that cannot even fully understand you has to be a hard thing for Thomas to live through. Through her books, other Black women can learn that even though they wish to have validation from their white peers, it is more important that they find that validation within themselves and within their community first; or else they may never get to experience this.

Angie Thomas states that she would have published her work to the public sooner if she had met other influential black authors when she was younger (Thomas). Because of this, she wants to be that author for other kids in Mississippi that wish to make a change or call out injustice - to be a role model that these kids may not already have. She wants to stay in Mississippi to see this change happen and see the black children of Mississippi prosper. Since Black children are not as encouraged to become things like writers, if she does not speak out, they may never be inspired to do so. That is what keeps her here (Thomas). Thomas wants the place she grew up in, the place she loves, to love and respect her the same.

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Thomas' writing has been influenced by all of these factors and it is where she feels the need for her voice to be heard. With things like racism, police brutality, and prejudice behaviors being, unfortunately, still prominent today, it is important that authors like Angie Thomas continue to tell their story so the public not affected by these injustices can become educated on these topics.



Angie's childhood home in Jackson, MS



from:
angieethomas.
com

from: @angiecthomas
on twitter

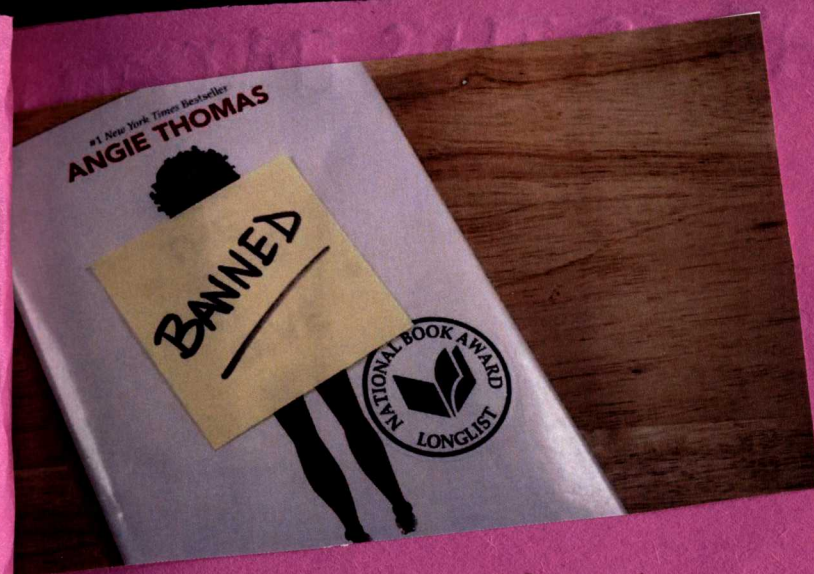
WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The PEN America survey shows that most books being banned involve race, sexual content, and/or characters, themes or authors from marginalized groups, including LGBT+.

BANNED BOOKS!

Madison County schools also have kept students from reading Thomas' novel, according to a 2021-2022 survey by PEN America. Nearly three-fourths of the 20 books barred were written by authors of color, including "The Hate U Give," Toni Morrison's "Beloved" and Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary Of A Part-Time Indian."

Information from: [Mississippitoday.com](https://www.mississippitoday.com)



Information and Picture from:
[TheList.com](https://www.thelist.com)

"I knew that was a cop-out," Thomas said. "There are exactly 89 instances of the F-word in 'The Hate U Give' ... But last year alone, over 800 people lost their lives at the hands of police brutality. That number is far scarier. So when you're telling me it's the language, no, that's not what it is. You don't want to talk about the topic."

← Her book was banned in the state she's from!



Picture from [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

⑨ WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

It is important that minority groups have writers that inspire the youth of their communities and that they can spread word on what they have been through. Just because White people are privileged with not having to worry about things like police brutality, it does not mean that they should not worry about learning about these things. Everyone should be educated on each others experiences so they can come to an understanding; not silencing these voices and leaving us separated.

All of this information is important because of a few different things. First, Angie Thomas and her story is exactly what the Black youth need to hear to feel validated. With racism still being prominent in Mississippi, minority groups are often not encouraged to pursue inspiring careers. And when they do pursue, their work is often silenced because the majority, White people, do not want to hear about it.

Thomas' books being banned shows how talking about injustice makes those not affected uncomfortable. Groups like Moms for Liberty (ironic) do not want their kids to hear about these things because "they aren't old enough" to hear about these subjects and try to blame the bans on cursing and inappropriate content, but things like racism and police brutality are just a fact of life for Black children. The government wants to silence these voices so others do not learn exactly what the Black community has to endure - they want to silence those who may inspire more Black children to try and make a change and bring awareness.

WHERE TO FIND THE INFO ⑩

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