

# Concrete Rose book review

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**C**oncrete Rose by Angie Thomas transports the readers to the past. It is the prequel to Thomas' bestseller *The Hate U Give*, which followed teenager Starr Carter navigating the world after she witnessed her friend get shot and killed by a police officer. It follows the beloved characters from Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. *Concrete Rose* follows Maverick, Starr's father, as a 17-year-old high school senior. He is also a member of the King Lords gang in Garden Heights.

1998 is when the book begins. Maverick is a son of a poor mother and a father who is serving a

lengthy prison sentence. Because his father is in jail, Maverick has inherited a gang affiliation. Members are protected from rival gangs and the risks of their lifestyle. To leave a gang, a member must risk his freedom or his life. Maverick has the dilemma of taking the risk or not when he finds out he is to be a father. He gives up dealing drugs, and when faced with the financial pressures, the neighborhood market owner Mr. Wyatt offers him a job. His father tells him he must weigh the cost of the demands of the street to those he loves most.

Thomas thrusts Maverick into lost after loss, the stakes higher each time. He must see himself as not following the family legacy, but as a parent focusing on the future. A

person's ability to blossom is determined in part by his own choices but also by the actions of his community. Regardless of mistakes made, beauty can break through the concrete and bloom.

