



# Concrete Rose: A Conversation with Angie Thomas

Author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Hate U Give* and the new book, *Concrete Rose*.

**Interviewer: Marcus Campbell, Ed.D.**

Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Evanston Township High School.

**Special Guest: Dion Graham**

Actor and award-winning voice-over narrator of *Concrete Rose*.

**Thursday, January 21, 2021, 7:00 PM Central**

[www.bit.ly/ThomasFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/ThomasFANWebinar)

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,

in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Bennett Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Glencoe D35, Haven Youth and Family Services, Latin School of Chicago, Loyola Academy, Mindful Psychology Associates, Near North Montessori School, New Trier High School D203, North Shore Country Day School, Regina Dominican High School, Roycemore School, Stevenson High School D125, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, Young, Black & Lit, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ANGIE THOMAS**

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Thursday, January 21, 2021, 7:00-8:00 PM, [Concrete Rose: A Conversation with Angie Thomas](#), a FAN Webinar feat. Angie Thomas, with special guest Dion Graham. Interviewer: Marcus Campbell, Ed.D. **REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/ThomasFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/ThomasFANWebinar).

International phenomenon **Angie Thomas** revisits Garden Heights seventeen years before the events of *The Hate U Give* in *Concrete Rose*—a searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood. The story begins in 1998, and it features 17-year-old Maverick Carter (Starr’s father) and his girlfriend Lisa as they navigate their relationships – with each other, family, and the King Lord gang. Mav learns that he is a father at the very start of the book, and the book unfolds the many pressures and choices he faces as a teen parent trying to face his life as a gang member with his responsibility as a father.

*Concrete Rose* streets is a sensitive and timely exploration of masculinity, fatherhood, and identity, and Ms. Thomas is an extraordinary storyteller whose work sparks lively conversations. She recently stated that, “It was important to me above all to humanize him (Mav) because that’s the bare minimum we owe young Black boys. As a writer, the least I could do is to have a fully three-dimensional figure on the page.”

Ms. Thomas is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling, award-winning author of the novels *The Hate U Give* and *On the Come Up* as well as *Find Your Voice: A Guided Journal for Writing Your Truth*. She is an inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant 2015, awarded by We Need Diverse Books. *The Hate U Give* was made into major motion picture from Fox 2000, starring Amandla Stenberg and directed by George Tillman, Jr. A former teen rapper who holds a BFA in creative writing from Belhaven University, Ms. Thomas was born, raised, and still resides in Jackson, MS.

Ms. Thomas will be interviewed by **Marcus Campbell, Ed.D.**, Assistant Superintendent/Principal at Evanston Township High School in Evanston, IL. Ms. Thomas and Dr. Campbell will be joined during the event by **Dion Graham**, an actor and narrator of the *Concrete Rose* audio book.

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