

This introduction to 3 Starr & the alienation she feels in her own neighborhood is key to understanding the character & the impending conflicts she will face.

It's here where we 13 begin to observe Khalil's complexity. His loss of & longing for a mother who is present is significant to his choices. Is she indirectly responsible for his demise?

This moment 23 changes everything! Notice how the officer is unnamed on this page. Is it that his identity doesn't matter or that he represents more than an individual? "One-fifteen" could be an entire system that criminalizes & oppresses a

cont.
whole world of 23 "Khalil." Khalil's name is spoken/written 8 times. We are forced to repeat & remember him even before he is gone. Starr invokes Natasha as Khalil's body double — she is remembered too.

This breakfast scene 33 is humanizing for Starr, her family, as well as Khalil. The horrific murder of Khalil is juxtaposed with regular breakfast banter. The pain the community feels at the too frequent loss of young lives is coupled with the comfort of family, parental protection, & sibling love.

What initially struck 43 me here was Maverick's deliberate maturity in not involving Kenya in a matter between him & Lesha. He refuses to send a message for an adult through a child. This provides us readers with more insight into Maverick's character & convictions.

We are also 43
learning more about
Khalid. Kenya's
hope that he would
be in the store
"like he used to be"
— "bagging groceries"
pulls him back
into existence & helps
us envision his place
in the world before his
death.

Here, Thomas 53
expertly demonstrates
how the black
community has
historically struggled
with distrust for
law enforcement.
Maverick expresses
fear & anger that is
steeped in experience
& history. Carlos is
working against far more
than his past with Maverick.

There are 63
distinct elements of
African oral tradition
& culture weaved in
with this visit to
see Ms. Rosalie.
This almost reads like
a ceremonial ritual
that begins the
healing process for
Khalid's family &
Garden Heights as a whole.

Starr's reality as 73
a student of
Williamson draws
on centuries of the
experience of
embodying Blackness
in white spaces.
What is remarkable is
her simultaneous
discomfort & ease.

There is 73
something that is
deeply authentic
about Starr's
Williamson self: yet,
there is something
painfully
conjured.

Sadly, Chris 83
cannot ever fully
know Starr at this
point. Knowing the
trauma of her past
& present might
relegate her to a
pittable case in
his mind.

ala Starr's view, 93
The "cops" do not represent their races, but a system that oppresses her community & people like her. The ironic reality for black people is the feeling of fear as opposed to safety in the presence of police.

ala this heartbreaking moment, the Fables are turned on Starr by Hailey & Maya in a similar way to her experience with Gomez & Wilkes. They see Khalil as a problem & expect Starr to reveal herself as a problem as well. 113

Starr's fear is 93
compounded by what happened to Khalil; although, we must be clear that her distrust of law enforcement is deeper than that incident & began well before Khalil's murder.

Both Khalil and Natasha wear white in their caskets. There is a redemptive aspect to them being laid to rest in white. They are purified from the trauma. 125

The assassination 103
of Khalil's character renders him disposable. In this verbal & emotional tug-a-war, Starr & Lisa fight to defend Khalil & their future community. Gomez & Wilkes fight for. What are they defending?

Starr's complicated 133
experiences with abandonment are striking. Her "they left me" posts also seem to point to Maverick's abandonment of their family when he was imprisoned.

This ritual + 143
sitting intimacy
between Starr + Seven
is beautiful. It
provides solace in
the midst of a
literal riot.
This moment of love
helps to shatter the
hatred.

This is one of the 165
most beautiful
paragraphs of the book.
Starr's PTSD from
seeing Khalil murdered
& living as a black
person in a racialized
society is eloquently
shared in a few
phrases. There is a
dup fear of exposure.

Lisa sharing 154
Starr's birth story
seems to inaugurate
much more than
comfort & relief.
- What is Starr
becoming as she
learns how she
came to be?

Violence 165
against black
bodies has stolen
both innocence
& hope from Starr.

Chris's responses 161
assume that Starr
needs his approval.
His "I don't care
about that kinda
stuff" comes from a
place of privilege
where he can accept
the things about
Starr that society
rejects.

This moment 169
between Maverick &
Starr synthesizes
complex concepts
of the existence of
racism as just
what it is - a
system.

Does Maverick 179
feel a responsibility
to DeVante?

I think he may
see himself in the
young boy just as
Starr sees Khalil.
DeVante is all
young black boys
plagued by THUG LIFE.

It's rewarding 208
that Seven Thrives
in tech. The element
of his characterization
resists all the violence
& other negative
realities that
threaten young black
men.

I think Maverick 180
certainly feels a
responsibility to
Garden Heights.
It's almost as if
he is paying
penance for being
such an effective
drug dealer &
gang banger in his
youth.

Focusing on 219
Nataasha's life
& death here
produces a beautiful
moment of equity
for the young girl's
memory.

Maverick's pain 196
in this passage
is generational.
This is the essence
of Post Traumatic
Slave Syndrome —
the residual effects
of generational
oppression.

This seemingly 231
insignificant
moment of Chris
pointing out Nailor's
"white guilt" is truly
important to Chris's
position as an
effective ally to
Starr.

237
The nuances of
THUG LIFE are
illuminated here.
The hate that
created King
f**ks Khalil.

264
This is a truly
powerful expression
of forgiveness. I
love that it comes
from such a
traumatic root —
demonstrating how
healing forgiveness
can be.

243
Hailey refuses
to acknowledge
her privilege.
She is giving &
given HATE as
well.

271
Thomas packs
a truly controversial
moment between
Starr & Maverick
and black women &
black men into a
heartfelt father-
daughter interaction.
Beautiful &
affirming-!

250
To Hailey
"black staff" is the
uncomfortable
reality that she
can ignore
because of her
white privilege.
Hailey is the
embodiment of
white privilege.

283
Look at the
genuine
community
DeVante & Chris
build! — stunning!
Also, we see
DeVante's lost
childhood
reclaimed.

Starr points to ²⁹⁰
her understanding
of the history of
the use of "law
and order" to
eliminate black
agency in this
brief response
at the end of her
interview.

Lisa & Maverick's ³¹⁶
history demonstrates
resilience, forgiveness,
& the idea that
black love can be
romantic, light, &
"rom com"-worthy.
This debunks many
toxic cultural myths.

This is a crucial ²⁹⁹
moment that
opens up Starr's
experience as a
black young person
to Chris. This is a
critical to Chris's
ability to be a
true ally.

Here, Thomas's ³²¹
treatment of some
of the most
villified black
historical figures
& organizations as
righteous & just
reclaims a narrative
that has been
lost.

Maverick's ³⁰⁹
realization
disconnects poverty
as an essential
trait of blackness.
This is powerful.

The beauty, ³²⁸
love, creativity,
& community of
Garden
Heights!

Sign... This is 342
The tough moment
when you want to
pat Star + Seven
on the back, but
Lisa's admonishment
rings with truth.
Halley + Remy won't
"get it" as the result of
this fight.

Alsha is 366
a bit like
Khalil, in that,
her struggle is
wholly misunderstood.

Oppression 346
unifies the
oppressed.

Chris has to 376
dismantle
Starr's
insecurities +
social biases
here.

I appreciate 360
that there are
moments of joy
for the Carter
family like this
sprinkled throughout
a text that also
addresses their
trauma.

Alsha's cry 386
for help is
staggering +
painful. Her
sacrifice seeks to
save her children
from the cycle of
dysfunction that
traps her.

It's truly ³⁹⁰
sobering to read
about these
young people
who are all
faced with
such heavy realities.
This is **THUG LIFE!**

Star illuminates ⁴¹²
the dangers of
generalizations &
how they literally
and figuratively
kill us all.

DeVante's ³⁹⁷
logic regarding
restorative
justice for his
community is not
entirely flawed.

Maverick's ⁴²⁶
redemption is
wrapped up in
the store's existence.
Destroying it
challenged his
transformation and
makes Garden Heights
a food desert.

This is a ⁴⁰¹
playful conversation
with deep
intellectual
implications.
This naming
conversation also
demonstrates the
effects of hegemonic
social norms.

The Carter's ⁴⁴²
rebuilding represents
so much for the
progress of Garden
Heights & the people
who live there.
It is important for
the store to be
there as they resist
literal & social
malnourishment.