Concrete girls

A bustling metropolis, fuelled by a vibrant array of subcultures and communities. London is seen as the catalyst for UK skate culture to flourish. The concretes are graced by the presence of truckers gliding through the streets. Among these

truckers is Chinara, a girl yearning for a community she deserves. For Chinara, reading her dad’s old thrasher magazines and going to South Bank skate park every Thursday after school was her way of procrastinating from school work.

With her determination and a second hand skateboard she bought with her birthday money, Chinara carved every street with kickflips and ollies. She continued to practice almost every day to make sure she perfects every trick.

However, one’s passion for something is sometimes better when one can share that passion. Chinara would always watch skateboarding movies such as mid 90s and documentaries like “minding the gap”. She wondered where she could find people to navigate challenges of skateboarding and adolescence with. Skateboarding is more than just a sport, it creates family and a culture.

Life became more brighter when Chinara met a group of girls that called themselves the “concrete girls. These girls embodied the skate crew that Chinara longed for, a diverse group of people with a flair for skating. Khadija, was a visionary leader who was more of the mother of the group. Considering she was the youngest of the girls, she was the most mature one and had love for the girl that runs deep. Ruth, who’s mind was always somewhere else, had the purest soul that would extend to her board. Her board was covered in different paintings that consisted of mainly flowers and the sun. She’s usually designing sketches for a board that would one day appear in a supreme shop. Finally there was Kaima, known for her phenomenal editing skills on premier pro and capturing the nature of skating. She often made sure “concrete girls” social media presence stood out from every other skate crew, through her creative imagination and style for content creation.

Excitement filled in Chinara, she actually found a group that was intertwined with a passion for skating and care for one another. Together, they went through the trials and tribulations of skateboarding in a male dominated culture. Skated their way under London’s streetlights and explored new skating spots. However, there was one skate spot that they couldn’t conquer, and that was Southbank skate park. Chinara absolutely adored this place but often couldn’t see herself skating there as the representation wasn’t there. The girls decided one day to go to south bank and skate. For the girls this was one more push that they needed to succeed in becoming a member of the great skate park. When they arrived, they were met with a series of silence and stares, who’d ever think that a group of girls who skate would be spotted at a skatepark like this. The male to female ratio was terrible. But the girls remembered why they skated in the first place, the sense of skating all together as one was just enough to help the girls enter the skatepark. A journey is not a journey without it’s challenges and this was in fact one of them. But to their surprise they were approached by two boys who welcomed them by asking the girls if they were the ‘concrete girls’, to which the girls replied with “yes”. These boys were not judging them, they were in fact in awe of these girls, the minute they stepped in. For the girls, this was only just the beginning.