



For Immediate Release

A Historical and Personal Journey in 'The Colored Car'

DETROIT—August 5, 2013— Jean Alicia Elster, author of the award-winning *Who's Jim Hines?* (Wayne State University Press, 2008), tells another powerful tale of Depression-era Detroit in her new release *The Colored Car* (available September 2013). Based on Elster's own family history, *The Colored Car* introduces readers to twelve-year-old Patsy Ford as she takes a life-changing journey south in the hot summer of 1937.

At home, Patsy takes care of her three younger sisters and helps her mother, May, put up fresh fruits and vegetables in the family's summer kitchen, adjacent to the wood yard that her father, Douglas Ford, owns. But her mother decides to take a break from canning and take her daughters to visit their grandmother in Clarksville, Tennessee. After boarding the first-class train car at Michigan Central Station and riding comfortably to Cincinnati, Patsy is shocked when her family is led from their seats to change cars. In the dirty, cramped "colored car," Patsy finds that the life she has known in Detroit is very different from life down south. By the end of the story, Patsy will never see things in the same way again.

Author Ruth McNally Barshaw calls *The Colored Car* "an emotional and compelling look at how the joys of daily life and the legacy of slavery affected children in the 1930s." For young readers interested in American history, *The Colored Car* will be a must-read.

About the author: Jean Alicia Elster is a professional writer of fiction for children and young adults. She is the granddaughter of Douglas and Maber (May) Jackson Ford, whose family story is the basis of *The Colored Car*. Her other books include *Who's Jim Hines?* (Wayne State University Press, 2008), which was selected as a Michigan Notable Book and a *ForeWord* Book of the Year finalist; *I'll Do the Right Thing; I'll Fly My Own Plane; I Have a Dream, Too!*; and *Just Call Me Joe Joe*.

Book information: Available Sept. 2013, 5" x 7.5", 224 pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-3606-9, \$14.95 paperback (ebook also available).
More information: <http://www.thecoloredcar.com>

DETROIT BOOK LAUNCH: Sunday, September 8 at the Scarab Club, from 2:00–5:00 pm in the Gallery. More information at <http://wsupress.wayne.edu/news-events/events/detail/colored-car-book-launch>.

Also featured at WSU of WSU Press's 10th Annual Celebration of Books, **Thursday, September 26** <http://wsupress.wayne.edu/news-events/events/detail/10th-annual-wayne-state-university-press-celebration-books>

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For more information on the book or to speak to the author, please contact Sarah Murphy, Promotions Manager, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6077 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; murphysa@wayne.edu. To learn more about the Press, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.

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