



Wayne State University Press

4809 Woodward Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

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**\*For Immediate Release\***

DETROIT, MI, February 20, 2019 — Esperanza Cintrón's *Shades: Detroit Love Stories* is a short story collection that is distinctly Detroit. By touching on a number of romantic and sexual encounters that span the historical and temporal spaces of the city, each of these interconnected stories examines the obstacles an individual faces and the choices he or she makes in order to cope and hopefully, survive in the changing urban landscape.

*Shades* begins in the 1960s by following two young, black women who are determined to find joy in their lives even as they struggle to make ends meet. Their lives continue to evolve under triumphant and disappointing conditions—falling in and out of love, giving birth, raising children, and struggling to “make it” despite disappointing and tenuous love affairs and relationships. The setting throughout the eighteen stories shifts as these women age and their children extend the timeline, reflecting on the city's social and political changes over three decades, as well as the pitfalls, tragedies, and opportunities these linked families encounter. Cintrón favors an everyday vernacular for her characters' voices in order to reflect the complexities of their working/middle-class, ethnic, and racial identities. Divided into two sections, Eastside and Westside, the collection gives a nod to the sometimes contentious geographical split marked by Woodward Avenue. Cintrón takes readers through city streets—from neighborhood bars to burger joints—while painting lyrical portraits of the unique and multifaceted characters whose honesty shatters the illusion of endless love and happily-ever-after fantasies, as they clash with the circumstances of economics and race.

Cintrón's stories capture the rhythms of language and the poetry of the people and will interest readers of fiction or poetry who seek to understand love.

**Author:**

Esperanza Cintrón is the author of three books of poetry that include *Chocolate City Latina*, the 2013 Naomi Long Madgett Award winner *What Keeps Me Sane*, and *Visions of a Post-Apocalyptic Sunrise*. She is a native Detroiter of Puerto Rican descent who holds a doctorate in English literature and teaches at a local college.

**Book information:**

Available August 2019, 5.5x8.5, 144 pages

ISBN 9780814346884, \$18.99 Paperback (eBook also available).

More information and cover image download available at:

<https://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/shades>

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