



Advance Praise

for *allegiance*

“ In her debut collection, *allegiance*, francine j. harris makes an instrument of each poem. Somehow both surgical and blunt, the poems sing. That is, they will wake your neighbors. These poems highlight the limits of propriety, but what might appear to be irreverence is devotion cleansed of pretense. The object of Harris's devotion is often Detroit, and like the city she loves, the poems have little patience for sentimentality. They'll snatch you up by the collar, throw you in a chair and make you listen. And then, line by line, these poems will break your heart. ”

—Gregory Pardlo

“ The poems in *allegiance* explore the intersection of terror and tenderness in imagery and music so original that there is a gasp of surprise/pleasure/recognition. As all great singers do, francine j. harris startles us with the intimacy of her voice, and also astonishes with the art of it. This collection brings us an important writer tackling crucial emotional events, but francine j. harris is truly a poet, doing much of her work below the surface of her words. There is not a forgettable poem on any of these pages. ”

—Laura Kasischke

“ Very strong and contrasting figures emerge in francine j. harris's memorable first collection of poems. There is an odd lyric telegraphing here just in the way strobe lighting carries movement, or serial narrative, in the dark. These are tropes of knowledge in a time of great ignorance. This is a wonderful book of poems. ”

—Norman Dubie

MADE IN MICHIGAN WRITERS SERIES
