

Cynthia Harrison
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Cynthia Harrison is a novelist, currently writing crime novels published by The Wild Rose Press. Her women's fiction novel, *Blue Heaven*, originally published by The Wild Rose Press, was chosen in 2015 for reprint by Amazon Encore.

Publications: Cindy has six novels originally published by The Wild Rose Press. A seventh novel has been published by Woodward Press. Cindy has two e-book only novels exclusive to Amazon and one non-fiction work, a writing manual, published with TCAM Press.

Writing Awards: Cindy's short story "Cherry Vanilla" took first place in Marygrove College's writing competition. Two of Cindy's poems as well as her essay "Snow Day" won first place awards from Detroit Working Writers. Her writing manual, *Your Words, Your Story*, won a MIPA (Midwest Independent Press Association) Award.

Website: www.cynthiaharrison.com, established in 2002. The blog "A Writer's Diary" was a daily chronicle of Cindy's path to publication, including the writing process of each of her books. After publishing several novels, Cindy's website grew to the larger site it is today. She still blogs weekly.

Memberships: Cindy is a member of Sisters in Crime and the local chapter, Michigan Sisters in Crime.

Other Writing: Cindy has published poetry, short stories, essays, author interviews, and book reviews for a variety of print publications from literary journals to "Publishers Weekly" (2008) and "Romantic Times" where she was senior reviewer (2006).

Classroom/Speaking Experience: Cindy has taught writing for more than twenty years, both in informal and professional academic settings. She has taught classes and workshops to people in all walks of life, from teenagers to retirees. She also has extensive experience with speaking in public and in one-on-one interviews.

Education: BA in English Literature, Marygrove College, Detroit, MI 1990, Cum Laude. MA in English Literature, Oakland University, Rochester, MI (1994). Writer's Police Academy, Green Bay, WI (2016).

Social Media: In addition to her website and blog, Cindy (@CynthiaHarris01) is a fan of Twitter's #MondayBlogs and posts regularly. She has a Facebook Fan Page at Cynthia Harrison Novelist.

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Classroom and Speaking Experience (Detail)

Cynthia Harrison has a BA and an MA in English Literature and has taught writing for more than twenty years. As an employee of Michigan public schools, she taught in a high school at-risk program; in this capacity, she also taught college writing at Oakland University and creative writing and literature at Macomb Community College.

Cynthia designed her popular creative writing course at MCC to allow students to follow a writing process from start to a completed project. Students focused on a genre of their choice, from poetry to fiction to screenwriting and songwriting. A few even wrote novels during the 16-week course. Two of those writers have since had their novels published.

Because her course was built to highlight individual student interests, Cindy had a hard time finding a book that would fit her course. After devising many writing exercises building on her own writings and study, Cindy had a book-length course pack. In 2007, she published that course pack as her award-winning writing manual, *Your Words, Your Story*. The book sold in the MCC campus bookstore and on Amazon. The second edition, with an updated self-publishing section, is still offered as a Kindle book on Amazon.

Publishing a book on writing led Cindy into speaking about and teaching workshops outside the college setting. She has taught a variety of creative writing seminars in adult education courses, at public libraries, even at a lavender farm. She has been on writing panels at several Michigan conferences and served on the board of Detroit Working Writers as Program Chair. She is a founding member of Michigan Sisters in Crime.

Recently, Cindy appeared on *The Weam Namou Show* to talk about the process of writing her latest novel, set in Detroit. In that interview, she discussed the importance of research and how attending the Writer's Police Academy made her novel a better book. She discussed cultural appropriation, her reluctance to write from the point of view of a black police detective and her determination that the white private investigator and black police detective stay firmly in the friend lane. Then she explained why best-laid plans sometimes don't work out. *Lily White in Detroit* features an interracial romance and a black male point of view. In this, her tenth book, Cindy once again found the courage to go where the writing takes her. In the end, it's always somewhere she never imagined at the start. This, more than anything else, is why she writes.