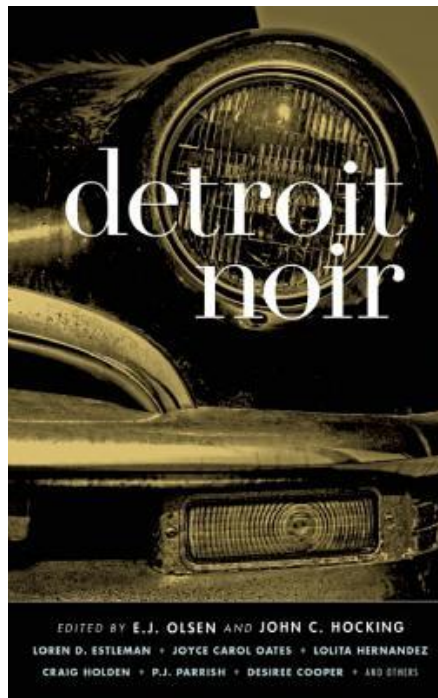




Detroit Noir

E.J. Olsen (Editor) , John C. Hocking (Editor)

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From crime stories in the classic hard-boiled style to the vividly experimental, from the determination of those risking everything to the desperation of those with nothing left to lose, *Detroit Noir* delivers unforgettable tales that capture the city's dark vitality.

Includes stories by: Joyce Carol Oates, Loren D. Estleman, Craig Holden, P.J. Parrish, Desiree Cooper, Nisi Shawl, M.L. Liebler, Craig Bernier, Joe Boland, Megan Abbott, Dorene O'Brien, Lolita Hernandez, Peter Markus, Roger K. Johnson, Michael Zadoorian, and E.J. Olsen.

Detroit Noir Details

Date : Published November 1st 2007 by Akashic Books

ISBN : 9781933354392

Author : E.J. Olsen (Editor) , John C. Hocking (Editor)

Format : Paperback 300 pages

Genre : Fiction, Short Stories, Mystery, Crime, Noir

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Download and Read Free Online Detroit Noir E.J. Olsen (Editor) , John C. Hocking (Editor)

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THE says

In 2004, the small New York publisher Akashic launched a very clever series of books emphasizing original noir fiction associated with particular cities and regions. It has now reached at least 41 with many more on the way. Every place has its dark side--some more than others--but the idea was attractive to those of us who wished to see their hometowns or favorite sites cast within the noir genre. I guess it is no mystery what my hometown was or why I might be interested in some of my former venues cast in the ominous shadows of crime and danger. Sadly, although I cannot speak for any of the other volumes in the series, the stories in this work largely fail to be more than pedestrian efforts that are dim, moody, and violent. They lack any of the psychological elements generally associated with classic noir fiction by Cain, Chandler, Woolrich, Gresham, Hammett or even more modern noir work by Leonard, Ellroy, Rankin, and Mankell. Being bound by the limitations of greater Detroit has resulted in a book of interest largely to those who know those dark streets, abandoned houses, and deteriorating businesses. The writers of these tales display a varying degree of geographical, literary, and imaginative savvy, but it is no surprise that the only truly first-rate story is by Joyce Carol Oates. (Ironically, it is probably the least noir piece in the collection.)

Choose your favorite site: London, Paris, San Francisco, Havana. Wall Street, Orange County (?) and take a chance, but remember that the gimmick may be greater than the literary reward.

Patty says

Some wonderful short stories that all take place somewhere in Detroit. The collection of writers were all from Detroit and included some noteables....Loren Estleman, Joyce Carol Oates, Craig Holden, Desiree Cooper from NPR, and my favorite, Michael Zadoorian. A great accumulation of memories of what Detroit used to be and the complex reality of what is today.

Marcy Heller says

Great writers whose stories may entice as they're set in places such as Palmer Woods, Grosse Pointe, and the freeways and streets we know, but such dismal, dark and hopeless stories. There's a whole series of these short-story collections set in many cities--too bad.

Heather says

This is a collection of unrelated short stories, and I just generally have a harder time reading these kinds of books. However it was very interesting to read about Detroit, with familiar landmarks involved. The stories were pretty good, and all had some definite "noir" undertones.

Rachael says

Perhaps gained a little more interest in the book being a local of Detroit, but that wasn't enough sadly. Certainly some of the short stories were on point, some however, seemed to be missing the noir element and couldn't hold my attention.

Christie Bane says

Detroit looks best in noir, and I love this book of Detroit stories. Reviews were really mixed. It seems like a lot of people didn't like the writing (or didn't like most of the writing; it's an anthology). Well, I liked ALL of the writing, because it gave me the right feeling. It somehow managed to capture what I feel is the spirit of Detroit. I've only lived here 4 1/2 years, and I don't live in Detroit although I spend a lot of time there, so my take may or may not be accurate, but I can say that it's rare for a book to make me feel the spirit of a place as much as this one did. Now if only they would publish a Tucson Noir, I would be all over it.

David says

Deciding between three and four stars on this one is tough. Admittedly, I don't read a whole lot of short story compilations. This must have been my first in about a decade.

That said, I really got into three quarters of the stories. While the setting was always somewhere in the Detroit area, the time changed with each story. Figuring out when the story was taking place was a fun task parallel with enjoying the story.

I'm not certain if it's a fault of the stories themselves, or of the length of them. I could not relate to the characters, because there wasn't enough time for them to grow. Or, in some cases, the stories ended just as I was getting into their groove.

Most of the writing was coherent. There are a few stream of consciousness pieces, so be forewarned.

Overall, I liked it.

pearl_seeker says

Of the 16 short stories in this book, I found 12 of them really well-written and only 2 of them awful. The other 2 were average. Although it's not necessary to be familiar with Detroit to enjoy the stories, knowing the neighborhoods in which they're set enables the reader to paint a more vivid story in her/his mind. If you enjoy short stories, this is a book well worth looking into.

Joan says

Many of these stories could take place in any city, however the ones that apply to Detroit are wonderful like the Motown story. I wanted to know more about the characters and stories at the end of each short story. This book does not really allow to reader to know Detroit.

Jen says

interesting read - lots of short stories with different perceptions on the detroit of the past and the present - specific to intersections and neighborhoods

Tuxlie says

From crime stories in the classic hard-boiled style to the vividly experimental, from the determination of those risking everything to the desperation of those with nothing left to lose, *Detroit Noir* delivers unforgettable tales that capture the city's dark vitality.

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Patrick C. says

This is my first book in the Noir Series from Akashic Noir, and I enjoyed it. The short stories from a variety of writers, most with ties to Detroit go well beyond the mystery genre, but they all capture a sense of Detroit....

I'll miss having these short stories at hand for the quick diversionary read.

I'll definitely look into other books in this series.

Jeffrey says

From the Motor City's finest talents including Joyce Carol Oates and Megan Abbott comes this excellent, dark collection of short stories all taking place in and around Detroit.

Being from Dearborn, a suburb of that troubled city, I was delighted to recall such familiar places like Woodward Avenue, the Rouge Foundry, and the J.L. Hudson department store.

The stories encompass waitresses, night watchmen, caretakers and criminals, all bound together by a city trying to find it's way back.

The collection was a personal homecoming for me, but it will be enjoyed by anyone who loves hard boiled crime fiction.

It is a book that offers many compelling and haunted visions.

Columbus says

Akashic I'm ashamed of you for publishing such an uninspiring, lackluster, pedestrian selection of noir stories such as this. I've read the much better Kingston (Jamaica) noir series and two or three others and the quality was much better. I have Oakland, Mississippi, Rio and San Juan in my possession and hopefully they are an improvement over this collection. The motor city deserved better.

Kirk says

A collection of short stories about my hometown. Overall, it was hit or miss: some were quite good, others were not. For me the most interesting aspect of this book is seeing the commonalities across stories, which I think really speaks to the culture of the city. Sadly, Detroit's authors define the city through pervasive awareness of racial and class divides and a constant sense of destitution and decay. I moved away from Detroit eight years ago, and this book reminded me of the many problems still plaguing my city. As a collection of literature this book is below average, but I at least found it thought-provoking as a commentary for the challenges Detroit faces in its recovery.
