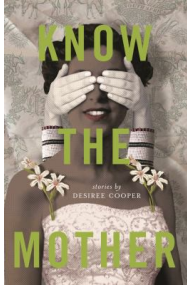


Books by the Stack



Know the Mother by Desiree Cooper

In meditative stories, women find themselves wedged between their own yearnings and their roles as daughters, sisters, grandmothers, and wives. With lyrical and crafted prose, Cooper explores the complex archetype of the mother, provides truths without sermon and invites empathy without sentimentality.

Why you'll like it: *Emotional, race and gender, flash fiction, Michigan author.*

About the Author: A 2015 Kresge Artist Fellow, Desiree Cooper is a former attorney, Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist, and Detroit community activist. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Detroit Noir*, *Best African American Fiction 2010*, and *Tidal Basin Review*, among other online and print publications. Cooper was a founding board member of *Cave Canem*, a national residency for emerging black poets, and she is a *Kimbilio* fellow, a national residency for African American fiction writers.

Questions for Discussion

1. Titles can set the tone of a story; title can be mysterious until after you have finished the story, when their meaning becomes clear. What is Cooper trying to do with the individual titles? Does she have a “title style?”
2. Do all of the stories feel as though they are of equal “weight?” If not, what makes one story feel more significant than another?
3. Did you find yourself wondering about certain characters once the story was over? If so, why do you think specific ones stuck with you?
4. Did any of the characters in *Know the Mother* remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
5. Which “mother” did you particularly admire or dislike? Why?
6. Was there a lesson that could be taken away from these stories? What was it and why is it important?
7. Have any of YOUR views or thoughts changed after reading this book?

