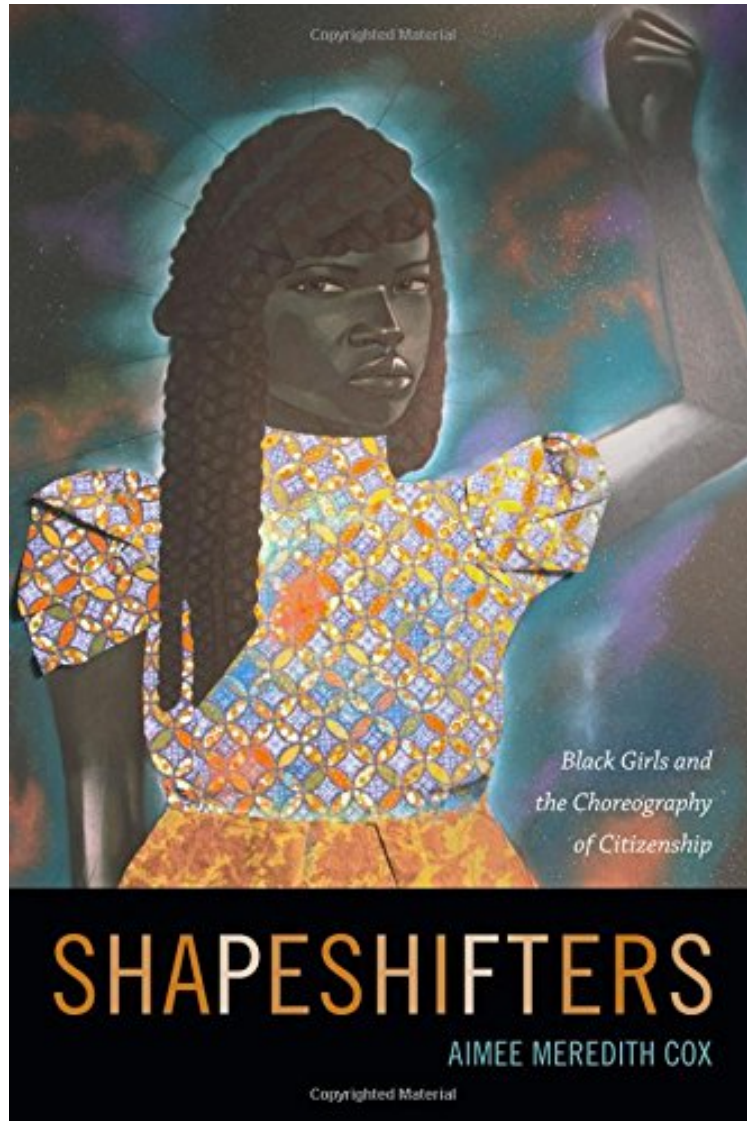


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## Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship

*Aimee Meredith Cox*

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#41476 in Books Cox Aimee Meredith 2015-08-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .60 x 5.90l, .0  
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**Aimee Meredith Cox : Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An elegant and intellectual, must-read ethnography. By Chach McGee Shapeshifters is a masterfully written ethnography surrounding a population that has been all but ignored in

academia: Black girls. Cox creates fertile dialectical space by weaving together elegant storytelling with scholarly observation. Through the accounts of her experiences with these girls and women, Cox attempts to reframe society's perception of Black girls as "at-risk," "deficient," and "too much, too loud" into one of "wonderful excess" and adaptability. I highly recommend this book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent ethnography about black girls in Detroit.By Shaka McGlottenA brilliant ethnography about an understudied topic. Professor Cox demonstrates mastery of a wide range of theoretical perspectives to understand how black girls and young women navigate the complexities of belonging as subjects of a city and a country that often forgets about them, as well as to one another. I learned so much from this book.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ShapeshiftingBy CLMc121860Read this book for a class. It was interesting. Made me wonder about the further adventures of these women. Greeted a place of curiosity in me about issues of poor black women that I had not considered

In *Shapeshifters* Aimee Meredith Cox explores how young Black women in a Detroit homeless shelter contest stereotypes, critique their status as partial citizens, and negotiate poverty, racism, and gender violence to create and imagine lives for themselves. Based on eight years of fieldwork at the Fresh Start shelter, Cox shows how the shelter's residents—who range in age from fifteen to twenty-two—employ strategic methods she characterizes as choreography to disrupt the social hierarchies and prescriptive narratives that work to marginalize them. Among these are dance and poetry, which residents learn in shelter workshops. These outlets for performance and self-expression, Cox shows, are key to the residents exercising their agency, while their creation of alternative family structures demands a rethinking of notions of care, protection, and love. Cox also uses these young women's experiences to tell larger stories: of Detroit's history, the Great Migration, deindustrialization, the politics of respectability, and the construction of Black girls and women as social problems. With *Shapeshifters* Cox gives a voice to young Black women who find creative and non-normative solutions to the problems that come with being young, Black, and female in America.

"In this powerful book, Aimee Meredith Cox boldly re-conceptualizes the very meaning of 'public anthropology' in the twenty-first century. With vibrant, nuanced, and crackling ethnographic material, *Shapeshifters* offers a poignant telling of these women's stories."