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800 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45202-2071  
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner  
Assistant Manager  
Phone (513) 369-4571  
Fax (513) 369-4565  
Phyllis.Hegner@  
CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes  
Public Information Officer  
Phone (513) 369-6959  
Fax (513) 369-4565  
Rick.Helmes@  
CincinnatiLibrary.org

Press  
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## The Public Library Presents “An Evening with E. Lynn Harris”

**Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.  
at the Jarson-Kaplan Theater  
in the Aronoff Center for the Arts**

Knowing that someone quit a six-figure job as an IBM sales executive to self publish his first novel, then sold it from the trunk of his car to African-American beauty salons before being "discovered" by Anchor Books, tells you this is someone who just might have something interesting to say. Anchor published E. Lynn Harris' *Invisible Life* in 1994, and thus his career as an author was "officially" launched. Other literary successes soon followed all published by Doubleday: *Just as I Am* (1994), *And This Too Shall Past* (1996), *If the World Were Mine* (1997), *Abide By Me* (1999).

Named one of *Ebony's* "Most Intriguing Blacks," E. Lynn Harris' award-winning writing blends romantic storytelling and explorations of contemporary issues such as identity, class, and friendship. This publishing phenomenon, who divides his time between Chicago and New York, has found an enthusiastic and diverse audience across America. Now readers around Greater Cincinnati who thirst for his page-turner style that earned him top rankings on the *New York Times* and *Blackboard* bestsellers lists, can meet him in person as the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County hosts *An Evening with E. Lynn Harris*. The event will be held at the Jarson-Kaplan Theater (Aronoff Center for the Arts) on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.

To order free tickets call (513) 369-6974. Keep an eye on the "What's New" section of our website ([www.cincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.cincinnatiLibrary.org)) for details about E.Lynn Harris's visit to Cincinnati.

## ABOUT E. LYNN HARRIS

E. Lynn Harris was born in Flint, Michigan and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and graduated with honors with a degree in journalism. For 13 years, Mr. Harris sold computers while living in Dallas, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. He wrote his first novel, *Invisible Life*, after quitting his sales job. Failing to find a publisher, Harris self published the book in 1991 and sold it mostly at black-owned bookstores, beauty salons, and book clubs before he was "discovered" by Anchor Books. Anchor published *Invisible Life* as a trade paperback in 1994, and thus his career as an author was "officially" launched.

Other books: *Just As I Am* (1994), *And This Too Shall Pass* (1996), *If This World Were Mine* (1997), and *Abide With Me* (1999), all published by Doubleday. Harris's sixth novel, *Not A Day Goes By* (2000) debuted at #2 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was a #1 *Publishers Weekly* bestseller for two consecutive weeks. His seventh novel, *Any Way the Wind Blows* (2001), also debuted at #2 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. His most recent novel, *A Love of My Own* (July 2002), was a national bestseller as well.

Three of his novels have been optioned for film: *Invisible Life* and *Just As I Am* by Showtime and *Not A Day Goes By* with actress Pam Grier for her production company.

### Honors & Awards

- Named to *Ebony's* "Most Intriguing Blacks" list, *Out Magazine's* "Out 100" list, *New York Magazine's* "Gay Power 101" list, and *Savoy's* "100 Leaders and Heroes in Black America" list.
- 1996: *Just As I Am* awarded Blackboard's Novel of the Year prize.
- 1997: *If This World Were Mine* nominated for a NAACP Image Award and won the James Baldwin Award for Literary Excellence. *Abide With Me*, *Any Way the Wind Blows*, and *A Love of My Own* were also nominated for NAACP Image Awards.
- 1999: University of Arkansas Citation of Distinguished Alumni for outstanding professional achievement
- 2000: inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.
- 2002: *Any Way the Wind Blows* won second Blackboard Novel of the Year prize, and *A Love of My Own* was recently named Blackboard Novel of the Year, making Harris the first author to receive back-to-back honors and to receive the prize a record three times.
- Other honors have included the Sprague Todes Literary Award and the Harvey Milk Honorary Diploma. Harris is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hurston/Wright Foundation and the Evidence Dance Company.

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4406 (TTY 369-4409).**