

PRESS KIT 2010-2011



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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT



Shamontiel Latrice Vaughn is the author of two novels (*Round Trip* and *Change for a Twenty*), a freelance writer of over 800 articles in various print and online publications, and the Chicago Tribune's Digital News Editor for the Food and Health online sections. She was previously a Source Writer for Yahoo! Contributor Network (formerly known as AssociatedContent.com), Yahoo! News, Yahoo! TV, and Examiner.com's Chicago Relationship Examiner, Chicago News & Events Examiner, Chicago Black Hair and Health Examiner, and Chicago Fragrance Examiner. This Chicago native graduated Cum Laude from Lincoln University (MO) with a Bachelor of Arts in English/Creative Writing. Shamontiel has also taken courses at Northern Michigan University; University of Chicago; and DePaul University, studying writing;

communications; Spanish; and criminal justice.

Shamontiel has participated in various political and news events like promoting and raising money for the Obama campaign, embracing the vegetarian lifestyle and speaking out for animal rights, and reporting on the Jena 6 and Schlumberger trials. She is equally passionate about raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, has volunteered with awareness organizations like BEHIV, and takes this information to college campuses and classes to speak with students about getting tested, correct condom usage and the importance of knowing one's partner before becoming intimate. She was also known as the "Message from Montie" blogger for ChicagoNow.com.

A bookworm and hardcore lover of hip hop, R&B, and neosoul, Shamontiel has participated in numerous dance performances and hip hop classes, and interviewed many celebrities for various entertainment magazines and a newspaper.

PRESS RELEASE

According to CDC, almost half of new HIV/AIDS patients in 2007 were African-American. In Shamontiel L. Vaughn's novel, *Round Trip*, she takes on the subject of AIDS from a college student's perspective.

BOOK DESCRIPTION OF *Round Trip*—Four years of relationships, pledging, classes, finals, partying and friendship is what three of *Change for a Twenty*'s characters reminisce on while planning their college graduation. This is Memo's, Arnez's and Jermaine's time to collect caps and gowns, pursue their careers and celebrate their success. However, Memo is trying to deal with the issues of his corrupt cop father being released from prison and pursuing a relationship with Seleste. Jermaine has decided to propose to Cara, but she can't seem to decide between him and Arnez. Arnez is still flirting and floating away, but now he has to deal with rumors on campus that could ruin his swagger. With a potential wedding in Atlanta, a graduation in Chicago and some unfinished business in the boroughs of New York, their journeys are nonstop.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Shamontiel L. Vaughn is the author of novels *Change for a Twenty* and *Round Trip* and a Digital News Editor for the *Chicago Tribune*. A graduate from Lincoln University (MO) with a B.A. in English, she excels at her craft. She has over 800 articles, 4 poems, 4 short stories and 2 novels published in various magazine, newspaper and book locations.

Ms. Vaughn is also the author of the novel *Change for a Twenty*. *Round Trip* continues where *Change for a Twenty* leaves off, with five college students learning to grow up and face the trials of reaching adulthood. *Change for a Twenty* and *Round Trip* can be purchased online. Visit <http://www.shamontiel.com> for details.

ABOUT THE BOOKS (1 of 2)

ROUND TRIP

Four years of relationships, pledging, classes, finals, partying, and friendship is what three of *Change for a Twenty*'s characters reminisce on while planning their college graduation. This is Memo's, Arnez's, and Jermaine's time to collect caps and gowns, pursue their careers, and celebrate their success. However, Memo is trying to deal with the issues of

his corrupt cop father being released from prison and pursuing a relationship with Seleste. Jermaine has decided to propose to Cara, but she can't seem to decide between him and Arnez. Arnez is still flirting and floating away, but now he has to deal with rumors on campus that could ruin his swagger. With a potential wedding in Atlanta, a graduation in Chicago, and some unfinished business in the boroughs of New York, their journeys are nonstop.

Book title: Round Trip

Publisher: Shamontiel

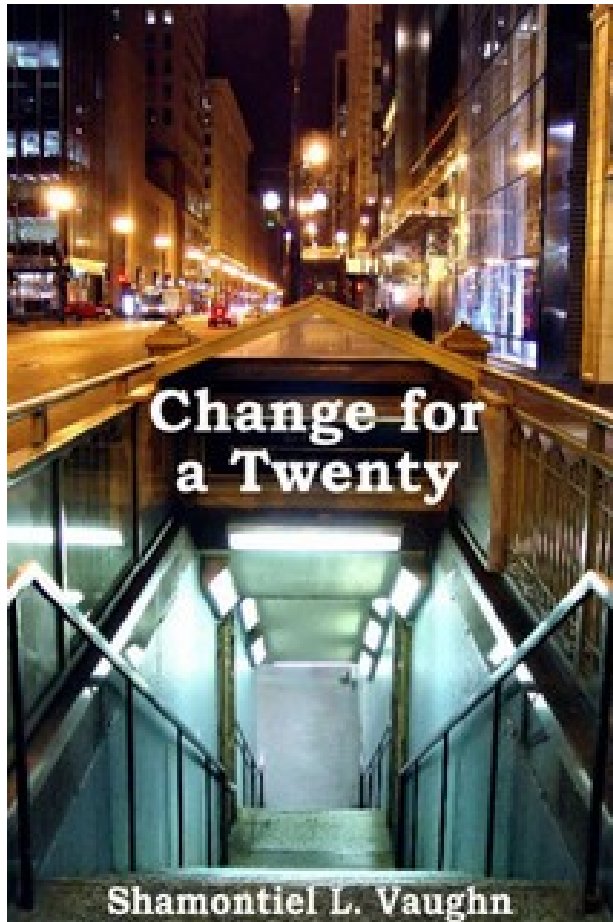
ISBN number: 978-0-6151-5615-6

Page count: 197 pages

Publication date: July 18, 2007

Price: \$14.95 (paperback), \$22 (hardcover), \$5 (e-book)

ABOUT THE BOOKS (2 of 2)



Growing up is hard enough, but when five friends argue, cry, laugh, pledge, fight, and hang together on an HBCU campus, a bond is formed. Seleste is a college junior studying criminal justice, denying her feelings for Memo, and facing the pressure of being a virgin when temptation surrounds her. Her best friend, Cara, is a college junior who lives in the dorms and has a friend with benefits, Arnez, who is more concerned with pledging with Jermaine than Arnez is with Cara. Jermaine is caught between the two because Cara is his ex-girlfriend and Arnez is in his ship. Arnez's friend, Memo, is a troubled senior from New York who came to Chicago to escape his father's past as a crooked cop. *Change for a Twenty* is a fiction novel set in Chicago about five college friends, two nemeses, and the path to adulthood.

Book title: Change for a Twenty

Publisher: Shamontiel

ISBN number: 978-1-4116-9492-7

Page count: 267 pages

Publication date: March 17, 2006

Price: \$16.95 (paperback), \$23 (hardcover), \$5 e-book

BOOK REVIEWS

“The characters in *Round Trip* will have you laughing, crying, stomping, and reminiscing about your college days on or off campus. This book was well-written with good details and vivid descriptions that made the people just jump off the pages into your living room. Shamontiel L. Vaughn knocked my socks off with this fast-paced, well-told story of college friends coming together to mend the broken pieces of a friendship. This book had a great story line, no cliffhangers; the ending was wrapped up very nicely; and the shock factor played a big part in helping me to finish this book in less than four hours. My fingers could not turn the pages fast enough in anticipation of what was going to happen next. I recommend this book to all contemporary fiction readers, and people who crave drama. I look forward to reading Ms. Vaughn's next book.”

—Cheryl H. (APOOO Book Club)

“A strong coming of age story surrounding six friends at a black college. [*Change for a Twenty*] captures the feel and the emotions of college students perfectly and has no problem weaving the multiple stories and effectively capturing the dialogue. I couldn't put it down, and I have already recommended it to three other people.”

—Andre Coleman (Author of *Blackbirds, Volume I*)

“As the readers progress through [*Round Trip*], they are challenged to reflect on the AIDS epidemic (prevention, transmission, life after acquiring the disease). I think this book is definitely a worthwhile reading experience, and I totally recommend it!”

—Jolanta Pomiotlo (Amazon.com review)

TARGET MARKET

Change for a Twenty and *Round Trip* cater to the Generation X and Generation Y crew of African descent, ages 13 to 45, who are current students and alumni from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). However, students and alumni of non-HBCUs easily relate to the college scene. Readers who are interested in books about relationships, commitment, brotherhood, HIV/AIDS prevention, the Greek hazing controversy, abstinence and the complexity of police corruption are also a target audience.



BOOK PURCHASING LOCATIONS



Heritage Books & Music www.heritagebooksmusic.com

LuLu.com www.lulu.com/shamontiel

PayPal.com www.paypal.com (Click the “Purchase Books” tab on www.shamontiel.com.)

Amazon.com www.amazon.com

BarnesandNoble.com www.bn.com

Target.com www.target.com

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Chicago Black Hair and Health Examiner: <http://www.examiner.com/x-29712-Chicago-Black-Hair-and-Health-Examiner>

Chicago Fragrance Examiner: <http://www.examiner.com/x-26253-Chicago-Fragrance-Examiner>

Chicago News and Events Examiner: <http://www.examiner.com/x-30433-Chicago-News--Events-Examiner>

Chicago Relationships Examiner: <http://www.examiner.com/x-8496-Chicago-Relationships-Examiner>

Ehow: http://www.ehow.com/members/ds_shamont8322-articles.html

Message from Montie: <http://www.chicagonow.com/blogs/message-from-montie/archives.html>

Yahoo! Contributor Network (formerly AC): <http://contributor.yahoo.com/user/5069/shamontiel.html>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Maroontimes81>

Shamontiel also has published articles on Yahoo! News, Yahoo! TV, Timbooktu.com, Ehow.com, TheFrisky.com, *Chicago Defender* print newspaper and online exclusive interviews, *The DePaulia*, *Citizen in America*, *Spoken Visions* magazine, *Fate* magazine, *Underlined* magazine, and literary magazines *The Stand* and *Under One Sun*.

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