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“This is an engrossing search for meaning in life and in the enduring legacy of Fanon at a time when racial animus, sadly, continues unabated.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)

“Beautifully written” —*Publishers Weekly*

<p style="text-align: center;">FANON a novel by John Edgar Wideman</p>
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FANON, Wideman’s first novel in a decade, weaves together a postmodern pastiche of fiction, biography, history, politics, and memoir to evoke the life and message of Frantz Fanon, the influential author of *The Wretched of the Earth*.

A philosopher, psychiatrist, and political activist, Fanon was a fierce, acute critic of racism and oppression. Born of African descent in Martinique in 1927, Fanon fought to defend France during World War II and then later against France in Algeria’s war for independence. *The Wretched of the Earth*, written in 1961, inspired leaders of liberation movements from Steve Biko in South Africa to Che Guevera to the Black Panthers in the United States.

Wideman’s novel is disguised as the project of a contemporary African American novelist, Thomas, who undertakes writing a life of Fanon. The result is an electrifying mix of perspectives, traveling from Manhattan to Paris to Algeria to Pittsburgh.

Part whodunit, part screenplay, and part love story, **FANON** introduces the French film director Jean-Luc Godard to the ailing Mrs. Wideman in Homewood, and chases the meaning of Fanon's legacy through our violent modern world, which seems determined to perpetuate the evils Fanon sought to rectify.

Wideman has long had in mind what he calls his "Fanon Project," and he sees affinities between Fanon's life and his own: a black man alienated by circumstance and education from the culture of his childhood, who fell in love with and married a white Frenchwoman and came to understand and appreciate the value of his origins. Like Fanon, too, his work is multidisciplinary, encompassing politics, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, and literature. Wideman celebrates the diversity of Fanon's thinking in a novel that takes a postmodern approach to imagining what this controversial figure might find if he were alive to witness our violent, post-9/11 world.

About the Author:

John Edgar Wideman is the author of more than eighteen books of fiction and nonfiction. He was the first writer to win the PEN/Faulkner Award twice, in 1984 for *Sent for You Yesterday* and in 1990 for *Philadelphia Fire*. His memoir *Brothers and Keepers* received a National Book Critics Circle nomination, and his memoir *Fatheralong* was a finalist for the National Book Award. In addition, he has won the Rea Award for the Short Story, the Lannan Foundation Fellowship for Fiction, and the MacArthur "genius" grant. Wideman's articles on Malcolm X, Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, Michael Jordan, Eminem, Thelonious Monk, and others have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *Emerge*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. Wideman is on the faculty of the Africana Studies Department of Brown University.

Title: FANON

Author: John Edgar Wideman

Publication Date: February 7, 2008

\$24.00, 229 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/4, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-94263-7

Jacket scans and press materials are available at www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com.

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