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# Damballah

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A Study Guide for John Edgar Wideman's "Beginning of Homewood"

Yoruba Traditions and African American Religious Nationalism

IX Lives of the Vodoun Detective

Conjuring Moments in African American Literature

The Fearsome Touch of Death

Facts on File Companion to the American Short Story

The Globalization of Yorùbá Religious Culture

Encyclopedia of the American Short Story

Perspectives on the Caribbean

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Òrìṣà Devotion as World Religion

The Cultural Uses of Biblical Narrative

Dark Prophecies

Voodoo in Haiti

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Zombies

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## Surrealism Beyond Borders La nit de Damballah

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### **NORRIS STEWART**

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#### **A Study Guide for John Edgar Wideman's "Beginning of Homewood"** Simon and Schuster

A working guide to the proper methods of interacting with the full Vodou pantheon • Includes the myths, cultural heritage, and ancestral lineage of the Iwa and how to honor and

serve them • Provides an introduction and guide that is especially useful for the solitary practitioner • Discusses the relationship between Vodou, Haitian culture, and Catholicism In The Haitian Vodou Handbook, Kenaz Filan, an initiate of the Société la Belle Venus, presents a working guide to the proper methods of interacting with the full Vodou pantheon, explaining how to build respectful

relationships with the Iwa, the spirits honored in Haitian Vodou, and how to transform the fear that often surrounds the Vodou religion. Until recently, the Haitian practice of Vodou was often identified with devil worship, dark curses, and superstition. Some saw the saint images and the Catholic influences and wrote Vodou off as a "Christian aberration." Others were appalled by the animal sacrifices and

the fact that the Houngans and Mambos charge money for their services. Those who sought Vodou because they believed it could harness “evil” forces were disappointed when their efforts to gain fame, fortune, or romance failed and so abandoned their “voodoo fetishes.” Those who managed to get the attention of the Iwa, often received cosmic retaliation for treating the spirits as attack dogs or genies, which only further cemented Vodou’s stereotype as

“dangerous.” Filan offers extensive background information on the featured Iwa, including their mythology and ancestral lineage, as well as specific instructions on how to honor and interact fruitfully with those that make themselves accessible. This advice will be especially useful for the solitary practitioner who doesn’t have the personal guidance of a société available. Filan emphasizes the importance of having a quickened mind that can

read the Iwa’s desires intuitively in order to avoid establishing dogma-based relationships. This working guide to successful interaction with the full Vodou pantheon also presents the role of Vodou in Haitian culture and explores the symbiotic relationship Vodou has maintained with Catholicism. *Yoruba Traditions and African American Religious Nationalism* Independently Published With close readings of more than twenty novels by writers including

Ernest Gaines, Toni Morrison, Charles Johnson, Gloria Naylor, and John Edgar Wideman, Keith Byerman examines the trend among African American novelists of the late twentieth century to write about black history rather than about their own present. Employing cultural criticism and trauma theory, Byerman frames these works as survivor narratives that rewrite the grand American narrative of individual achievement and the march of democracy. The choice to

write historical narratives, he says, must be understood historically. These writers earned widespread recognition for their writing in the 1980s, a period of African American commercial success, as well as the economic decline of the black working class and an increase in black-on-black crime. Byerman contends that a shared experience of suffering joins African American individuals in a group identity, and writing about the past serves as an act of resistance against

essentialist ideas of black experience shaping the cultural discourse of the present. Byerman demonstrates that these novels disrupt the temptation in American society to engage history only to limit its significance or to crown successful individuals while forgetting the victims.

#### IX Lives of the Vodoun Detective Rowman & Littlefield

Through a comprehensive selection of classic and contemporary interdisciplinary readings,

this title presents a variety of viewpoints to further our understanding of life and culture in the Caribbean.

### **Conjuring Moments in African American**

**Literature** Simon and Schuster

This encyclopedia features an informative introduction that surveys the history of the short story in the United States, interprets the current literary landscape, and points to new and future trends. --from publisher description.

*The Fearsome Touch of*

*Death* Infobase Publishing  
This volume looks at some of the popular myths of Africa and discusses their role in the culture and the values they reflect. The book also touches on how hip-hop music has its roots in African mythology. Readers will learn about creation myths, and the role of spirits and magic in African mythology and lore.

### **Facts on File Companion to the American Short Story**

Univ. Press of Mississippi  
A powerful and “stunning”

(Publishers Weekly, starred review) selection of the best of John Edgar Wideman’s short stories over his fifty-year career, representing the wide range of his intellectual and artistic pursuits. When John Edgar Wideman won the PEN Malamud Award in 2019, he joined a list of esteemed writers—from Eudora Welty to George Saunders—all of whom are acknowledged masters of the short story. Wideman’s commitment to short fiction has been lifelong, and here he

gathers a representative selection from throughout his career, stories that “have a wary, brooding spirit, a lonely intelligence...[and] air the problem of consciousness, including the fragile contingency of our existence” (The New York Times). Wideman’s stories are grounded in the streets and the people of Homewood, the Pittsburgh neighborhood of his childhood, but they range far beyond there, to the small western towns of Wyoming and historic Philadelphia, the

contemporary world and the ancient past. He explores the interior lives of his characters, and the external pressures that shape them. These stories are as intellectually intricate as they are rich with the language and character. “Wideman has been compared to William Faulkner and James Baldwin...[these] prove that he is every bit as masterful a cartographer of the American spirit as his forebears” (Esquire). Comprised of thirty-five stories drawn from past collections (American

Histories, Briefs, God’s Gym, All Stories Are True, Fever, and Damballah), and an introductory essay by the National Book Critics Circle board member and scholar Walton Muyumba, this volume of Wideman’s selected stories celebrates the lifelong significance of this major American writer’s essential contribution to a form—illuminating the ways that he has made it his own. “If there were any doubts Wideman belongs to the American canon, this puts them to

bed" (Publishers Weekly, starred review).

**The Globalization of Yorùbá Religious Culture** Oshun

Publications, LLC

The purpose of this book is to chronicle, critique and explore every theatrically released, English-language voodoo movie to date.

Admittedly, sometimes the stories behind a film's making prove more entertaining than the movie itself, but such are the hazards of the job.

While some are good, many are bad and a few

are downright ugly, most voodoo movies contain at least the promise (occasionally fulfilled, more often not) of a glimpse into an alternate world view and spirituality that can be both fascinating and unsettling. Films such *White Zombie*, *I Walked With a Zombie*, *Macumba Love*, *I Eat Your Skin*, *Angel Heart* and *The Believers* are included in this fascinating film history.

**Encyclopedia of the American Short Story**

Univ of Wisconsin Press  
Robert Ervin Howard was

an American pulp writer and is especially noted for his memorable depictions of "a sombre universe of swashbuckling adventure and darkling horror." He is well known for having created the character Conan the Barbarian. This collection includes Howard's short horror and fantasy stories, including the masterpiece "Pigeons from Hell," which Stephen King calls "one of the finest horror stories of century," a tale of two travelers who stumble upon the ruins of a Southern plantation-and



into the maw of its fatal secret. In "Black Canaan" even the best warrior has little chance of taking down the evil voodoo man with unholy powers-and none at all against his wily mistress, the diabolical High Priestess of Damballah. In these and other lavishly illustrated classics, such as the nightmare "The Cairn on the Headland," Howard spins tales of unrelenting terror, the legacy of one of the world's great masters of the macabre.

**Perspectives on the Caribbean** Simon and

Schuster  
A working guide on how to find love and sexual fulfillment by working with the Iwa, the spirits of Haitian Vodou • The first book on wanga (love magic) by an actual Vodou initiate • Provides spells and spirit work for many different problems associated with affairs of the heart • Spells included are detailed and easy to follow Haitian Vodou, like other folk traditions, is an eminently practical craft. Vodou practitioners see their relationship with the Iwa--

the spirits honored in Haitian Vodou--as mutually beneficial rather than one-sided. In return for sincere offerings, the Iwa are happy to provide protection and support in dealing with life's problems--which more often than not concern love. In *Vodou Love Magic*, Kenaz Filan details the myriad aspects of love and sex governed by the different Iwa and explains what services each can provide in attaining fulfilling relationships--and who will likely offer the best wisdom for your

needs. If you are having trouble meeting people, Legba's Opening the Door spell can resolve this difficulty. If you wish more fire in a relationship, then you should work with the warrior spirit Papa Ogou. Filan presents easy-to-follow instructions for numerous love spells and also reveals how the Iwa offer counsel for dealing with ending relationships, toxic behavior patterns like codependency, or romantic triangles. Vodou Love Magic does not provide a magic genie who will fulfill every wish,

but it does offer access to a team of spirits who can help transform dreams into realities.

### African Mythology

Penguin

Demonstrating the extraordinary versatility of African-American men's writing since the 1970s, this forceful collection illustrates how African-American male novelists and playwrights have absorbed, challenged, and expanded the conventions of black American writing and, with it, black male identity. From the "John Henry Syndrome"--a

definition of black masculinity based on brute strength or violence--to the submersion of black gay identity under equations of gay with white and black with straight, the African-American male in literature and drama has traditionally been characterized in ways that confine and silence him. Contemporary Black Men's Fiction and Drama identifies the forces that limit black male discourse, including traditions established by iconic African-American

male authors such as James Baldwin, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison. This thoughtful volume also shows how contemporary black male authors use their narratives to put forward new ways of being and knowing that foster a more complete sense of self and more humane and open ways of communicating with and relating to others. In the work of Charles Johnson, Ernest Gaines, and August Wilson, contributors find paths toward broader, less rigid ideas of what

black literature can be, what the connections among individual and communal resistance can be, and how black men can transcend the imprisoning models of hyper masculinity promoted by American culture. Seeking greater spiritual connection with the past, John Edgar Wideman returns to the folk rituals of his family, while Melvin Dixon and Brent Wade reclaim African roots and traditions. Ishmael Reed struggles with a contemporary cultural

oppression that he sees as an insidious echo of slavery, while Clarence Major's experimental writing suggests how black men might reclaim their own voices in a culture that silences them. Taking in a wide range of critical, theoretical, cultural, gender, and sexual concerns, Contemporary Black Men's Fiction and Drama provides provocative new readings of a broad range of contemporary writers. Multicultural American Literature Damballah

Everything you have ever known about your status as a minority or the majority may be the lie of all lies. *Black Tide Rising: Dark Prophecies* agitates seemingly serene societal waters when hundreds of millions discover that Blacks now outnumber Whites, and the American Government is willing to kill to keep this unnerving secret. Census Bureau Deputy Director Evan Parker becomes the second African American executive to discover this dangerous secret. His life and that of his pregnant

wife and father are now in jeopardy as government assassins hunt them through the streets of America. Betrayed by all he has ever known, there is still one ally who may wield the power to see him through a threat that holds ghastly consequence for Evan Parker's entire race. [Òrìṣà Devotion as World Religion](#) Lulu.com Featuring 30 chilling stories of reallife zombie encounters, this comprehensive and unsettling study draws upon traditions found

throughout the world to dispel common depictions of zombies as lurching, flesheating automatons made popular by countless movies and books. This fascinating collection includes the stories of the Devil Baby of Bourbon Street, a monstrous creature complete with horns and tail that still lurks in the shadows of the Big Easy; Black Mama Courteaux and the great zombie war, involving hundreds of zombie soldiers battling for the supremacy of their queen; and the swamp

child of Mama Cree, who still roams the bayous of Louisiana. In addition to the stories, a variety of zombierelated facts are explored, including ceremonies and initiations, zombies throughout history, sacred zombie and voodoo-related sites, and zombies and monsters of the Bible.

#### The Cultural Uses of Biblical Narrative

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Vodou, the folk religion of Haiti, is a by-product of the contact between Roman Catholicism and

African and Amerindian traditional religions. In this book, Leslie Desmangles analyzes the mythology and rituals of Vodou, focusing particularly on the inclusion of West African and European elements in Vodouisants' beliefs and practices. Desmangles sees Vodou not simply as a grafting of European religious traditions onto African stock, but as a true creole phenomenon, born out of the oppressive conditions of slavery and the necessary adaptation of slaves to a New World

environment. Desmangles uses Haitian history to explain this phenomenon, paying particular attention to the role of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century maroon communities in preserving African traditions and the attempts by the Catholic, educated elite to suppress African-based "superstitions." The result is a society in which one religion, Catholicism, is visible and official; the other, Vodou, is unofficial and largely secretive.

#### **Dark Prophecies**

Lulu.com  
 Haitian Vodou is a vibrant and fascinating indigenous tradition from the island of Haiti. It is an amazing and colorful spiritual tradition comprised of ceremony, music, dances, prayers, magic, and community. Haitian Vodou explores this rich Haitian tradition beginning with a look at Haitian history and how the tradition known as Haitian Vodou evolved. It moves on to cover the basic Principles and Ethics of Haitian Vodou, including a discussion of

common confusions and controversies associated with Haitian Vodou as well as a discussion of Haitian Vodou today.  
Voodoo in Haiti Pickle Partners Publishing  
 Exploring the Yoruba tradition in the United States, Hucks begins with the story of Nana Oseijeman Adefunmi's personal search for identity and meaning as a young man in Detroit in the 1930s and 1940s. She traces his development as an artist, religious leader, and founder of several African-influenced religio-

cultural projects in Harlem and later in the South. Adefunmi was part of a generation of young migrants attracted to the bohemian lifestyle of New York City and the black nationalist fervor of Harlem. Cofounding Shango Temple in 1959, Yoruba Temple in 1960, and Oyotunji African Village in 1970, Adefunmi and other African Americans in that period renamed themselves "Yorubas" and engaged in the task of transforming Cuban Santer'a into a new religious expression that

satisfied their racial and nationalist leanings and eventually helped to place African Americans on a global religious schema alongside other Yoruba practitioners in Africa and the diaspora. Alongside the story of Adefunmi, Hucks weaves historical and sociological analyses of the relationship between black cultural nationalism and reinterpretations of the meaning of Africa from within the African American community.

**The Complete Idiot's Guide to Zombies** LSU

Press  
 One of the most critically acclaimed and prolific yet least-recognized contemporary writers, African American author John Edgar Wideman creates work that has a reputation for being difficult, even unfathomable. In *Writing Blackness*, James Coleman examines Wideman's work with the goal of making sense of his often elusive imagery and dense style and broadening his readership.  
*Vodou and Roman*

*Catholicism in Haiti* UNM Press  
 In *All Stories Are True*, Tracie Church Guzzio provides the first full-length study of John Edgar Wideman's entire oeuvre to date. Specifically, Guzzio examines the ways in which Wideman (b. 1941) engages with three crucial themes—history, myth, and trauma—throughout his career, showing how they intertwine. Guzzio argues that, for four decades, the influential African American writer has endeavored to create a

version of the African American experience that runs counter to mainstream interpretations, using history and myth to confront and then heal the trauma caused by slavery and racism. Wideman's work intentionally blurs boundaries between fiction and autobiography, myth and history, particularly as that history relates to African American experience in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The fusion of fiction,

national history, and Wideman's personal life is characteristic of his style, which—due to its complexity and smudging of genre distinctions—has presented analytic difficulties for literary scholars. Despite winning the PEN/Faulkner award twice, for *Sent for You Yesterday* (1984) and *Philadelphia Fire* (1990), Wideman remains understudied. Of particular value is Guzzio's analysis of the many ways in which Wideman alludes to his previous works. This intertextuality allows

Wideman to engage his books in direct, intentional dialogue with each other through repeated characters, images, folktales, and songs. In Wideman's challenging of a monolithic view of history and presenting alternative perspectives to it, and his allowing past, present, and future time to remain fluid in the narratives, Guzzio finds an author firm in his notion that all stories and all perspectives have merit. [Damballah](#), [Hiding Place](#), [Sent for You Yesterday](#)



Metropolitan Museum of Art

As the twenty-first century begins, tens of millions of people participate in devotions to the spirits called *Òrìsà*; This book explores the emergence of *Òrìsà*; devotion as a world religion, one of the most remarkable and compelling developments in the history of the human religious quest. Originating among the Yorùbá people of West Africa, the varied traditions that comprise *Òrìsà*; devotion are today

found in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Australia. The African spirit proved remarkably resilient in the face of the transatlantic slave trade, inspiring the perseverance of African religion wherever its adherents settled in the New World. Among the most significant manifestations of this spirit, Yorùbá religious culture persisted, adapted, and even flourished in the Americas, especially in Brazil and Cuba, where it thrives as Candomblé and

Lukumi/Santería, respectively. After the end of slavery in the Americas, the free migrations of Latin American and African practitioners has further spread the religion to places like New York City and Miami. Thousands of African Americans have turned to the religion of their ancestors, as have many other spiritual seekers who are not themselves of African descent. Ifá divination in Nigeria, Candomblé funerary chants in Brazil, the role of music in

Yorùbá revivalism in the United States, gender and representational authority in Yorùbá religious culture—these are among the many subjects discussed here by experts from around the world. Approaching Òrìsà; devotion from diverse vantage points, their collective effort makes this one of the most authoritative texts on Yorùbá religion and a groundbreaking book that heralds this rich, complex, and variegated tradition as one of the world's great religions.

**Protocols for Riding with the Lwa**

Univ of North Carolina Press  
Two-volume set that presents an introduction to American short fiction from the 19th century to the present.

**Remembering the Past in Contemporary African American Fiction**

Univ of North Carolina Press  
UNDER A NIGHT SKY...  
The smell of popcorn and hotdogs fill the air against the sounds of children's laughter. Damballah, the long forgotten Elder God of Vodou, and his wife

Ayida have chosen the quiet life, owning a carnival of delights, shoeing children from the restricted areas and raking in the money. It was to be an eternity of peace, until visions of a man possessing unfathomable power, plagues his thoughts. A man who bends the forces of Vodou unto his command, filling Damballah's mind with glimpses of Vegas and of a woman... LAS VEGAS... Zadok, The Great and Powerful is to embark on the biggest show of his

life. His comeback is lining  
up to beat Vegas odds  
and his future with Della  
is in his grasp, but fate  
has more than a few

cards up its sleeve.  
Finding himself pulled into  
a macabre game of cat  
and mouse, Zadok's

powers are tested to the  
limit by an ancient deity  
with only one path to  
walk... WELCOME TO THE  
FREAKSHOW...

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