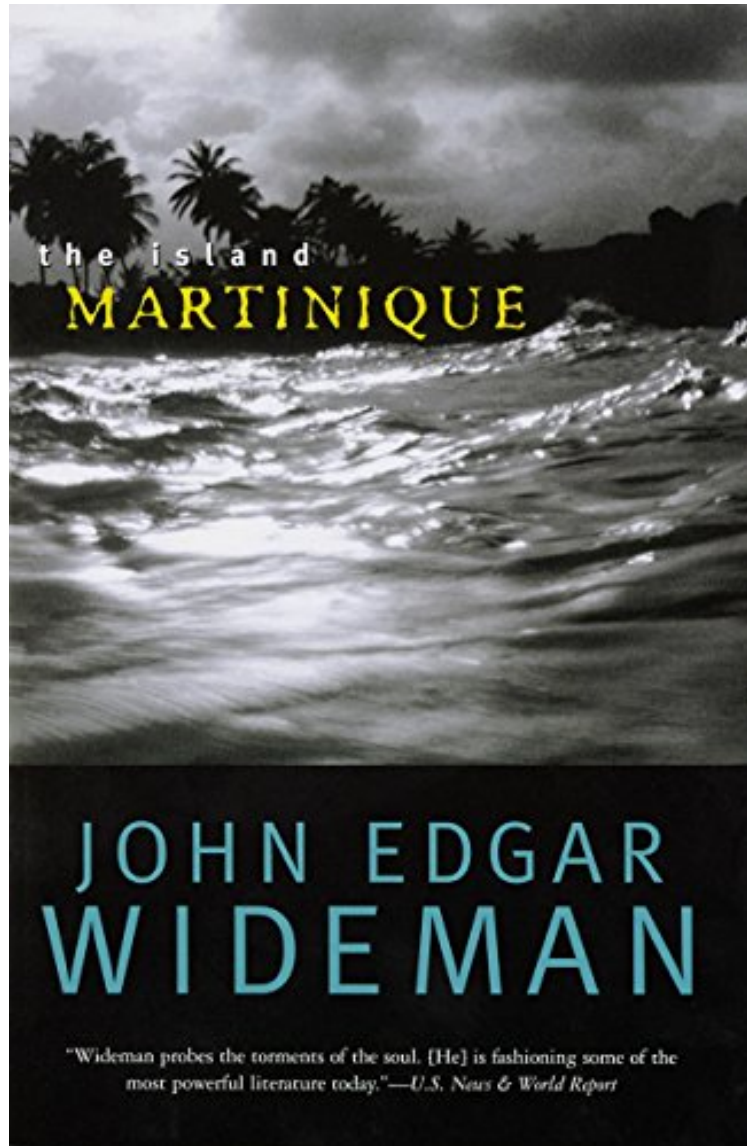


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## The Island Martinique (Directions)

Von John Edgar Wideman

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**Von John Edgar Wideman : The Island Martinique (Directions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Island Martinique (Directions):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not a travel guide Von Ein Kunde The first thing the potential reader should know about The Island is that it is a typical Wideman, that is high, (post)modern(ist) literature. Although a good deal of fact transpires about Martinique's history as a European colony, the heavier slant of the book is fiction. Do not expect a travel guide here that can give you some

valuable inputs for your next holidays. Wideman presents himself as an outsider to an alien culture, and yet at the same time his hybrid position of being an outsider on the island and of being an outsider in his homecountry (the US) reverberates. Also, in many instances, Wideman does not tell the island's story but the story of the protagonist's (arguably himself) relationship to Catherine, a person who, due to her French origins, also has a special relation to Martinique. It is especially the description of this interhuman relationship which sometimes fails to intermingle with the (hi)story of the island. The instances of how the aura of the island affects the lovers' situation seems a bit unconvincing at times. All in all (once again) Wideman has produced an interesting book, but I feel that especially his texts about North American city/ghetto life (Philadelphia Fire, Two Cities, Hoop Roots, Brothers and Keepers) are more rewarding.

**Kurzbeschreibung**In this compelling travel memoir, two-time PEN/Faulkner Award winner John Edgar Wideman explores Martinique's seductive natural beauty and culture, as well as its vexed history of colonial violence and racism. Attempting to decipher the strange, alluring mixture of African and European that is Creole, he and his French traveling companion develop a powerful attraction to one another which they find at once threatened and elevated by a third partythe island itself. A rich intersection of place, history, and the intricacies of human relations, Wideman's story gets deep into the Caribbean and close to the heart of the Creole experience.**Kurzbeschreibung**In this compelling travel memoir, two-time PEN/Faulkner Award winner John Edgar Wideman explores Martinique's seductive natural beauty and culture, as well as its vexed history of colonial violence and racism. Attempting to decipher the strange, alluring mixture of African and European that is Creole, he and his French traveling companion develop a powerful attraction to one another which they find at once threatened and elevated by a third partythe island itself. A rich intersection of place, history, and the intricacies of human relations, Wideman's story gets deep into the Caribbean and close to the heart of the Creole experience.**Synopsis** A RICHLY LAYERED TAKE ON A POPULAR REGION: Wideman's exploration of Caribbean culture should find a broad audience. HIGH QUALITY, LOW PRICE: A winning combination of elegant design, high production value, and low price point. MULTI-MEDIA SUPPORT: Series is being supported across National Geographic media, including the magazines, the National Geographic Channel, and nationalgeographic.com. An American man of African descent and a French woman visit Martinique and discover an enormous mutual attraction that a third party - the island - both enhances and threatens. An unusual sort of menage a trois follows. The couple discovers the sensuousness and seductive beauty of the island, as they experience its vexed history of colonial violence and racism. The backdrop includes a former slave plantation, a rum factory, a cabaret featuring Zouk music, a volcanic eruption, writers and other local figures, as well as doses of history. Also appearing are the late philosopher-writer and Martinique native Frantz Fanon, artist Paul Gauguin, Thomas Jefferson, a cast of African slaves, ex-slaves, and Creoles, plus old-school colonialists as well as bekes and their descendants.The book attempts to decipher the meaning of Creole - the mix of African and European cultures, people, history.