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## Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir

*By John Edgar Wideman*



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A haunting portrait of lives arriving at different destinies, *Brothers and Keepers* is John Edgar Wideman's seminal memoir about two brothers — one an award-winning novelist, the other a fugitive wanted for robbery and murder. Wideman recalls the capture of his younger brother Robby, details the subsequent trials that resulted in a sentence of life in prison, and provides vivid views of the American prison system.

A gripping, unsettling account, *Brothers and Keepers* weighs the bonds of blood, tenderness, and guilt that connect Wideman to his brother and measures the distance that lies between them.



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## **Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir** By John Edgar Wideman Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Amazon.com Review**

With novels like *Damballah* and *Hiding Place*, John Edgar Wideman began his career in an explicitly modernist vein--indeed, his chronicles of life in the Pittsburgh ghetto of Homewood had more than a trace of a Joycean accent. The autobiographical *Brothers and Keepers*, however, allowed the writer to find his own voice. Perhaps this dual portrait of the author and his brother Robby--serving, then and now, a life sentence for a murder committed during a bungled robbery--finally forced Wideman to fuse the modernist trappings of his earlier work with the storytelling traditions of African American culture. "My memories needed his," the author recalls. "Maybe the fact that we recall different things is crucial. Maybe they are foreground and background, propping each other up." In any case, the *Rashomon*-like result is a raw meditation on fate and family, as well as an indictment of our entire notion of crime and (especially) punishment.

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Wideman, novelist and professor at the University of Wyoming, seeks to understand how he and his brother, who is serving a life sentence for murder, could have such disparate lives after a childhood together in a Pittsburgh ghetto. Ruthless about himself, particularly about his move into the upper middle-class as a "black intellectual," Wideman characterizes his brother as an intelligent, loving, proud dreamer. He raises "existential questions" about culture, racism and the "grief and guilt of a brother," PW wrote. November Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### **Review**

"Like the Russian master [Dostoevsky], Wideman probes the torment of the soul....[He] is fashioning some of the most powerful literature today."--U.S. News and World Report

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michael Cooke:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important along? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They should answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need that *Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir* to read.

#### **Brian Lowe:**

*Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir* can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing *Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir* nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand new

stage of crucial thinking.

**Sandra Mendoza:**

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book will certainly filled the space in your house, you may have it in e-book means, more simple and reachable. That Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir can give you a lot of close friends because by you investigating this one book you have point that they don't and make you actually more like an interesting person. This book can be one of one step for you to get success. This guide offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than various other make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? Let me have Brothers and Keepers: A Memoir.

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