# Contents

Acknowledgments / xi Preface / xv Preface to the Paperback Edition / xix Introduction by John Edgar Wideman / xxiii

## PART ONE Life on Death Row

Teetering on the brink between life and death / 3
Descent into hell / 19
The visit / 22
"On tilt" by state design / 24
On death row: fade to black / 27
From an echo in darkness, a step into light / 34
Nightraiders meet rage / 37
Actin' like life's a ball game / 41

#### viii CONTENTS

Legal outlaws: Bobby's battle for justice / 44 Manny's attempted murder / 47 A toxic shock / 50 Spirit death / 53 A return to death / 55 Days of pain—night of death / 58 Relatives decry "camp hell" / 62 B-block days and nightmares / 65

### PART TWO Crime and Punishment

Human waste camps / 73 Black march to death / 76 Slavery daze II / 79 Skeleton bay / 82 No law, no rights / 85 Two bites of the apple in Dixie / 88 Blackmun bows out of the death game / 93 Jury of peers? / 97 Expert witness from hell / 100The demand for death / 103 Already out of the game / 106 A bill that is a crime / 109

## PART THREE Musings, Memories, and Prophecies

Musings on Malcolm / 115

Contents ix

Deadly déjà vu / 118 Rodney wasn't the only one / 121 L.A. outlaw / 124 Absence of power / 127 Clinton guillotines Guinier / 130 Another side of *Glory* / 133 What, to a prisoner, is the Fourth of July? / 136 A house is not a home / 139 The lost generation? / 142 Blues for Huey / 145 Philly daze: an impressionistic memoir / 149

Afterword / 167

About the Author / 186