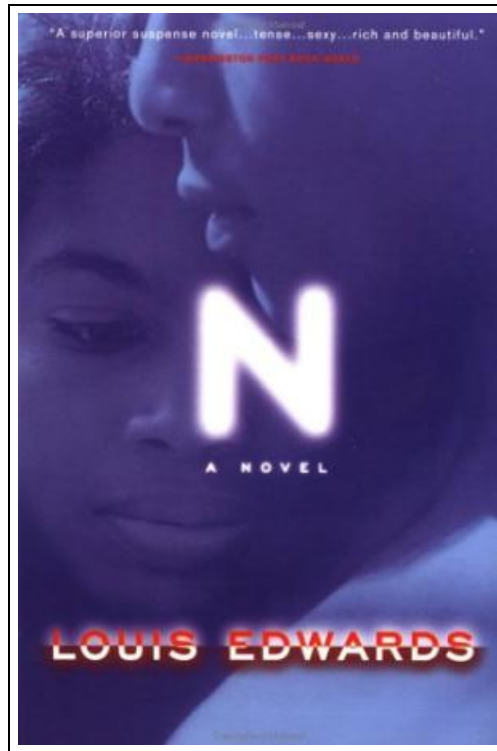


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Plume Books, 1998. Mass-market paperback. Book Condition: New. New. No dust jacket as issued. Trade paperback (US). Glued binding. 240 p. Audience: General/trade. From Library Journal While investigating the murder of a black teenager, small-time newspaper-owner and journalist Aimee DuBois immerses herself in the dark side of New Orleans. Her quest brings enlightenment from many sources: seductive drug dealer Strip; best friend Gray, a gay bookstore owner; concerned mother and drug-distributing Miss Margie; secretly pregnant niece Denise; and others. The author uses attention-getting mixed narrative viewpoints and rhythmic, ultimately entrancing prose to present this story-within-a-story. Recommended for most collections. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. From Booklist The film noir homage is big this spring. First, Loren Estleman paid tribute to the genre in *Never Street*, a conventional hard-boiled detective story, and now Edwards takes a more stylized approach. Alternating first-person voiceover with third-person, present-tense description--all flashback--he tells the story of a black newspaper editor in New Orleans, Aimee DuBois, who investigates the murder of a high school boy. The crime jars Aimee into a realization of the malaise that grips her life, and she sets out to solve herself as she solves the crime. Edwards' reach somewhat exceeds his grasp here, but the novel has flashes of greatness: Aimee, despite some pretentious philosophizing, emerges as a compelling character, and Strip, the young drug dealer with whom she falls in love, steals every scene in which he appears. Some creaky dialogue gets in the way, and the film noir structure impedes as often as it enhances, but Edwards' take on coming-of-age as the recognition of multiple selves plays out nicely. Flawed but memorable. Bill Ott--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of...

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