In 1992, Pulitzer Prize-winner Alice Walker did a wonderful thing: she became the first major author to dedicate a novel “to the blameless vulva” and thereby set an egregious abuse of girl’s and women’s rights -- female genital mutilation or FGM -- in the public spotlight. 2012 marked the twentieth anniversary of this landmark publication. In response, UnCUT/VOICES Press issued a call for papers that lead to this unique collection: essays on Walker’s revolutionary book and its worldwide reception by a group of scholars that spans the earth – *Waging Empathy. Alice Walker, Possessing the Secret of Joy, and the Global Movement to Ban FGM*. From Japan to India to Europe, Africa and the USA: four continents contribute to this praise-song for an American native daughter with international appeal.