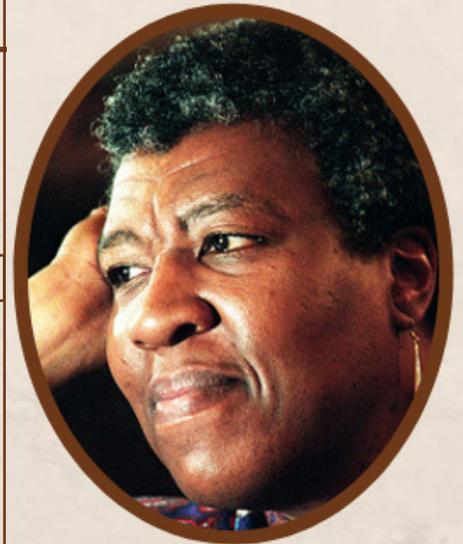


Octavia E. Butler

Date of Birth:	22nd June, 1947
Spouse:	Never Married
Children:	None
Date of Death:	24th February, 2006 (a stroke at Age 58)



Noteable Works and Achievements

- 2010 - Inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame
- 2005, inducted into Chicago State University's International Black Writers Hall of Fame.
- 1999 - *Parable of Talents* Nebular winner
- 1995 - Awarded John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Foundation "Genius" award.
- 1984-85 - "Bloodchild" wins Hugo, Locus and Nebular awards.

Biography

(22nd June, 1947 - 24th February, 2006)

Octavia Estelle Butler was a popular and much respected African American Science Fiction Author. She is considered one of the great science fiction authors of all time, along with Andre Norton and Ursula K. Le Guin.

She was the only child of Octavia Margaret Guy, a housemaid, and Laurice James Butler, a shoeshine man. After her father died, she was raised by her mother and her grandmother.

Octavia was a painfully shy child who struggled with a slight dyslexia, which was undiagnosed at the time. School was especially hard for her, and she was bullied by other students. She found an escape in reading and writing, often at the Pasadena Central Library (Canavan, 2017).

At twelve years of age, she watched the science fiction film *Devil Girl from Mars*. She was convinced that she could write a better story. Despite being told that blacks can't be writers, she persisted in writing and submitted one of her stories to a science fiction magazine when she was junior high.

After college she attended two very important writing workshops. The Open Door Workshop of the Screen Writers of America was the first. Its goal was to help Latino and African American writers and it was there that she met the Science Fiction author Harlan Ellison. Ellison encouraged her to attend the the Clarion Science Fiction Writers' Workshop, where she met and became friends with Samuel R. Delany, another well known science fiction author (Canavan, 2017).

These workshops were a turning point for Ms. Butler and encouraged Ms. Butler to find her own voice for her stories, rather than writing stories similar to the white male dominated narratives that dominated Science Fiction. Instead she began writing protagonists like herself--particularly black women (Becker, 1997).

Her first published story was "Crossover" which was published in the Clarion Trilogy in 1971. She published her first book, *Patternmaster*, the first of her Patternist series, in 1976. By 1978 she wrote fulltime.

Her novels emphasize connectivity within diverse communities and her examination of what it means to be human provides a critique of racism, sexism, and hierarchies in current society while exploring the possibility of what humans could be in the future (Canavan, 2017).

A few of Ms. Butler's Books

- *Survivor* (Doubleday Books, 1978)
- *Bloodchild and Other Stories* (Seven Stories Press, 1995)
- *Kindred* (Doubleday Books, 1979)
- *Parable of the Talents* (Seven Stories Press, 1998)

Reading List

Becker, Jennifer. "Octavia Estelle Butler", Lauren Curt-right (ed.), *Voices From the Gaps*, University of Minnesota-ta, August 21, 2004.

Canavan, G. (2017). *Octavia E. Butler (Modern Masters of Science Fiction)*. University of Illinois Press.