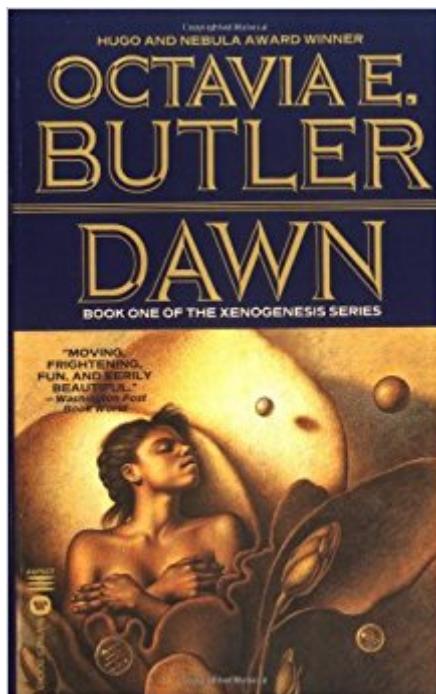


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Dawn (Xenogenesis, Bk. 1)



Synopsis

Lilith Iyapo awoke from a centuries-long sleep to find herself aboard the vast spaceship of the Oankali. Creatures covered in writhing tentacles, the Oankali had saved every surviving human from a dying, ruined Earth. They healed the planet, cured cancer, increased strength, and were now ready to help Lilith lead her people back to Earth--but for a price.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In a world devastated by nuclear war with humanity on the edge of extinction, aliens finally make contact. They rescue those humans they can, keeping most survivors in suspended animation while the aliens begin the slow process of rehabilitating the planet. When Lilith Iyapo is "awakened," she finds that she has been chosen to revive her fellow humans in small groups by first preparing them to meet the utterly terrifying aliens, then training them to survive on the wilderness that the planet has become. But the aliens cannot help humanity without altering it forever. Bonded to the aliens in ways no human has ever known, Lilith tries to fight them even as her own species comes to fear and loathe her. A stunning story of invasion and alien contact by one of science fiction's finest writers.

Octavia E. Butler was the first black woman to come to international prominence as a science fiction writer. Incorporating powerful, spare language and rich, well-developed characters, her work tackled race, gender, religion, poverty, power, politics, and science in a way that touched readers of all backgrounds. Butler was a towering figure in life and in her art and the world noticed; highly

acclaimed by reviewers, she received numerous awards, including a MacArthur "genius" grant, both the Hugo and Nebula awards, the Langston Hughes Medal, as well as a PEN Lifetime Achievement award.

This was a very different take on the alien type books I read. I wasn't as impressed. I hoped I would be but it just didn't do it for me. It dragged quite a bit because of all the character buildup but I could have done without some of it. I doubt I read book 2 or 3.

Enjoyed the read. Story built slowly ending was disappointing . I know it a trilogy but seemed like this book just stopped no ending. Next book preview did not begin with how they got to earth who survived from Lilith group!

This is the first book I've read by Octavia E. Butler and I couldn't put it down. I added the audible narration so I could listen while I worked out. I love the female protagonist who is multifaceted and resilient. She allows her main character (Lilith) to go through a range of emotions that feels real while still keeping the reader interested. Butler is clearly making a point about humanity but without being preachy or overly direct. Her writing remains thought provoking and engaging throughout. I can't wait to see what the next novel has to offer.

The Oankali are a space faring race of extremely advanced geneticists. They use modified life forms for everything that we would use machinery. Any time they modify another species they also modify themselves; thus, they consider themselves to be traders. The Oankali arrive at Earth shortly after a devastating war that will destroy all life on the planet. They rescue the remaining life forms with the intention of re-seeding the planet after clearing it from contamination. The story follows one of the survivors who is unwilling to accept the cost imposed by the aliens. Her story is fascinating and the decisions made by her and the other survivors are very believable.

Octavia Butler's writing style isn't particularly engaging and her characters don't seem distinctly painted, but the world she builds and the realities of it are stark and compelling enough to make up for a story which otherwise feels a little dry.

The pace was slow, but slow seems the proper way to develop this story. Lilith, the protagonist, knows next to nothing about the situation she finds herself in at the beginning of the book. The

reader learns from Lilith's point of view and by the time you get to the second part of the book, you will be wanting to know what Lilith discovers next. Lilith's experiences are disturbing to her, and will be equally disturbing to the reader. Lilith's experiences are compelling in much the same way stories about bad news are compelling to most people. I know this review sounds vague, but I think revealing bits of the story ahead of time would diminish the experience. You should learn what comes next as Butler reveals it. Some have said Butler's writing is brilliant. I must agree, but at the same time, I have not decided if I will continue with the trilogy. Dawn has neatly wrapped up this part of Lilith's story, so I am not compelled to read the next book to have an ending. And, I think I'll look for something less dark for my next novel. Should you read this novel? Read the sample chapters. If you are curious about what happens next, then by all means buy or borrow the book to continue. And don't give up after the first several chapters. The interest level of the story increases as you continue.

Disturbing as the plot may be, I was even more disturbed to learn that while I paid nearly \$10 for this book, there is an omnibus edition that includes all 3 in the series for nearly \$10. But enough of that. I was surprised that this book surprised me. I read so much, that I can usually tell within the first chapter where the plot will go. Not so with this gem of a book! I was horrified then delighted by the situation the main character finds herself in. And delighted that there would be no lengthy explanations of Faster-Than-Light Technology that seems obligatory to every SF book, no space faring military, no fight to the death battle scenes in the vacuum of space. I empathized with the protagonist: would I ever get jiggy with a sea urchin/cockroach? Even if it meant that I would become some weird hybrid space-aged Eve? Or would I let the human species die off? As I sit here in my office, I say, "Yeah, let the species die. They were nearly extinct when the aliens found them anyway." Arm chair Eugenics aside, I really loved this book. Instead of paying \$20 for the last two books, I'll buy the omnibus edition and save some cash.

Octavia E. Butler has introduced a new take on what aliens may want from human kind. She really gets into the head of the protagonist revealing how her thoughts change as she observes human nature vs. the alien nature. Which is better for the future of the human race? Are humans too violent to be left alone to repopulate the earth? Would they make the same mistakes again and destroy themselves? Or would a mix of human and alien be the new hope for the survival of humanity's offspring?

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