AUTHOR BACKSTORIES

Octavia E. Butler

Reading list

Every book in order of first publication. Each series is kept together, in reading order, starting where its first book appeared. Tick the box as you finish each one.

14 books · 3 series · List updated November 14, 2026

Patternist

Series · 5 books · 1976–1984

- ☐ 1976 *Patternmaster*
  Book 1 · Novel
  Her first novel.
- ☐ 1977 *Mind of My Mind*
  Book 2 · Novel
- ☐ 1978 *Survivor*
  Book 3 · Novel
  Kept out of print at her request until Grand Central's 2026 edition.
- ☐ 1980 *Wild Seed*
  Book 4 · Novel
- ☐ 1984 *Clay's Ark*
  Book 5 · Novel

☐ 1979 *Kindred*
Novel

Xenogenesis (Lilith's Brood)

Series · 3 books · 1987–1989

- ☐ 1987 *Dawn*
  Book 1 · Novel
- ☐ 1988 *Adulthood Rites*
  Book 2 · Novel
- ☐ 1989 *Imago*
  Book 3 · Novel

Parable (Earthseed)

Series · 2 books · 1993–1998

- ☐ 1993 *Parable of the Sower*
  Book 1 · Novel
- ☐ 1998 *Parable of the Talents*
  Book 2 · Novel
  Won the Nebula Award for Best Novel.

- [ ] 1995 *Bloodchild and Other Stories*
  Story collection
  Expanded in 2005 with "Amnesty" and "The Book of Martha."
- [ ] 2005 *Fledgling*
  Novel
  Her last novel.
- [ ] 2014 *Unexpected Stories*
  Story collection
  Published after her death.