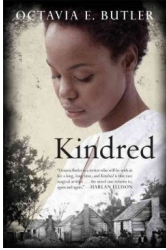


Books by the Stack



Kindred by Octavia Butler

Dana, a Black woman, finds herself repeatedly transported to the antebellum South, where she must make sure that Rufus, the plantation owner's son, survives to father Dana's ancestor.

Why you'll like it: African American fiction. Plot driven. Compelling. Sobering.

About the Author: Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) was the author of many novels, including *Dawn*, *Wild Seed*, and *Parable of the Sower*. She was the recipient of a MacArthur Award and a Nebula Award, and she twice won the Hugo Award.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the significance of the title?
2. How do race and gender intersect in the novel?
3. And how do race and class intersect in the novel?
4. Why do the characters so often associate death and freedom?
5. If death is better than a life of slavery, what sense does it make to choose life over death?
6. Is such self-loathing justified, in the context of the novel?
7. What does the novel say about love?
8. What might be the significance of Dana and Kevin both being writers?
9. What literary techniques does Butler use to elevate her novel above simple science fiction?
10. What does it mean that both Dana's and Kevin's parents are dead?
11. What effect does Dana's first-person narration have on the novel?



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