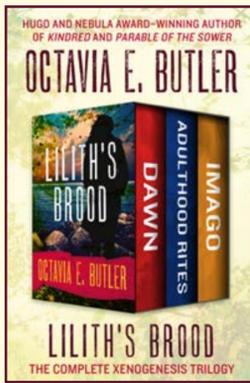


Octavia E. Butler's Lilith's Brood Series

“Intelligence is relatively new to life on Earth, but your hierarchical tendencies are ancient.”

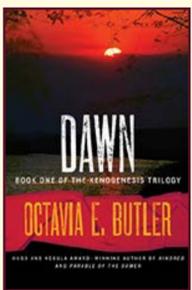


WHAT IS IT?

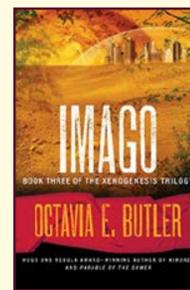
Butler's Xenogenesis series (collected under the title Lilith's Brood) is a trilogy comprised of *Dawn* (1987), *Adulthood Rites* ('88), and *Imago* ('89). All three novels were originally published by Warner Books.

WHAT'S THE SYNOPSIS?

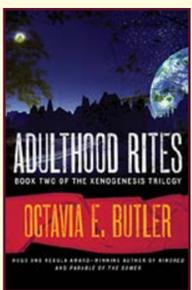
The series tracks the relationship between humanity and the Oankali, an alien race attracted to difference.



In *Dawn*, Lilith Iyapo wakes on a spaceship centuries after a nuclear apocalypse killed most of humanity. Lilith has been saved by the alien Oankali race, who want to use her to repopulate the Earth with human-Oankali hybrids.



The final novel, *Imago*, is told from the point of view of one of Lilith's children, Jodahs, who exemplifies the potential of human-Oankali breeding.



Adulthood Rites is set years after *Dawn*. Human-Oankali hybrids, called “constructs,” are opposed by human “resisters” who live in separate communities. The novel centers around Akin, a construct who is abducted by resisters as a child.

WHAT KIND OF RECEPTION DID IT RECEIVE?

- Each of the Xenogenesis books was nominated for a Locus Award for Best Science Fiction Novel.
- Academic and author Dr. Adele Newson-Horst called *Dawn* “engaging” and “refreshing,” and wrote that “Lilith’s life, like that of the black woman’s, is a metaphor for the quest which would resolve the problem of her being both revered and despised by those with whom she inhabits society.”

WHAT DID BUTLER HAVE TO SAY ABOUT LILITH'S BROOD?



Image Credit: Wikimedia Commons

“Several years ago I wrote a novel called *Dawn* in which extra-solar aliens arrive, look us over, and inform us that we have a pair of characteristics that together constitute a fatal flaw. We are, they admit, intelligent, and that’s fine. But we are also hierarchical, and our hierarchical tendencies are older and all too often, they drive our intelligence—that is, they drive us to use our intelligence to try to dominate one another.”

-2001 essay for *NPR*

WHAT ARE ITS ADAPTATIONS?

Dawn is set to be adapted for an Amazon TV series. *Wrinkle in Time* director Ava DuVernay is helping the project in collaboration with *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* assistant director Victoria Mahoney.