

Octavia Butler Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, Fiction, Persistence, Way, Stories, Mean, Civilization,
Stars, War, Long, Years, Fantasy, Children, Needs, Destiny, Book, Fighting,
Quails*

I was raised Baptist, and I like the fact that I got my conscience installed early.

~Octavia Butler

All that you touch You Change. All that you Change Changes you. The only lasting truth is Change. God is Change.

~Octavia Butler

People have the right to call themselves whatever they like. That doesn't bother me. It's other people doing the calling that bothers me.

~Octavia Butler

In order to rise From its own ashes A phoenix First Must Burn.

~Octavia Butler

I just knew there were stories I wanted to tell.

~Octavia Butler

To be led by a fool is to be led by the opportunists who control the fool.

~Octavia Butler

Drowning people Sometimes die Fighting their rescuers.

~Octavia Butler

Kindness eases change Love quiets fear

~Octavia Butler

When your rage is choking you, it is best to say nothing.

~Octavia Butler

We're all capable of climbing so much higher than we usually permit ourselves to suppose.

~Octavia Butler

There is no end To what a living world Will demand of you.

~Octavia Butler

I was attracted to science fiction because it was so wide open. I was able to do anything and there were no walls to hem you in and there was no human condition that you were stopped from examining.

~Octavia Butler

Be who you are and not who someone else thinks you ought to be.

~Octavia Butler

Tolerance, like any aspect of peace, is forever a work in progress, never completed, and, if we're as intelligent as we like to think we are, never abandoned.

~Octavia Butler

I'm me, and I'm here, and I'm writing.

~Octavia Butler

Writing is one of the few professions in which you can psychoanalyse yourself, get rid of hostilities and frustrations in public, and get paid for it.

~Octavia Butler

I think people really need to think what it's like to have all of society arrayed against you.

~Octavia Butler

That which could hunger, could starve.

~Octavia Butler

Life is getting better, but that won't stop a war if politicians and business people decide it's to their advantage to have one.

~Octavia Butler

The destiny of Earthseed is to take root among the stars.

~Octavia Butler

Here I was into astronomy, and here into anthropology, and there I go into geology. It was much more fun to be able to research and write about whatever I wanted to.

~Octavia Butler

I have this theory that anything that happens to you that leaves you alive and intact can be used somewhere in your writing.

~Octavia Butler

Forget inspiration. Habit is more dependable.

~Octavia Butler

Humans persecute their different ones, yet they need them to give themselves definition and status.

~Octavia Butler

Civilization is the way one's own people live. Savagery is the way foreigners live.

~Octavia Butler

Ignorance Protects itself, And protected, Ignorance grows.

~Octavia Butler

I have a huge and savage conscience that won't let me get away with things.

~Octavia Butler

Every story I create, creates me. I write to create myself.

~Octavia Butler

Consider We are born Not with purpose, But with potential.

~Octavia Butler

I would never have been a good scientist - my attention span was too short for that.

~Octavia Butler

You are horror and beauty in rare combination.

~Octavia Butler

If there's any single talent a writer needs, it's persistence. If you can keep at your writing and you can learn as you write, you can tell any story you want to tell.

~Octavia Butler

I'm trying to speak--to write--the truth. I'm trying to be clear. I'm not interested in being fancy, or even original. Clarity and truth will be plenty, if I can only achieve them.

~Octavia Butler

Helpless lust and unreasoning anxiety were just part of growing up.

~Octavia Butler

The only lasting truth is change. God is change.

~Octavia Butler

A tree Cannot grow In its parents' shadows.

~Octavia Butler

And by the way, I wanted to point out that Kindred is not science fiction. You'll note there's no science in it. It's a kind of grim fantasy.

~Octavia Butler

But my problem with fantasy, and horror, and related genres, is that sometimes the problems are illogical.

~Octavia Butler

Once you grow past Mommy and Daddy coming running when you're hurt, you're really on your own. You're alone, and there's no one to help you.

~Octavia Butler

Positive obsession is about not being able to stop just because you're afraid and full of doubts. Positive obsession is dangerous. It's about not being able to stop at all.

~Octavia Butler

No one was going to stop me from writing and no one had to really guide me towards science fiction. It was natural, really, that I would take that interest.

~Octavia Butler

Fantasy is totally wide open; all you really have to do is follow the rules you've set. But if you're writing about science, you have to first learn what you're writing about.

~Octavia Butler

I wasn't trying to work out my own ancestry. I was trying to get people to feel slavery. I was trying to get across the kind of emotional and psychological stones that slavery threw at people.

~Octavia Butler

Science fiction let me do both. It let me look into science and stick my nose in everywhere.

~Octavia Butler

...I realized that I knew less about loneliness than I had thought - and much less than I would know when he went away.

~Octavia Butler

Rejections are painful, but inevitable. They're every writer's rite of passage.

~Octavia Butler

Beware At war Or at peace, More people die Of unenlightened self-interest Than of any other disease

~Octavia Butler

I recognize we will pay more attention when we have different leadership.

~Octavia Butler

No... a novel is a long business. I'm a slow writer, even when I'm doing very well I write slowly.

~Octavia Butler

Nothing. It just finds you a lot more attractive than it does most Humans. What can you do with a beautiful woman that you can't do with an ugly one? Nothing. It's just a matter of preference.

~Octavia Butler

We give our dead To the orchards And the groves. We give our dead To life.

~Octavia Butler

Religion is a dangerous prod, because it can always be misused and get out of hand, but it's useful for keeping people on the straight and narrow.

~Octavia Butler

Listen, no part of me is more definitive of who I am than my brain.

~Octavia Butler

I wanted to write a novel that would make others feel the history: the

pain and fear that black people have had to live through in order to endure.

~Octavia Butler

The big talent is persistence.

~Octavia Butler

...I can write my own stories and I can write myself in.

~Octavia Butler

Dad decided not to vote for Donner after all. He didn't vote for anyone. He said politicians turned his stomach.

~Octavia Butler

I'm a fifty-three-year-old writer who can remember being a ten-year-old writer and who expects someday to be an eighty-year-old writer.

~Octavia Butler

The differences you perceive between Humans-between groups of Humans-are the result of isolation and inbreeding, mutation, and adaptation to different Earth environments

~Octavia Butler

I began reading science fiction before I was 12 and started writing science fiction around the same time.

~Octavia Butler

The essentials are to learn to shape God with forethought, care, and work; to educate and benefit their community, their families and themselves; and to contribute to the fulfillment of the Destiny.

~Octavia Butler

Well, writing was what I wanted to do, it was always what I wanted to do. I had novels to write so I wrote them.

~Octavia Butler

Souls! When have you seen your own soul - that you're so certain you have one?

~Octavia Butler

I lost an arm on my last trip home.

~Octavia Butler

Belief initiates and guides action - or it does nothing.

~Octavia Butler

The thing about science fiction is that it's totally wide open. But it's wide open in a conditional way.

~Octavia Butler

On the other hand, I was very much interested in the way people behaved, the human dance, how they seemed to move around each other. I wanted to play around with that.

~Octavia Butler

Civilization is to groups what intelligence is to individuals. It is a means of combining the intelligence of many to achieve ongoing group adaptation.

~Octavia Butler

I'm a pessimist if I'm not careful, a feminist, a Black,...an oil-and-water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty, and drive.

~Octavia Butler

Margaret Weylin complained because she couldn't find anything to complain about.

~Octavia Butler

To get along with God, Consider the consequences of your behavior.
Earthseed: The Books of the Living

~Octavia Butler

He was like me - a kindred spirit crazy enough to keep on trying.

~Octavia Butler

In my years, I have seen that people must be their own gods and make their own good fortune. The bad will come or not come anyway.

~Octavia Butler

I'm literate, and the idea of leaving children illiterate is criminal.

~Octavia Butler

Slavery was a long slow process of dulling.

~Octavia Butler

Sometimes, one must become a master to avoid becoming a slave.

~Octavia Butler

There's no narcotic like exhaustion.

~Octavia Butler

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