



## **Bloodchild**

*Octavia E. Butler*

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**Contains the short story Bloodchild only.**

Years ago a group known as the Terrans left Earth in search of a life free of persecution. Now they live alongside the Tlic, an alien race who face extinction; their only chance of survival is to plant their larvae inside the bodies of the humans.

When Gan, a young, boy, is chosen as a carrier of Tlic eggs, he faces an impossible dilemma: can he really help the species he has grown up with, even if it means sacrificing his own life?

*Bloodchild* is Octavia E. Butler's shattering meditation on symbiosis, love, power and tough choices. It won the Hugo, Locus, Nebula and Science Fiction Chronicle awards and is widely regarded as one of her greatest works.

## Bloodchild Details

Date : Published March 13th 2014 by Headline

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Author : Octavia E. Butler

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Genre : Short Stories, Science Fiction, Fiction, Horror

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# From Reader Review Bloodchild for online ebook

## Nicole says

[with no apparent plan for payback or retaliation (hide spoiler)]

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## Zaz says

Landing on another planet, already inhabited by creatures, often turns ugly in scifi. Bloodchild was a nice compromise between cohabiting and surviving, with touches of fear, love and disgust. As with Kindred, the writing flew easily, the story was interesting and I liked to discover what was happening with the characters, even if I didn't understand everything at the beginning.

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## Marilia Ramos says

Essa mulher desgraça minha cabeça e eu sigo amando e querendo mais. Novella muito poderosa e muito conflitante. Como toda novella, gostaria de saber mais sobre esse universo de Tlics e Terrans e suas histórias.

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## Negativni says

Skupina ljudi pobjegne sa Zemlje u potrazi za slobodnijim životom, da bi na nepoznatom planetu postali doma?ini parazitskoj rasi. *Oh, the irony!*

Zanimljivo, Octavia E. Butler u pogovoru piše da je iznena?ena što ljudi misle da je ova pri?a o ropstvu. Pa, meni se tako?er ?inilo da je to glavna tema - ljudi žive u Rezervatu, podijeljeni su me?u tim vanzemaljcima i oni ih doslovno uzgajaju samo da bi ih koristili kao doma?ine za svoje larve - a ona kaže da je to pri?a o ljubavi dva vrlo razli?ita bi?a! Ovo je njezina pri?a o muškoj trudno?i, a ?ini mi se da je u sceni implementacije jaja evocirala i sje?anja na svoje prvo seksualno iskustvo. Pri?a je to i o odrastanju, donošenju teških odluka, prilagodbi... ma, nevjerovatno je što je sve stalo na tih dvadesetak stranica!

Kad je planirala put u Peru, gdje je istraživala za svoj *Xenogenesis* serijal ?ula je da tu izme?u ostalog vreba i "botfly" (po wikipediji kod nas "štrk"), vrsta muhe koja svoje larve nese u rane od uboda drugih kukaca na sisavcima.\* Odatle joj osnovna ideja za pri?u, jer kako sama kaže, kada je nešto uznemiri ona piše o tome.

Nemam veliku odbojnost prema crvima ili insektima, ali moram priznati da sam se par puta naježio dok sam ?itao ovu pri?u. Odli?no je napisana, brzo sam se vezao za likove, što samo poja?ava nelagodu u nekim dijelovima. Pro?ita se skoro u jednom dahu, a onda ostavlja u razmišljanju što ?e kasnije biti s likovima.

\* - Ako se larve uo?e preporu?a se da ih se ostavi ispod kože, jer ih je nemogu?e cijele izvu?i bez kirurške opreme pa je infekcija neizbježna. Najbolje je pri?ekati do povratka ku?i pa oti?i lije?niku ili ?ekati da larva

naraste i iza?e sama.

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## **Arkapravo Bhaumik says**

This short story available for free at amazon kindle is my first reading of Octavia Butler's writings. It is a very nice story, yet it is really weird and sick. It is similar to the stories of H.P Lovecraft and China Miéville and the prescient horror of an alien monster species (the Tlic) with whom one has to strike a deal for mutual welfare is the central plot of the story. The description of hatching the Tlic offspring from the human hosts (the N'Tlic) gave me a stomach-churning. This breeding inside the human body was somewhat similar to what we see in James Cameron's Alien movie series. Nevertheless, the story brings forth notable questions of ethics and social interdependence. Since it is told from the point of view of a kid this is also a 'coming of age' story, or as Butler puts it - last day of childhood.

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## **BlackOxford says**

### **Alien Perversity**

A short story that is meant to be maximally disgusting. Humans used as living incubators for 9 foot tall centipedes is only the start. These intelligent insects are part of the human household. They hold and caress adults and infants as they enjoy their warmth. They supply humans with a nourishing, intoxicating food, their own infertile eggs. They choose when and with whom to implant their grubs in the human body. If not handled in exactly the correct manner, birth is lethal for the host who is eaten from the inside out. So a sort of compilation of the most distressing of perversions: paedophilia, bestiality, cannibalism, sadism, and sexual slavery. Sci-fi but more *Un Chien Andalou* than *Star Trek*. Most certainly an unforgettable read.

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## **Mitticus says**

Humanos huyendo de su planeta llegan a uno con una civilización de centipedos gigantes de 3 metros y bueno ... imaginen alien renegociado y con mpreg con *niños*.

Power imbalance is nasty.

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## **Empress says**

This story is still offered for free on Amazon, so go and get it.

6 stars and a new favorite. Can't praise this story and Octavia's writing highly enough.

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### **Laf Lyons says**

A strange and alien exploration of what it means for two dying races to flourish once again through a new found and tentative symbiosis.

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### **iam says**

Stunning and emotional short story.

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### **Skylar Phelps says**

Exceptionally weird and quite creepy. It's really a stellar example of quality short fiction. I have a feeling that this one will stick with me for a long, long time.

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### **carol. says**

[ Ok, for real: the rating is 'amazing,' but in a totally Octavia Butler and Sherri Tepper way, because damn if those two don't give me the *heebies* every time, along with the feels. (Well, Butler every time; Tepper, often). Seriously, must she always challenge me?

To no one's surprise, it won the Hugo, the Nebula, and the Locus Novelette Award in 1985. I read the edition with Butler's 'Afterward,' where she notes

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### **Rob says**

...I very much liked this story. Although the middle in particular is quite horrific, the story ends on a note of hope for the future. What I also liked about it is that Butler manages to do so much with it in so few words. Any of the themes she uses could have been enough to carry a story. Despite the elements of exploitation and gender relations, the story is not overly political or moralizing. Butler channels it all into the confrontation in a way that makes you feel she needed those elements in her story rather than add them because she felt she had something to say about these issues. *Bloodchild* is so very well constructed that it is not surprising it has remained her most popular short story. I guess I really should get around to reading one of her novels.

Full Random Comments review

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**H.A. Leuschel says**

Incredibly weird and creepy as well as gripping and fascinating. This author has got an amazing imagination and this was a fantastic example of compelling short fiction and I now look forward to reading more of this writer's work.

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**Cecily says**

My review is under a different edition, here: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

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