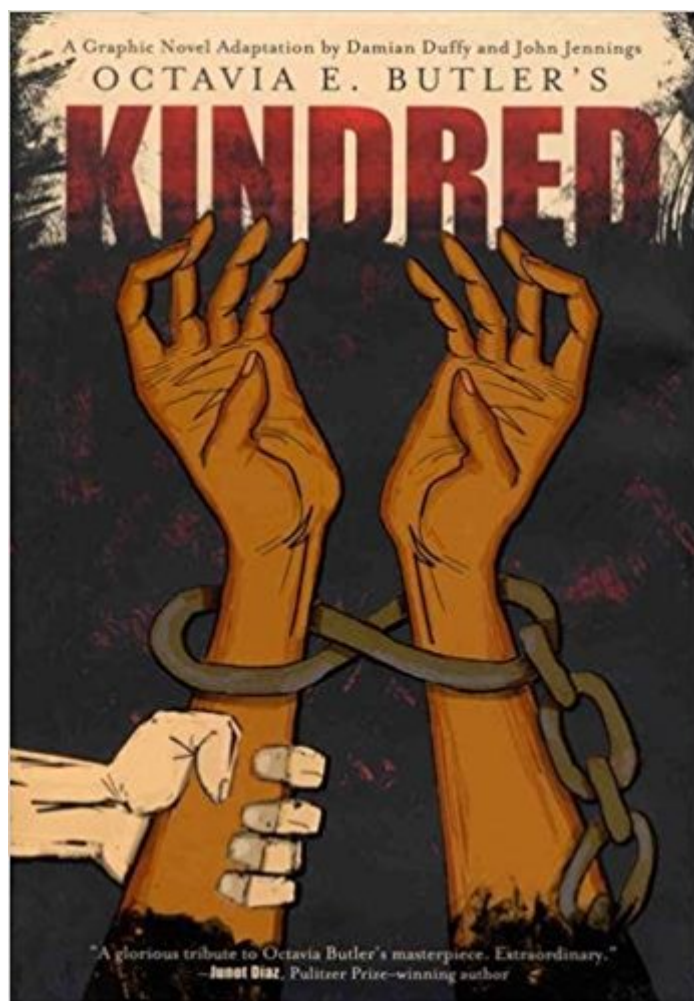


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# Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation



## Synopsis

Instant #1 New York Times Bestseller Octavia E. Butler's bestselling literary science-fiction masterpiece, *Kindred*, now in graphic novel format. More than 35 years after its release, *Kindred* continues to draw in new readers with its deep exploration of the violence and loss of humanity caused by slavery in the United States, and its complex and lasting impact on the present day. Adapted by celebrated academics and comics artists Damian Duffy and John Jennings, this graphic novel powerfully renders Butler's mysterious and moving story, which spans racial and gender divides in the antebellum South through the 20th century. Butler's most celebrated, critically acclaimed work tells the story of Dana, a young black woman who is suddenly and inexplicably transported from her home in 1970s California to the pre-Civil War South. As she time-travels between worlds, one in which she is a free woman and one where she is part of her own complicated familial history on a southern plantation, she becomes frighteningly entangled in the lives of Rufus, a conflicted white slaveholder and one of Dana's own ancestors, and the many people who are enslaved by him. Held up as an essential work in feminist, science-fiction, and fantasy genres, and a cornerstone of the Afrofuturism movement, there are over 500,000 copies of *Kindred* in print. The intersectionality of race, history, and the treatment of women addressed within the original work remain critical topics in contemporary dialogue, both in the classroom and in the public sphere. Frightening, compelling, and richly imagined, *Kindred* offers an unflinching look at our complicated social history, transformed by the graphic novel format into a visually stunning work for a new generation of readers.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (January 10, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 141970947X

ISBN-13: 978-1419709470

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,342 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Adaptations #5 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic

## Customer Reviews

"A glorious tribute to Octavia Butler's masterpiece. Extraordinary." (Junot Díaz- az Pulitzer Prize-winning author)"Kindred is a perfect candidate for the graphic-novel medium •Damian Duffy's taut adaptation and John Jennings's tense, electric renderings vibrate throughout, pacing and containing, then pushing every ounce of discomfort to the forefront. Comics and science fiction exploit their greatest shared strength by illuminating the mundane that surrounds us, allowing any reader to critique and process our world with new vision." (Nate Powell Eisner Award winning and New York Times bestselling graphic novelist of March, The Year)"Wonderful. Captures the essence of Octavia Butler's vision even as it demonstrates the superlative skills of Duffy and Jennings." (Nalo Hopkinson author of Skin Folk, The New Moon's Arms, and Sisters Mine)"This adaptation of the classic science fiction/neo-slave narrative novel by Octavia E. Butler is required reading." (Vice's The Creators Project)"Nearly four decades after its original printing, Kindred remains a valuable story and teaching tool. From its pages, we are reminded of the destructive consequences of prejudice." (Cleaver Magazine)"Together, Duffy and Jennings manage to condense Kindred into 240 pages that are respectful of Butler's original work while also feeling like a distinctly new story at the same time. In exchange for some of Butler's scene descriptions, the book offers up a richly rendered, raw take on Dana's experience, heavy with thick lines and blurred movement conveying her existential disorientation." (Gizmodo)"Butler's original novel is a powerful commentary on how the past informs the present and how we engage with both. But this adaptation makes an even more vivid statement about black Americans' relationship with history. The kinetic lines feel urgent, messy, and visceral. The colors for scenes set in the present are muted while the colors of the past are vibrant, almost like a bright wake-up call to reality." (Slate)"This graphic novel adaptation beautifully retells the story" (Bustle) "The heavily shaded, thick-lined, and rough edged art lends a grimness appropriate to a life of jagged brutality and fearful uncertainty. Both a rewarding way to reexperience the tale and an accessible way to discover it." (Booklist)"It's gorgeous, powerful, and makes you realize how resonant this sci fi story, about a young black woman living in 1970s California who's transported to the South in the period before the Civil War, really is." (Book Riot)"The story lends itself well to the medium, which makes it easy for writers to contrast narration

with dialogue. According to a 2015 survey of Comic-Con attendees, half of comic fans under 30 are women. In graphic novel format, *Kindred* provides a voice that can resonate with those readers." (The Huffington Post) "While *Kindred* was released nearly 40 years ago, its exploration of black womanhood and afrofuturism proves to be as relevant today as it was then. And now, with the added imagery, the graphic novel certainly isn't short on capturing the same sentiment as the original." (Complex Magazine) "The violence is wrenching at times, but never over the top; what's more disturbing, ultimately, is seeing this story through the eyes of someone who has been rendered powerless by the society around her." (Library Journal) "The book stays close to the original, with Duffy reproducing Butler's matter-of-fact-to-the-point-of-bleakness prose, and Jennings turning in a moody, expressive, woodcut-influenced illustrations that look hacked out of, or into, the past." (Flavorwire) "This dead-on retelling of Octavia E. Butler's 1979 sci-fi novel is intense, heart-stopping, thought-provoking, and powerful." (Common Sense Media) "I do not lightly give anything a 5-star rating, but this is the best graphic adaptation of a full novel that I have ever encountered. the book belongs in every library and in the hands of any adult reader interested in serious graphic fiction." (ICv2) "In its illustrated form, *Kindred* receives a new identity of sorts, while retaining all of the complexities, politics, and moral questions that propelled its author to literary icon status." (NPR's Code Switch Blog) "Adapting any prose novel to the graphic format is an audacious undertaking at the best of times, but translating Octavia E. Butler's fearsomely powerful work in particular must surely have been a herculean task. Yet Damian Duffy and John Jennings have managed it. A worthy and powerful supplement to a classic." (The New York Times) "*Kindred* is a deeply intimate book filled with emotion, and portraying it visually only adds to that weight. Butler's voice is much needed in the social and political climate right now, and *Kindred*'s mix of time travel and a historically accurate portrayal of racism is an incredible way to introduce her work to comics readers." (Paste Magazine) "This is an outstanding adaptation of a brilliant novel, and there's nothing more you could possibly ask for." (Boing Boing) "Duffy's words, coupled with Jennings's brutally jagged, disorientating, gothic, and impactful art allows their adaptation to be two things: A graphic adaptation of a beloved novel, and an amplification of said novel. Reading them together illuminates Butler's work from angles I never thought possible." (Nerds of Color) "Duffy and Jennings have risen to the challenge; their book highlights all of the medium's strengths while still respecting Butler's original words. It's a good introduction not only to Butler's body of

work but also to the potential of the graphic-novel form. (Entertainment Weekly) "If you've read *Kindred* this is a great companion. If you haven't read it yet, this adaptation is strong enough to stand on its own." (Book Riot) "The 240-page graphic novel adaptation makes Butler's story all the more accessible. Duffy's adaptation perfectly captures the horrific situations forced on the lives of black people in the pre-Civil War South and conveys the emotional impact of Butler's work. Jennings' illustrations add to the atmosphere; instead of pristinely drawn images, the images have a fitting "rough sketch" quality to them that emphasizes the hardships of life in those times. Taken together, the graphic novel adaptation of *Kindred* is not to be missed as a solid piece of entertainment." (Kirkus Reviews) "A compelling, masterly graphic novel for all libraries serving teens..." (School Library Journal, starred review)

Octavia Estelle Butler (1947–2006), often referred to as the "grand dame of science fiction," was born in Pasadena, California, on June 22, 1947. She received an Associate of Arts degree in 1968 from Pasadena City College, and also attended California State University in Los Angeles and the University of California, Los Angeles. Butler was the first science-fiction writer to win a MacArthur Fellowship ("genius" grant). She won the PEN Lifetime Achievement Award and the Nebula and Hugo Awards, among others. John Jennings is Associate Professor of Visual Studies at the University at Buffalo and has written several works on African-American comics creators. His research is concerned with the topics of representation and authenticity, visual culture, visual literacy, social justice, and design pedagogy. He is an accomplished designer, curator, illustrator, cartoonist, and award-winning graphic novelist, who most recently organized an exhibition/program on Afrofuturism and the Black Comic Book Festival, both at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library. Damian Duffy, cartoonist, writer, and comics letterer, is a PhD student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science, and a founder of Eye Trauma Studios (eyetrauma.net). His first published graphic novel, *The Hole: Consumer Culture*, created with artist John Jennings, was released by Front 40 Press in 2008. Along with Jennings, Duffy has curated several comics art shows, including *Other Heroes: African American Comic Book Creators*, *Characters and Archetypes* and *Out of Sequence: Underrepresented Voices in American Comics*, and published the art book *Black Comix: African American Independent Comics Art and Culture*. He has also published scholarly essays in comics form on curation, new media, diversity, and critical pedagogy.

I've read and listened to this book, but the graphic novel will make this book come alive in your mind. I highly recommend it to all Octavia Butler fans old and new.

Kindred is a story of a black woman, Dana, who on her birthday jumps back in time, to early 1800s. She saves the life of a young boy, Rufus, who is a son of a plantation owner and, surprisingly, her ancestor. She keeps jumping between the modern day and the 1800s, seeing the reality of slavery. It's a story about loss of control: it drills down how completely the slaves' lives were dictated by their owners. It's about being afraid, and also about getting used to bad situation. I'm not completely sold on the drawing style of the comic, but from what I know, it seems to capture the essence of the Octavia E. Butler novel. I still get the feeling that as powerful as the comic is, it's still a barebones version of the original.

I was so happy to see one of my favorite Butler novels in such a vibrant graphic adaptation.

Superb adaptation of an excellent and classic story. Graphics are excellent without being busy or cluttered. Will strongly recommend this to my friends.

Great product and arrived on time

I was very impressed at how well this was translated into a graphic novel!

I love graphic novels. This is a new view of slavery that was created by great imagination - thru time-travel. Thoroughly enjoyed.

This is an amazing work. I've read the novel and was pleasantly surprised and excited the graphic nove was made available for fans of Octavias work. Masterful and Appreciated.

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