

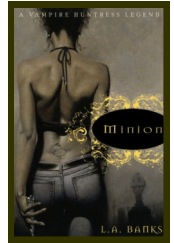
# African American Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror

Enjoy these speculative tales of space, magic and monsters written by African American authors.



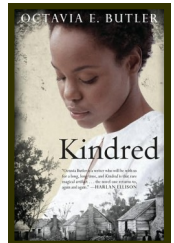
## Minion: a Vampire Huntress Legend by L. A. Banks

All Damali ever wanted to do was create music and bring it to the people. Now she is a Spoken Word artist and the top act for Warriors of Light Records. But come nightfall, she hunts vampires and demons-predators that people tend to dismiss as myth or fantasy. Damali and her Guardian team cannot afford such delusions, especially now, when a group of rogue vampires has been killing the artists of Warriors of Light and their rival, Blood Music. The *Vampire Huntress* series continues with [The Awakening](#).



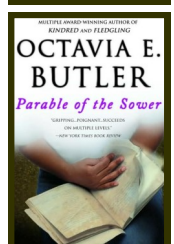
## Aftermath by Levar Burton

American civilization crumbles after a civil war pitting blacks against whites and a devastating earthquake. Salvation resides in the hands of a black woman scientist, Dr. Rene Reynolds, inventor of a neuro-enhancer that cures all diseases. When she is kidnapped, her telepathic cry for help reaches three people who travel across the country to save her.



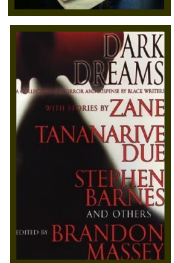
## Kindred by Octavia Butler

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back again and again for Rufus, yet each time the stay grows longer and more dangerous until it is quite possible Dana's life will end, long before it has even begun. Also try Butler's epic [Lilith's Brood](#).



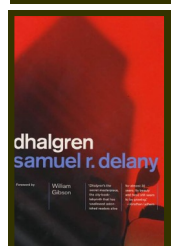
## The Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler

Lauren Olamina lives in a barricaded village in Southern California amid the rampant socioeconomic decay of the early twenty-first century. After her neighborhood is overrun by a cult of drug-demented pyromaniacs, Lauren takes to the road and bands together with other refugees. Withstanding fire and marauding thieves, the group gradually makes its way toward refuge in Northern California, while Lauren wins converts to her homespun "Earthseed" philosophy--a creed espousing community survival for a future among the stars. Also try the Award-winning sequel [Parable of the Talents](#).



## Dark Dreams: a Collection of Horror and Suspense by Black Writers edited by Brandon Massey

Massey's strong anthology showcases 20 new horror and suspense stories by African-American writers, both established and upcoming. Massey evokes America's enduring black cultural heritage in his understated *Granddad's Garage*, about a humble, peculiarly long-lived pack rat who collects such rarities as a signed copy of Phillis Wheatley's 1773 book of poems. Lawana Holland-Moore's *Empty Vessel* poignantly touches on the cruelty and tragedy of slavery. Hair is the focus of D.S. Foxx's brief *Dreads*, the sensitive narrator's account of growing up in "a vanilla town, the darkest child in my school." Note: this book is filed by title under "Dark." Also try [Voices From the Other Side: Dark Dreams II](#).



## Dhalgren by Samuel R. Delany

Bellona is a city at the dead center of the United States. Something has happened there.... The population has fled. Madmen and criminals wander the streets. Strange portents appear in the cloud-covered sky. And into this disaster zone comes a young man--poet, lover, and adventurer--known only as the Kid. Tackling questions of race, gender, and sexuality, *Dhalgren* is a literary marvel and groundbreaking work of American magical realism. Also try Delany's other novels including [Babel-17](#) and [The Einstein Intersection](#).



## My Soul to Keep by Tannarive Due

From the beginning, Jessica knows that David is different, but life with him seems perfect. With the birth of their daughter, life should be blissful. However, his ageless face and his perfect skin cause her investigative-reporter instincts to start questioning. By chance, a newspaper story Jessica writes on elder care evolves into a book proposal. Research into one of the cases leads mysteriously to David--her David. Also try [The Good House](#) and [The Living Blood](#).



## Acacia by David Durham

The ruler of the Known World, Leodan Akaran, presides over a land of prosperity and apparent harmony. On the sheltered island of Acacia, this gentle widower raises his four children, shielding them from the dark realities and dangers that lurk nearby. But all his plans come to naught when a foreign chieftain invades and kills Leodan, causing upheaval throughout the kingdom. By a carefully laid plan, all four offspring escape, moving in different directions, settling in different host nations.

## The Salt Roads by Nalo Hopkinson

When three Caribbean slave women bury a stillborn baby one night, their collected mournings braid into a powerful calling, and a deity is born. So begins the epic journey of a spirit who, trying to discover her own nature and identity, defies the limitations of time and place to inhabit the minds of living women throughout history. From Jeanne Duval, the seductive black mistress of 19th-century poet Charles Baudelaire, to a Nubian prostitute on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 300 A. D., the spirit gathers the power and the wisdom of the ages, only to come full circle on the island of St. Domingue. Also try her collection of stories, [Skin Folk](#).

## The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms by N.K. Jemisin

When her mother dies mysteriously, outcast barbarian Yeine Darr answers a summons to the grand city of Sky from her grandfather, King Dekarta Arameri. Proclaimed one of three heirs to the throne of the Hundred Thousand Kingdoms, Yeine must learn the customs of the skyborne capital and its ruling elite before she succumbs to their treachery. Debut author Jemisin creates an exotic world where fallen gods serve as slaves to the ruling class and murder and ambition go hand in hand.

## Dark Corner by Brandon Massey

When renowned author Richard Hunter dies in a boating accident, his son David travels to Mason's Corner, Mississippi, to find out more about the father he never really knew. At first, Mason's Corner seems friendly and unassuming—the perfect "small town." But after a newcomer moves into the old—and supposedly haunted—mansion on the hill, everything changes. People begin to disappear. Dogs viciously attack. And soon David discovers that the terror consuming this place has its roots in his own family tree... Also try [Twisted Tales](#) and [Whispers in the Night](#).

## The Wave by Walter Mosley

Errol has been awakened in the middle of the night by a caller claiming to be his dead father. Is it a prank, or a message from the grave? When he hears the unmistakable sound of a handset being put down on a table, he decides to investigate. Curious and not a little unnerved, Errol sneaks into the graveyard where his father is buried. What he finds there changes his life forever. Caught up in a war between a secret government security agency and an alien presence infecting our world, touched by the Wave, he knows that nothing will ever be the same again. Also try Mosley's other novels including [Blue Light](#), [Futureland](#) and [47](#).

## Who Fears Death by Nnedi Okorafor

In her debut novel, Okorafor has created a desolate, post-apocalyptic Africa of endless desert, failing technology, superstition, and magic. But life is not without hope. Prophecy speaks of a sorcerer who will change the future, end the wars and slavery, and reunite the people. Onyesonwu is a child of rare talent. Conceived by rape, physically different from her peers, Onyesonwu has the light skin, fair hair, and freckles that traditionally mark her as unworthy, frightening, ugly, and evil. But rather than accepting her outcast role, a defiant Onyesonwu uses her magic to prove herself, avenge her mother's rape, and lead her people.

## Star Wars: the Cestus Deception: a Clone Wars novel by Stephen Barnes

The Republic sends Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi to the planet Ord to prevent the Confederacy from acquiring a new series of powerful battle droids. Upon his arrival, Kenobi discovers that a third party has involved himself in the scramble for the droids—and no diplomacy, however brilliant, can prevent a near catastrophe. *Note: this book is filed under "Star Wars."* Also see the novels [co-written by Barnes and Larry Niven](#) (filed under "Niven").

## The Intuitionist by Colson Whitehead (Adult Fiction)

This is the tale of Lila Mae Watson, the first black woman elevator inspector. Now this may not sound impressive, but in Whitehead's universe, elevators are mystical vehicles and the inspectors a priestly lot. There is a war going on between two factions, the Empiricists, who work purely on the physical plane, and the Intuitionists, who inspect by sensing, or intuiting, the state of each machine. Watson is an Intuitionist whose faith is shaken to the core by a freak accident that not only jeopardizes her career, but draws her into a web of intrigue surrounding the enigmatic founder of her sect, puts her very life in danger.

