

Charles Butler



Q: How long have you been a writer?

A: Since I learned to write, in one sense. In other, since I started writing poetry at the age of eight. In a third, since I wrote my first (unpublished) novel at eighteen. In a fourth, since my first publication at the age of 34. In a fifth, I'm still not a writer at all, since I've never lived off my writerly earnings.

Q: Where do you do your writing?

A: Wherever. I like to write longhand, and it's best done well away from distractions such as the internet. Cafes are good.

Q: What do you do to combat "writers' block"?

A: I don't. I'm lucky enough not to rely on my writing for my bread, and if I'm "blocked" I assume it's because I've got nothing to say at the moment. Eventually, though, I start getting the itch that can only be scratched with a nib.

Q: What was your favourite book as a child?

A: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Then The Dark is Rising. Then The Owl Service.

Q: What do you do as a hobby?

A: I play the descant recorder, to the annoyance of my children.

Q: Do you feel younger or older than your current age?

A: Younger, definitely, and increasingly so.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

A: In a hundred years, no one will care. Do it for yourself - now.

Q: What did you want to be when you were a child?

A: A farmer. Until, that is, we visited a farm owned by friends of my parents. The smell put me off for good!

Q: What makes you cringe?

A: Remembering all the stupid things I've said and done over the years. By this time I have quite a collection!

Q: What strange habits do you have?

A: I try to avoid turning anti-clockwise when ascending or descending staircases. Why, who knows?

Q: What's your favourite food?

A: I've so many! I'll try and combine them into one answer: curried spaghetti ice-cream, with roast potatoes and a roquefort dressing. Mmm!

Q: If you could meet one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: I don't know, but I'd rather meet them alive than dead!

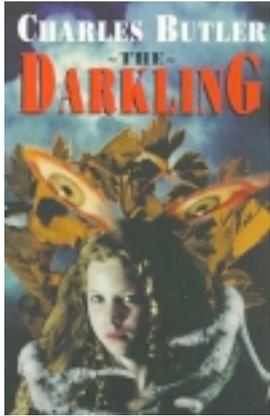
Q: What quality do you most admire in a person?

A: The ability to be both kind and honest.

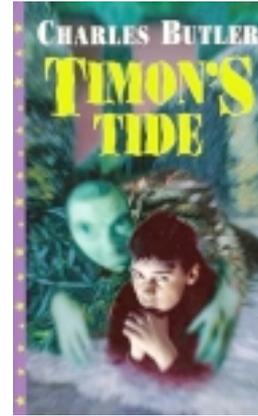
Q: What has life taught you?

A: That you never have all the answers.

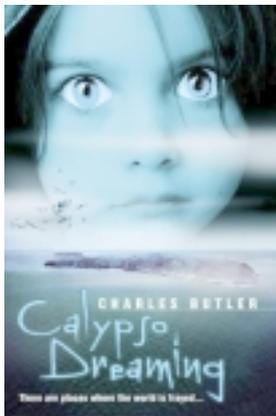
My Books



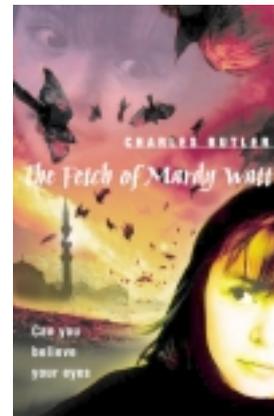
The Darkling



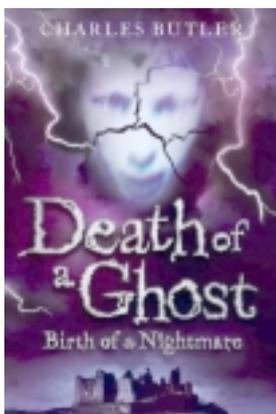
Timon's Tide



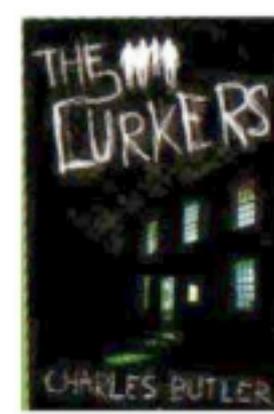
Calypso Dreaming



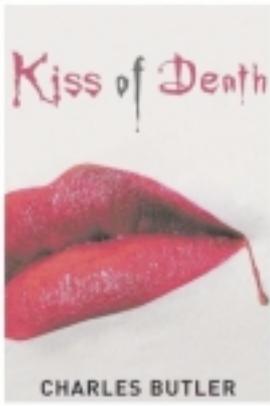
The Fetch of Mardy Watt



Death of a Ghost

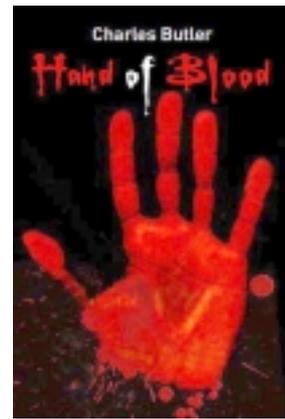


The Lurkers



Kiss of Death

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Hand of Blood