

## Robert Olen Butler Jr.



**Robert Olen Butler Jr.** was born in 1945 in Granite City, IL. He studied theatre at Northwestern University and playwriting at the University of Iowa, where he earned his M.A. in 1969. From 1969-1971, he served as a counter-intelligence special agent for the Army and as a translator.

Butler's short stories have appeared in such venues as *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Harper's*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, and *Zoetrope: All-Story*, and been reprinted in four editions of *The Best American Short Stories* and eight editions of *New Stories from the South*. He has published the following collections: *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* (1992), which earned him the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1993, *Tabloid Dreams* (1996), *Had a Good Time: Stories from American Postcards* (2004), *Severance* (2006), and *Intercourse* (2008). Another collection, *Weegee Stories*, is forthcoming this year.

Along with his short fiction, Butler has published eleven novels, the most recent being *Hell*, which is set entirely in that very place. He has also written screenplays for film and television, and the text *From Where You Dream: The Process of Writing Fiction* (2005).

For his work in Vietnam, he was given the Tu Do Chinh Kien Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America for outstanding contributions to American culture by a veteran. He won the National Magazine Award for Fiction in 2001 for his short story "Fair Warning," which was published in Francis Ford Coppola's *Zoetrope: All Story*, and again in 2005 for his short story "The One in White," published in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

He is the Francis Eppes Distinguished Professor at Florida State University.