

Survival

author: Julie E. Czerneda

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Synopsis

author	Julie E. Czerneda
readBy	Angele Masters
inLanguage	english

Herself a biologist, Julie E. Czerneda has earned a reputation in science fiction circles for her ability to create beautifully crafted, imaginative, yet believably realized alien races. In *Survival*, the first novel in her new series, *Species Imperative*, she draws upon this talent to build races, characters, and a universe which will draw listeners into a magnificent tale of interstellar intrigue, as an Earth scientist is caught up in a terrifying interspecies conflict. Senior co-administrator of the Norcoast Salmon Research Facility, Dr. Mackenzie Connor, Mac to her friends and colleagues, was a trained biologist, whose work had definitely become her life. And working at Norcoast Base, set in an ideal location just where the Tannu River sped down the west side of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast was the perfect situation for Mac. She and fellow scientist Dr. Emily Mamani were just settling in to monitor this year's salmon runs when their research was interrupted by the unprecedented arrival of Brymn, the first member of the alien race known as the Ohryn to ever set foot on Earth. Brymn was an archaeologist, and much of his research had focused on a region of space known as the Chasm, a part of the universe that was literally dead, all of its worlds empty of any life-forms, though traces existed of the civilizations that must once have flourished in the region. Brymn had sought out Mac because she was a biologist - a discipline strictly forbidden among his own people - and he felt that through her expertise she might be able to help him discover what had created the Chasm. But Mac had little interest in alien races and in studies that ranged beyond Earth, and as politely as she was capable of, she tried to make it clear that she was unwilling to abandon her own work. However, the decision was soon taken out of her hands when a mysterious and devastating attack on the Base resulted in the abduction of Emily, and forced Mac to flee for her life with Brymn and the Earth special agents who were escorting him. Suddenly, it appeared that Earth itself might be under attack by the

legendary race the Ohryn called the Ro, the beings they thought might be the destructive force behind the Chasm. Cut off from everything and everyone she knew, Mac found herself in grave danger and charged with the responsibility of learning everything she could that might possibly aid Earth in protecting the human race from extinction....</p>

Reader's comments

comment 1: Alex Thompson

In 'Survival' by Julie E. Czerneda, readers are invited into a richly woven tapestry of interstellar intrigue, biological marvels, and complex character dynamics. Czerneda, known for her meticulous attention to scientific detail, crafts a universe where the stakes are high and every decision could mean the difference between life and extinction. The protagonist, Dr. Mackenzie Connor, is a refreshingly realistic character whose expertise in salmon biology becomes crucial in unraveling a mystery that spans galaxies. Czerneda's ability to blend hard science fiction with deep emotional resonance makes 'Survival' a standout in the genre. The narrative is propelled by a series of suspenseful twists and moral dilemmas that challenge the characters' ethics and motivations. While some readers might find the scientific detail dense, it adds authenticity to the world-building, making the universe feel lived-in and believable. 'Survival' is not just a tale of human endurance but also a thought-provoking exploration of what it means to coexist with other life forms. For those who appreciate science fiction that stimulates the mind and the heart, Czerneda delivers an unforgettable journey that leaves you eagerly anticipating the next installment in the series.

â€” Alex Thompson (2026-05-30 18:25:28)