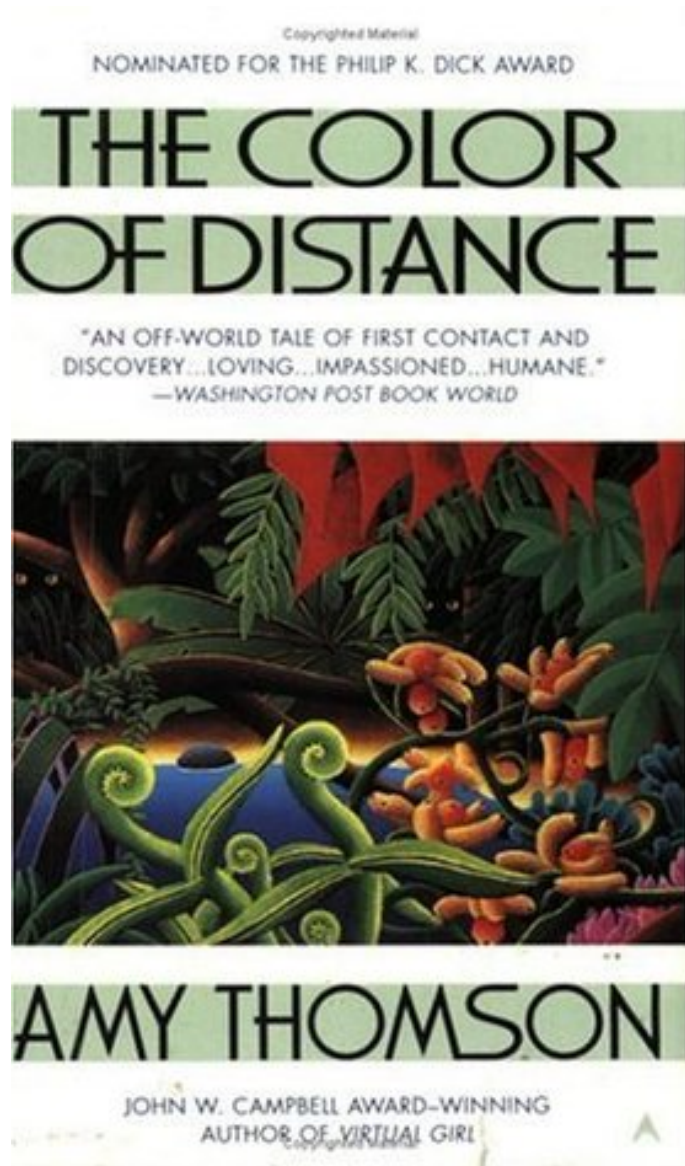

Amy Thomson

The Color of Distance (The Color of Distance #1)



Title: The Color of Distance (The Color of Distance #1)

Author: Amy Thomson

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Description

Juna is the sole survivor of a team of surveyors marooned in the dense and isolated Tendu rain forest, an uninhabitable world for humans. Her only hope for survival is total transformation--and terrifying assimilation--into the amphibian Tendu species. Juna will learn more about her own human nature than ever before.

Insightful reviews

Mike: Absolutely love this book! The idea's broached are very reminiscent of Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*. A must read for nearly anyone.

Althea Ann: Survey biologist Juna Saari is left for dead on an alien planet after her team's flyer crashes into the jungle. She is rescued by the previously unknown sentient aliens known as Tendu, but only through their extreme medical intervention. Although she contacts her spaceship through radio, they will not be able to return for her for five years - for the meantime, she's stranded, and must learn to adapt and survive in an alien culture.

Sometimes slow-moving, the book is more concerned with the rich cultural details of the humanoid but frog-like Tendu than with action-adventure scenes. Based on the author's visits to the rainforests of Costa Rica, the arboreal and community-oriented lifestyle of the aliens really comes alive.

In the sequel, *Through Alien Eyes*, Survey returns for Juna, accompanied by a horde of politically-motivated researchers and experts excited to make contact with this new species. Returning to human civilization with two Tendu ambassadors, Juna must navigate treacherous waters to maintain her suddenly-precarious position as bridge between two cultures. Not just culture shock, but legal battles ensue.

In both books, Thompson uses the contrast between the Tendu and humanity to discuss the importance of ecology, issues of population control, and the importance of harmony and balance. There are a few preachy moments, but overall the 'message' is not too overt. Although humanity is shown to have problems, there is a hopeful outlook - and the Tendu are not perfect either. Rather, both cultures are shown to have things to learn from the other.

Recommended for fans of Sheri Tepper.

Soph: Only complaint is the aliens start to seem too human towards the end of the book--meaning inconsistencies with their alien biology. Nevertheless, I couldn't put this down.

Ethan: See additionally my weblog review: <http://examinedworlds.blogspot.com/20...> The intensity of world-building and personality improvement during this publication is amazing. The fashion of world-building is varied than what you get in Herbert's *Dune* universe or Tolkien's *Middle-Earth*. Perhaps it's going to be great to get extra of a feeling of the total planet or what occurred in the world within the previous couple of hundred years, however the world-building

this is extra tightly-focused at the major characters and their vast environment. And it works. I think virtually as though I lived this ebook instead of learn it. There is just one significant human character, Juna, and the reader involves comprehend her well. So much impressively, though, are that you simply additionally get to understand numerous alien characters, every one together with her or his personal precise personality. The 1st part or so of the e-book switches POV chapters among the human and the extraterrestrial beings in order that a similar occasion is frequently defined from either POVs. This machine can have worn thin, yet in Thomson's expert fingers it really works good correct up until eventually the human personality turns into extra part of the alien means of life, at which period she, properly and artistically enough, intertwines the POVs more. All this world-building and personality improvement take time, however; the single feedback I've got is that the publication begins to tug a bit within the middle, yet it really is nonetheless worth the effort. Philosophically, there is a lot to contemplate in regards to the most sensible solution to reach wisdom and to dwell ethically. Should still we abide by means of summary ideas and clean remark (represented right here by way of the Alien touch ideas for attractive with alien life) or may still we depend extra on lived experience, specific judgments, and direct interplay (represented typically by way of the most character, Juna -also a huge factor in feminist ethics and philosophy of science)? Alongside the way, there is lots of ecology, linguistics, and sociology to consider, let alone the vintage substantial technology fiction topic of encountering the other. On that front, those extraterrestrial beings are lots different, yet nonetheless slightly comprehensible - they are someplace among the familiarity of megastar Trek extraterrestrial beings and the sheer otherness of Lem's Solaris. All of this makes this e-book similar with a few of my favorites, specifically Octavia Butler and Ursula LeGuin. Within the end, this ebook is not relatively at the similar airplane because the genius of Butler and LeGuin, yet it truly is certainly within the comparable direction.

Eric: This novel breaks a few attention-grabbing new flooring within the interpretation of ways people will take care of the exploration of different planets. It units the level for our no longer having the ability to focus on the environments of alternative worlds, and the problems this might deliver - a really diversified view than the megastar Trek proposal of "exploring unusual new worlds" with out difficulties or issues. Ms. Thomson additionally chooses to carry the kingdom of the present human constant, which provides a rigidity to the tale in addition to a realism to the human characters and their situation. She additionally manages to take action with out giving large quantity s of expository detail, leaving the reader imagining what's going with humanity. Finally, she creates a desirable alien species that we get to find and discover throughout the lens of a human who to outlive has to be noticeably altered via those extraterrestrial beings and within the strategy discovers a lot approximately them and herself. All in all a really attention-grabbing mix of characters and occasions that make for an outstanding Sci-Fi read. The single good/bad (depending on the way you view it) factor concerning the booklet is that's completely approximately this human stumble upon with this species so there's no broad, philosophic topic that will get postulated and resolved. This is often simply nice because the publication sits rather well on it personal as a desirable learn at the human and our view of interacting with one another and world, but when you're keen on Sci-Fi with that giant challenge that's resolved during the telling of the tale, this ebook may not be for you.

Jessica Kimbell: I enjoyed this book. I've been searching for it on the grounds that I used to be 15 and not could!

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