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Arrival



Synopsis

The Eden Project was a dream. To start the first extra-solar colony | To avoid the mistakes of our past | To start anew. Three generations, born and raised on a starship hurtling through space. To never know an open sky | To never feel the wind on their face | To never witness the sun rise or set. It is up to the advance team to set foot on each of these worlds, conduct their surveys, and send their findings back to the colony ship. So many questions | So little time | Such an enormous responsibility. Everything must go as planned, for the welfare of all the colonists depends on them. *Arrival* is a 170,000 word, stand-alone novel.

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Customer Reviews

To explain my review title, I'll start with a mild (quite mild) spoiler alert: the advance team heading to the planet gets stranded there, and not all in the same place. The problem I have with the setup is that the issues experienced by the crew on their orbital insertion are myriad, as in every-single-thing-that-could-theoretically-go-wrong-goes-wrong. A lot of this is just crap design and maintenance of their equipment: they don't bother actually testing inflatable air brakes and expect

them to work more than 60 years later (poof); fire suppression systems fail miserably when a comm line fails half a ship away (this wouldn't pass the Florida building code in 2016); fuel lines keep pumping despite a massive breech mid-ship causing a roaring inferno (auto-shut valves have existed for decades); multiple levels of comms gear simultaneously fail at the same time (OK, perfectly believable assuming Comcast built that part of the mission); etc. In short, these colonists didn't suffer bad luck. They suffered from an extreme case of inadequacy wrapped in a warm blanket of sure-minded stupidity and general incompetence. Failure was not only an option - it was built in from day one. They got what was coming to them. Maybe the orbital-entry scene was supposed to be suspenseful and action-packed, but as an engineer all I could do was shake my head and want to toss the program management team behind the mission out an airlock. I groaned all the way through. I'll fast-forward and limit spoilers other than to say the prologue gave away pretty much any surprise the author attempted to preserve.

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