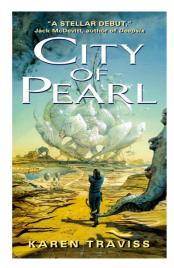
## **Author Essay**



## **Karen Traviss**

City of Pearl ISBN13: 9780060541699

## It's a Tough Universe Out There...Are You Prepared?

City of Pearl is very much a journalist's view of what life is going to be like when we finally get out into the Big Black. Human meets alien: human seriously hacks off alien: and they don't live happily ever after.

I write about things that either make me mad or make me laugh. The complex wess'har universe — I'm writing the third book right now — is a distillation of all that makes me angry about humans, but it's also about what's inspiring and frequently hilarious about the capacity of the individual to be heroic, to be decent and to make the toughest of choices.

It isn't a book about humans coming good and saving the civilised universe. It's about ordinary people — human and alien — dealing with the most challenging situations anyone can face — isolation, war, bereavement and betrayal — and sometimes seeing the lighter side of it.

The main protagonists are an alien war criminal and a bent copper and they're the good guys. Like I said, it's a complex universe.

I wrote City of Pearl mainly to entertain: it's a military adventure, a political thriller, full-on SF. But if it makes you stop afterwards and question a few things about the way we are, then that's fine too.

Now let's be careful out there...

Karen Traviss

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