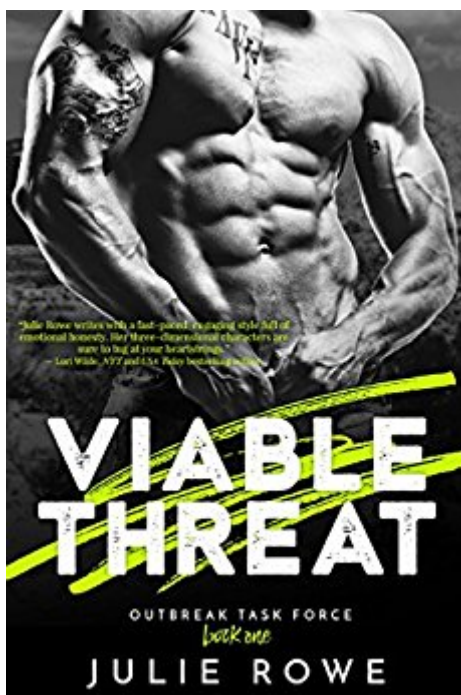


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# Viable Threat



## Synopsis

Special Forces soldier and medic Walter River would give anything to snatch more than a few seconds of down time to see if he can rattle the no-nonsense and incredibly hot Dr. Lloyd he's protecting, but dodging explosions, snipers, and student radicals who've unleashed a lethal bio-engineered microorganism have made that almost impossible. Maybe he'll get a chance if he can figure out how to keep them both alive. CDC microbiologist Ava Lloyd races to find a cure for a bio-terrorism organism sweeping El Paso. The few stolen moments with her very hunky bodyguard River have been explosive, but no matter how alluring he is, she can't afford to get distracted. The clock is ticking, people are dying by the hundreds, and once this crisis is solved, they'll both be off on their next assignment, thousands of miles apart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is my first book by Julie Rowe, acquired for Kindle on sale at (I believe) 99¢, and it was good enough that I \*will\* look for more of her romantic suspense titles ... on sale. I doubt any will

make it among my "keepers shelf" favorite rereads. The intense time-pressure of a deadly outbreak makes the accelerated romance tolerable, though it's more than a little improbable just \*how\* attracted the H immediately is to the h (for her brains/attitude as much as her looks) "when she's wearing a hazmat suit, even! It was nice to see a hero who fully respects the heroine's authority in her own field of expertise, though, even as he is powerfully protective of her on the armed-threats front. Some women will probably take offense at his nickname for her, Mouse, but I was more bothered by the fact that the author felt a proposal of marriage was necessary despite the short time frame, to create a HEA ending. I'd have preferred a believable and hopeful HFN. After all, this is the first of a series; surely we could check in on these two briefly in later volumes? The action was pretty gripping and suspenseful, if (again) requiring willful suspension of disbelief: our leads survive being in the proximity of four(?) explosions in the space of about a day! I didn't guess the identity of "Darth Vader", i.e., the person behind the terrorist puppets, though maybe I could have, if I'd tried harder. I like the inclusion of the retired drill sergeant turned bus driver; it was one of the lighter elements, but also showed appreciation for the elder generation's worth and abilities. It's all too realistic (and topical) how young people can be manipulated into believing lies, and seeing random destruction as the answer to bringing about change, and also how some people with influence/authority misuse it in willful ignorance, to potentially disastrous effect. On the medical side, drug-resistant diseases are becoming ever more of a concern even without being engineered "scary stuff! The book has a number of good lines about the realities of being a soldier in the field, and the philosophy and attitude they bring to the rest of their life, and also about being a civilian who loves one. However, I have to say, I found River inconsistent. At first he tells Ava that "when this is over" he'll be making a move on her "but then they definitely don't wait til the crisis is over. At least they wait for a moment when they're supposed to be snatching some rest, not while they're actually mid-pursuit of a lead or a suspect/Pol I suppose a dose of endorphins is nearly as much of a boost as a longer nap. Then, approaching the end, River annoyed me by falling for a while into the old trope of, "I'm damaged, and my life is dangerous, and I already failed to protect her well enough once. I care about her too much to bring her into all of that risk, so I'll stay away without a word." Aaaarrgh! Furthermore, his "damage", a loss of trust and confidence resulting from a friend's betrayal that left him with comrades dead and 48 hours of mostly-lost memory, is only mentioned when it's convenient for the plot. As for technicalities, I caught a handful of typos, plus one homonym error (shuttered in place of shuddered), but no pervasive, repeated abuses of English language or grammar. (Some indie authors with stellar ratings really make me wonder at how far standards have fallen.) I think there was at least one of her connected CDC/military series

also at 99 cents; let me go grab it while the bargain lasts.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I am a huge fan of apocalyptic stories (The Stand, World War Z, The Flu, etc) and I also like a good romance, so having those two things combined was very enjoyable. I believe this was meant to be read after her two previous novels (Deadly Strain, Lethal Game), but I read this one first then purchased the other two since this one was enjoyable. It hints at what happens in the previous novels, but is fine as a standalone. One of my siblings is a neurobiologist focused on Prion disease, and I have heard all about the different biolevels and containment procedures, and this story is spot on with those details. It gives is very realistic and gritty feel to it. Ava is a very badass microbiologist who is researching an outbreak of an antibiotic-resistant bacteria. She's being supported by an equally badass Special Forces soldier, River. There is death, mayhem, secrecy, terrorism, and lots of sex. What more could you want? I was impressed with how frustrating some of the characters were in this story. A few times I wanted to reach in and hit a one of the main characters (this seems to be a specialty of the writer as this happens in her other two novels I mentioned above). The downside to this story is that it is very fast-paced and the characters go from 'meh' to 'love' at an unbelievable pace. I think if the writer had stretched the story out a bit it would have been easier to swallow. Characters: 4/5 Writing: 4/5 Plot: 5/5

Excellent read

This story was very repetitive and I lost interest

Fast paced, good mystery.

Great book, flew thru it

I LOVED THIS BOOK! It was so exciting, scary, fun, and sexy. It was exactly what I want my romantic suspense to be! This is my first book by this author, and I want more! Dr. Ava Lloyd is a microbiologist working for the CDC. She investigates infectious diseases, and she's been called to El Paso, Texas for an outbreak of an unknown pathogen. She's brilliant, and great at her job, and the last thing she needs is some military man showing up to tell her what to do. She's worried that's exactly what's about to happen when she's assigned a partner to watch her back while she investigates. Walter River is Army Special Forces. He's a soldier, a medic, a teacher, and a

protector. He gets called in to help Ava, since he's dealt with an outbreak during his service in the past. He gets to El Paso and walks into chaos. He is ready to jump in and help wherever he can, as it's obviously needed. When he meets Ava, he's taken with her beauty, and with her intelligence, right away, even inside a hazmat suit. He's determined to keep her alive throughout this mission. River and Ava's chemistry was strong, and I loved their banter, and nicknames. They were really there for each other, in all different ways, throughout the entire story, and I loved that. There was definitely some insta-lust happening, but I am so ok with that! Especially as there was a lot keeping them too busy to act on it for a while, so it was constantly simmering beneath the surface. The suspense plot line was scary and exciting, and so well done. It was even scarier to think how easily something like this could happen in real life. It kept me guessing about what would happen next and who the bad guys were. I can't say much more about that part of the plot without spoilers, but I was so excited to be kept guessing till the end. I also really enjoyed many of the side characters, especially Henry. I'm hoping, as this is to be a series, that he'll be getting his own story soon. This really was a fantastic story, and I had so much fun reading it. I can't wait for more of this series!

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