

00:00:00:04 - 00:00:29:25

Juliana

Hi. My name is Juliana Gutiérrez Arango, and I play Dr. Reyna Mitchell. Would you be interested in hearing Patient Zero and Apollyon without ads and before everyone else? You can do that by joining Patreon. It's the perfect way to support Observer Pictures. Plus, you'll get some extra perks in return. For more information or just to go ahead and sign up, visit Apollyon dot Observer Pictures dot com, and click become a member.

00:00:33:22 - 00:00:56:07

Narrator

Observer Pictures presents Patient Zero. This is Episode 3: Day 8.

00:01:01:13 - 00:01:31:06

Lucas

[He types]

I wanted to be sure before committing this record. I double checked. Reyna, er,— Dr. Mitchell checked. And we even have that stupid drone by check. (to himself) *No. Not estúpido.* [clears throat] Today, on April 11th, 2124, Betty the biotracker ground bot, backed up our findings. There are no traces of chytrid fungus in the Alpha 2 sector. We have even spotted signs of possible amphibian activity.

00:01:33:00 - 00:01:43:17

Lucas

This was not part of my study. Reintroducing lab raised amphibians wasn't even scheduled until phase four, but these aren't lab raised. [laughs, giggles almost]

00:01:47:07 - 00:01:58:13

Lucas

There is not a chance I'm passing this on to another scientist. I have to be part of the research. [more laughter]

00:01:58:13 - 00:02:11:03

Lucas

We're going out first thing in the morning to specifically look for amphibian life. Well, I'm going to look for amphibian life. Of course, Reyna wants to keep studying the plants and soil.

00:02:11:03 - 00:02:21:12

Lucas

If I find it... If I find it, that will be the first sign of amphibians in this area in over a century.

00:02:21:27 - 00:02:32:23

Lucas

The return of amphibian life could mean...*Esperate. Esperate. Te estas adelantando. Al paso se llega lejos. (Wait. Wait. You're getting ahead of yourself. Step by step, you get far.)*

00:02:32:23 - 00:02:39:08

Lucas

Not everyone studies fungi like I do now. How about a short history lesson? Always fun.

00:02:39:08 - 00:02:58:21

Lucas

Chytridiomycosis is caused by two species of fungi. Their full names are complicated Latin words. So most scientists, because we love acronyms, refer to them as BD and Bsal. Chytridiomycosis is believed to be responsible for the extinction of more than 200 species.

00:02:58:21 - 00:03:12:09

Lucas

In the early 2000s, Vicron-S was used to eliminate BD in many simple ecosystems. But Monteverde is far from simple, my friends, and Mother Nature won every time.

00:03:12:09 - 00:03:33:13

Lucas

There's been a loss of amphibian activity in 90% of the Lower Montane region due to BD. I'd have to check my numbers for the other regions, but I doubt they're much better. It has to be the reconstructed soil. It has to be. I mean, we knew that they had helped the lab, created flora flourish [chuckle] flora flourish...

00:03:34:24 - 00:03:50:11

Lucas

But I don't believe anyone thought it would actually lead to the elimination of BD. I'm no mycologist, but I do know that if my theory is correct, it is utterly groundbreaking. [laughter]

00:03:50:11 - 00:04:03:04

Lucas

What if we find amphibian life? What if it is a brand new species? Even better. What if it's not? There's no chance I won't get funding for further research. That pendejo Donovan can kiss my--

00:04:04:06 - 00:04:07:06

Reyna

I hope I'm not interrupting.

00:04:07:06 - 00:04:09:12

Lucas

Good evening, Reyna. Are you eavesdropping?

00:04:09:14 - 00:04:13:26

Reyna

Of course not. But I do hope *pendejo* makes it into the official report.

00:04:14:02 - 00:04:20:18

Lucas

If it'll get me funding, I'll leave it in. [flirty laughs]

00:04:20:18 - 00:04:21:17

Lucas

Is dinner ready?

00:04:22:03 - 00:04:30:05

Reyna

Nearly. I just wanted to...chat beforehand. Compare notes if you're not too busy.

00:04:30:05 - 00:04:41:21

Lucas

[a low chuckle] Of course.

00:04:41:21 - 00:05:33:04

Narrator:

This episode featured the voices of Manuel Ravelo as Lucas. Juliana Gutiérrez Arango as Reyna, and me, J Cuevas, as narrator. Written, directed and produced by Faith McQuinn. Sound Design and Mix by Joshua Suhy. Casting Assistance by Courtney Holly. Theme Music by Wild Wander provided by Soundstripe Music. For more information, visit Apollyon dot Observer Pictures dot com. If you enjoyed this episode, please leave a review on Podchaser or Apple Podcasts, and, more importantly, tell a friend.