



Doctor Who: Heart of TARDIS

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In the American Midwestern town of Lychburg, something is afoot. Its citizens are being killed in inexpressibly horrible and brutal ways and the police don't have a clue who's responsible. The only suspects are a mysterious and sinister stranger, who calls himself the Doctor, and his young companions Jamie and Victoria.

The Fourth Doctor and Romana, meanwhile, have been summoned by the Gallifreyan High Council. A force has been unleashed into the space/time continuum... a force so unimaginably terrible that it is set to rip the universe itself apart and plunge it into primal, screaming chaos from which nothing will survive.

Of course, since something of this nature happens every other day of the week, the Doctor's really far more interested in finding out what's happened to a close personal friend, who seems to have vanished under mysterious circumstances. And quite right, too. The fate of a universe plunging into fetid and unending chaos can look out for itself for a change...

This is an adventure concerning the Second and Fourth Doctors, and takes place between THE TOMB OF THE CYBERMEN, THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN, THE STONES OF BLOOD and THE ANDROIDS OF TARA. You lucky people.

Doctor Who: Heart of TARDIS Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Heart of TARDIS for online ebook

Ken says

Two of my favorite Doctor's are the Second and Fourth so was quite looking forward to reading this book.

The author has both incarnations spot on and you do get a feel of both the era's, the story is set in a two different time zones so both Tardis crews don't actually meet.

The story started out fine, but as it progressed I found myself getting more and more bored with it.

Leela42 says

Past Doctor Adventure (PDA) interweaving the second Doctor (with Victoria and Jamie) and fourth Doctor (with Romana (I)), plus a little UNIT circa 1984. Aimed at grown-ups. I enjoyed this book tremendously, and eagerly anticipated each reading session. The author has a refreshingly looney style, although the style of the wit got repetitive toward the end and any canonicity should be taken with a big grain of salt. Beautifully marries the second Doctor's buffoonishness and his dead seriousness. Dave Stone is one of only two writers I have read who treats Victoria as the intelligent pragmatic daughter of a scientist instead of a superstitious backwards naif. I was shocked to discover every review on Amazon.com is scathing and disappointed, so either they're missing something or I am.

Angela says

The 2nd Doctor gets trapped in a strange American town. The 4th Doctor gets called in by UNIT to help them with a problem. Both are involved in the same invasion, just from different time zones. First off, the Doctors do not meet, so dont get too excited. The characterisations are spot on, and it is a light, fun read. I just wished that the Doctors met up. A good read.

Colin says

An incoherent mish-mash of second hand ideas

Peter Roe says

Liked the idea but written too tongue in cheek, got bored with how funny the author thought he was with his little asides. Could have been so much better.

Ian says

Review here: <https://fsfh-book-review2.webnode.com...>

Nicholas Whyte says

It's a Past Doctor Adventure featuring Two, Victoria and Jamie in one time-line, and Four, Romana I and K9 (plus Brigadier and Benton) in another, dealing with a weird space-time anomaly which traps the earlier Doctor in a small town based on the Simpsons. I thought there were some good character moments - especially for the two Doctors and the female characters - but rather lost track of the plot. Apparently there are lots of Simpsons in-jokes which sailed over my head. Indeed I felt that a lot of the book was the author thinking he was being funny, but it didn't really work for me.

William says

this is a doctor who adventure that stars the second and fourth doctors it begins when the second doctor and co. get stranded in a small town in the middle of nowhere that is under the control of an unknown intelligence that is influencing random people to murder each other in the most gruesome ways possible. the fourth doctor is also called to earth by an old friend being kidnapped it had a strange writing style and interesting enemies for the doctors to face, but the plot is nowhere to be found and it loses its hook about halfway through the 6th chapter.

(has a male protagonist)

Jamie Revell says

Doctor Who in a cross-over with both *The Professionals* and *The Simpsons*.

Well, all right, not really. Or at least, while there's some truth in it, the end result rather less entertaining than that might sound. This is, basically, a comedy, and its tone is rather uneven, at times crossing the line into merely being silly.

For example, while there are three characters in it that certainly look like those from the *The Professionals* (for copyright reasons, they obviously have different names) they don't really act much like them, and aren't even a particularly funny pastiche of the show they're pinched from. At least using *The Simpsons* for comedy makes sense.

Okay, so the fusion with these two shows (and, actually, a few others) is really a very minor part of the book. But they are an illustration of how it wanders about, flitting between crazy humour and dark horror in a way that never quite coheres. Supporting characters are never really developed, and the whole thing feels rather patched together.

Which is a pity, because there are some rather good bits in it. The story features both the Second and Fourth

Doctors, and the basic threat (once we get round to it) is quite a good one. There are some genuinely funny parts, as well as real menace when appropriate. If the author would only stop messing about and get some focus, this would be an easy four stars.

The Second Doctor parts are, on the whole, better than those with the Fourth. The set-up is interesting, the monster rather cool, and he and his companions are all well written and believable. That's what gets this three stars, rather than two.

But, on the whole, you rather get the impression that Stone is just trying too hard. Nor does the novel fit terribly well with its supposed place(s) in continuity, and there's the odd bit where things that are ostensibly 'real world' don't make sense, either.

Final conclusion: should have been better, but could have been worse.

Christian Petrie says

This might be a bit of a spoiler, however it will take away one expectation from the story. The 2nd and 4th Doctor never interact with each other. Due to the cover showing both of them, you expect this to be a Doctor team up story, but alas it is not. When I first read this book, that was one the thing I remembered from this story. How disappointing that was. Knowing that this won't happen, I was able to focus on the story more.

With that being said, this story does involve both the 2nd and 4th Doctors, but their stories run in tangent with each other. You know somehow they are linked, the question while reading is how are they connected. With each chapter switching between them, it helps with the pacing of the plot.

Dave Stone does a good job of writing, and at time it comes close to feeling like a story from the Douglas Adams script editor period. There are some nods and winks sprinkled throughout the story that are fun. At the same time they get a bit tiring, especially when you pick up on some Simpsons nods. However, his writing and structure of the novel help with making the plot simpler compared to other Past Doctor novels.

For the characterization of the Doctor and his companions, Dave Stone does a good job. One of the strengths of the Past Doctor stories is giving a wider place outside the BBC budget for the Doctor. The 2nd Doctor sequences work in this environment, as it creates something that could not have been done on screen with the 2nd Doctor. It also brings in the extra treat of the 4th Doctor interacting with UNIT again.

The only thing I would question is placing it during the Key to Time season. The way it is written it could be placed after The Armageddon Factor and before Destiny of the Daleks. It has no bearing on the hunt for the key to time. The Key to Time is referred to, but is not integral to the 4th Doctor's story.

In the end it is an enjoyable read and could be read as a stand alone Doctor story. You won't need to worry about continuity with anything. At the same if you miss some of the references made, it doesn't impair the enjoyment of reading it.

Peer Lenné says

Was soll man nur über dieses Buch schreiben? Es ist absoluter Müll! Nein... Es ist ein Meisterwerk! Oder ist es meisterwerklicher Müll? Bis zum Schluss hin konnte ich mich nicht entschieden, ob ich das Buch mag oder nicht; ob ich es bis zum Ende weiterlesen sollte oder nicht. Stone ist ein Wortkünstler, so viel steht fest. Jeder seiner Sätze ist Gold und es macht alleine schon Spaß sie zu lesen. Dabei ist es nicht mal wichtig was da steht, wie es da steht ist wichtig. Inhaltlich bringen die ersten zwei Drittel des Buchs nämlich fast gar nichts zustande, und das was er zustande bringt, ergibt erst am Schluss wirklich Sinn... oder besser "Sinn"! Stone schiebt am Ende einfach alles so hin, dass es schon irgendwie passt und ich bezweifle, dass das von Anfang an so geplant war, sondern wohl eher gewachsen ist. Bei einigen Dingen von Deus Ex Machina zu reden wäre eine freche Untertreibung.

Von der Qualität des Buchs kann man sagen was man will, was Stone aber in den meisten Fällen gelingt ist, die Charaktere zu treffen. Die beiden Doctoren, Romana und der Brigadier sind hier besonders gut gelungen, auch wenn letzterer, genau wie Jamie und Victoria, eigentlich etwas zu wenig zu tun hat.

Das Buch zu beurteilen ist mir eigentlich gänzlich unmöglich, aber es sei gesagt, dass ich am Ende jedenfalls nicht das Gefühl hatte meine Lebenszeit mit dem Buch verschwendet zu haben.

PS: Wenn jemand das Buch lesen sollte und vor dem Ende beschließt aufzugeben, dem sei gesagt, dass er zumindest noch die beiden lächerlich guten Kurzgeschichten im Appendix lesen sollte.

Shannon Appelcline says

Fun (sometimes funny) writing, interesting plots, good characters, and a good non-crossover crossover. On the other hand, pretty slow and with a somewhat unsatisfying ending.

Daniel Kukwa says

It's got two problems: (1) Dave Stone's throw-everything-at-the-wall eccentric humour, which works as often as it misses, and (2) the 2nd Doctor's plot line isn't as interesting as the 4th Doctor's plot line. In fact, the best thing about this book is the late-70s era 4th Doctor & Romana sauntering into the middle of an old school UNIT setting and upending all expectations. I would have much preferred that the entire novel be set in this zanier yet hilarious milieu.

David Layton says

Because Dave Stone has a distinctive style and voice for narrating a story, his works can be offputting to those who like a plot delivered straight. Stone's style is of a certain kind of narrator in modern British fiction, one who maintains a long distance between the narrator and the story, commenting ironically on events, stepping in with whimsical observations and seeming non-sequiturs. It's the style of Douglas Adams, Gwyneth Jones, Ford Maddox Ford, and others. A reader looking for some style in the narrative, however, finds this approach rewarding and probably, in the case of Heart of TARDIS, the best thing in the book. The main problem dragging this novel down, though, is the plot. It's as though Stone paid so much attention to the style that he ignored the fact that a novel in a popular genre needs a plot.

The premise is promising enough. Doctor 2, Jamie, and Victoria are having one adventure while Doctor 4 and Romana (K-9 gets only briefly mentioned) are having another, but even though these are at different

times and different places they are in some way happening simultaneously and each is affecting the other. The concept is daring, but it requires a writer skilled in maintaining the connections, one who knows at each point what the link is. This is where *Heart of TARDIS* falls to pieces. We learn that the connection has something to do with a prototype TARDIS gone haywire, and that the proximity of Doctor 2's TARDIS accidentally landing near the anomaly created by the prototype TARDIS sets off a kind of chain reaction. Had the story been left at the level of just this problem, it would have been fine. However, Stone heaps on top of it some extra-dimensional demons acting like Cthulu mythos monsters, a possessed Aleister Crowley with extended life, a secret US military base in England, and a secret government agency infiltrating UNIT. Early parts of the novel work well, keeping the reader guessing as to what is causing events and how they are connected. However, about 3/4 of the way through, Stone loses control of the plot. It becomes "and then reality went all crazy" and "look, an elephant in pyjamas, isn't that weird?" and a giant human pyramid of 250,000 people creating a human analog thing of some kind. Adding to the catastrophe are dozens of off-hand references to popular television scattered throughout the novel - *The Simpsons*, *The X-Files*, *Queer as Folk*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and on and on. Finishing with an ending that isn't an ending, just "and then it was all over" more or less, the last 1/4 of the book is one of biggest disappointments for a Doctor Who novel. It's sad because given the premise, *Heart of TARDIS* could have been one of the best Doctor Novels.
