



Doctor Who: Frontier Worlds

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What strange attraction lures people to the planet Drebnar? When the TARDIS is dragged there, the Doctor determines to find out why. He discovers that scientists from the Frontier Worlds Corporation have set up a base on the planet, and are trying to blur the distinction between people and plants.

Doctor Who: Frontier Worlds Details

Date : Published November 29th 2000 by BBC Worldwide Publishing

ISBN : 9780563555896

Author : Peter Anghelides

Format : Mass Market Paperback 273 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction

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Travis says

Something funny is going on at Frontier Worlds corporate headquarters, so the Eighth Doctor, Fitz and Compassion decide to get jobs at the company and play detective.

Not a bad idea and Fitz (the bumbler who so badly wants to be a cool man of action) and Compassion (the snotty lady with a secret) are great companions, but nearly the entire supporting cast is either unpleasant or uninteresting and the author can't stop reveling in the details of all kinds of bodily functions.

It almost seems like he realized he didn't have enough actual story for a novel, so padded it out with a bit of sex, a couple pages of gore and having one character pick his nose constantly. Wore pretty thin by the halfway point.

Plus, as much as I like Fitz, having him be the narrator for so many chapters didn't quite work, as he tends to be a slightly clueless everyman.

The alien was interesting, but awfully similar to an old Who monster, so I kept being distracted by why they just didn't use the old monster and at least get cut some slack from nostalgic fans like me.

There are some great action scenes, some clever ideas, nice portrayal of the Eighth Doctor and I liked the robot.

Not a bad book, but still a rewrite away from being a really good book. With some trimming it might have made a fun TV episode.

Angela says

The Doctor, Fitz and Compassion investigate a company who is doing experiments on an alien plant. These could cause the destruction of the system they are in. A decent story, that shows some extra depth to Compassion and Fitz. Though Fitz is put through the ringer again, I'm starting to be surprised that he continues to stay with the Doctor. There are some creepy and gory moments too. A good read.

Akiva says

[The fridgiest fridge plot ever to fridge, so Fitz's quote-unquote character development via

Basicallyrun says

I was surprised how much I liked this book - while I always like Anghelides' plots, his writing doesn't usually do it for me. I have to say, I love the bits from Fitz's POV. The first one made me give the book a few funny looks - Fitz is *British*, he's hardly going to be thinking about sidewalks - but once you realise the reason for that, it kind of makes it even more awesome. I like Fitz being all insecure and worried the Doctor doesn't need him, and I love how much they care for each other (Compassion too, in her own weird way). Plus there's some rather lovely banter when the Doctor is captured (hardly a spoiler, let's be honest - when *doesn't* he get captured?) and the bad guy is emptying his pockets - 'a strange assortment of confectionary' indeed! <3

Kathryn says

The characterisation in this one was really good. I also loved the humour displayed by Fitz. There were a few holes and unanswered questions, but overall it was quite an entertaining Doctor story!

Leela42 says

Eighth Doctor Adventure (EDA) with Fitz and Compassion. A great deal less than the fan reviewers said it was. (I suspect they were parched for SOMETHING resembling Doctor Who amid all the deconstructing and retconning that typified the EDAs.) Yes, this book would probably make a nice episode, but since that would require cutting a lot of the bits that I found plodding, that's hardly high praise. There are a couple of memorable action sequences, and a Doctor who acts instead of reacts, but the book is probably mainly of interest for advancing the Compassion and Fitz arcs--neither of which were of interest to me. The author is remarkably good at answering questions when the reader asks them, and at keeping track of things. On the other hand he has a habit of addressing issues several times where once would suffice, and the characters (including the Doctor) are often terribly slow to come to what the reader considers obvious conclusions. Personally, I found it disorienting when characters did thoughtless things and then something smart; it kept making me wonder how they could be so dumb. The parts narrated by Fitz are hard to read--the cultural references seem random and bizarrely American, like the author just strung stuff together and without any regard for whether someone from 1963 London would think in those terms. By the two-thirds mark I'd decided I had no particular fondness for the book and couldn't imagine wanting to reread it. I did like the final six chapters considerably better than the rest.

N says

This novel starts with basically the greatest chase sequence in all of Who, but then proceeds to dedicate itself to... grossout comedy? The writing is fantastic at times, but the Doctor and friends spend most of the action stuck at a terribly dull office with terribly dull people, struggling through a very predictable plot. And not in a subversive or postmodern way either. I kept procrastinating on this book because it was less alien than my actual desk job.

Fitz gets some good moments, especially concerning everything that happened to him in Interference.

Compassion absolutely shines throughout the book as well.

Anghelides' fascination with Dutch names is still amusing — in his last book he gave us a man named "Kadijk", this time around it's a Mr. "Kupteyn" that the heroes face.

Em says

A good story from the Doctor's point of view, but as usual, Fitz and Compassion each had their own boring subplot.

The dilemma was interesting and the action scenes were pretty good. I liked the tidbits of moral philosophy that got thrown in.

Read it if you like. If not, you're not missing too much.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1914347.html>

I had been a bit underwhelmed by the last few Eighth Doctor novels I read, but this one has restored my confidence. It's one of the few Who novels which I could easily imagine as the basis for a TV story; the Tardis crew investigate a dubious company doing genetic engineering on a convenient planet, the two companions going undercover, with all the personal conflicts that involves, and the Doctor taking on the bad guys directly. Fitz continues to be one of the best spinoff characters, and for the first time I actually found Compassion interesting (in, what, her third or fourth book). Well above average for this range.
