



Doctor Who: Mission: Impractical

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When daring criminal Jack Chance masterminds the heist of a precious national treasure from the planet Veltroch, it is the first step in a chain of events that could lead to the destruction of two civilisations...

Pursued by bounty hunters, the Sixth Doctor and his shapeshifting companion Frobisher run into old acquaintances Glitz and Dibber - notorious rogues who have become involved in something big: a covert government agency on Vandor Prime is forcing the pair to turn their criminal talents to its own ends.

The Doctor and Frobisher are soon drawn into the mysterious scheme themselves - but what game is truly being played by the authorities? How is the group of Ogron raiders involved? And who is so desperate to see the Doctor dead?

Caught in a web of deceit and pursued by ruthless killers, the Doctor's mission - should he decide to accept it - is to join Glitz's gang and pull off the crime of the century. And failure will result in an interstellar war costing the lives of millions...

Doctor Who: Mission: Impractical Details

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Corey Dutson says

That was probably one of the more enjoyable "Nothing actually happened" Doctor Who books I've ever read. Well-written, well-paced, and overall engaging. I think the part I enjoyed the most was that this book was effectively a "Let's roll out the B-Team" cast book: Ogrons, Glitz and Dibber, the CIA. Hell the main antagonist throughout the whole thing even had a goatee for christ's sake.

As enjoyable as all that was though, this book is effectively a story in which nothing really happens. It's a caper story, that's quick on wit, but lacking in overall delivery. The supporting cast are fairly one-dimensional, and the Doctor's character isn't really investigated at all (something I tend to look forward to in the books).

You can read through this book and enjoy it, if the Sixth Doctor is one you can enjoy. That said, you won't be singing it's praises to others. You won't shoot it down, but neither will you raise it up as an example of excellence in the Who book universe

Michael says

The Sixth Doctor & Frobisher. Between DWM comic strips War Game & Fun House.

Glitz and Dibber swagger straight off the set of Mysterious Planet and onto the pages of Mr McIntee's tale of galactic double-dealings and dashing derring-do. Along for the ride is Doctor Who Magazine's shapeshifter Frobisher, a gang of retired thieves, the most dangerous bounty hunters in the cosmos and a troop of always-good-for-a-chortle Ogron pirates. Colourful, brash and effortlessly amusing.

Angela says

The Doctor and Frobisher get mixed up with a plan to steal an artefact. It gets a bit more complicated when a bounty is put on the Doctor. This is fun, I love Frobisher the shape changing penguin as a companion, he really should be in more novels. The return of Glitz was welcome and it did explain a few things about him. This is really a heist book, and is really light hearted. There's even pirate Ogrons in it. A good read.

James Barnard says

At least one of the other reviews of this book suggest it is the worst of its kind ever written. Rest assured, it isn't, although I do sympathise with that reaction to it.

Having re-read it after 16 years, I'd forgotten how *slight* it is. There's not really a plot as such, more a series of set pieces viewed and linked together by different characters' perceptions of them. The characterisation is, generally, very good, and McIntee captures the voice of the Doctor, Glitz and Dibber

with aplomb. It's also interesting that I heard Frobisher's voice as coming from Robert Jezek, the actor Big Finish chose to play the part on audio - I view that as a big tick for the writers of the comics, audios and this book, all at the same time.

Re-reading old novels gives me a new perspective on them, and helps me see connections I hadn't realised were there. Like Lance Parkin's 'Trading Futures', I'm struck by how this one seems to have been written by an author who wants to sidestep their usual, highly detailed approach, and have a bit of fun - and the reaction to the resulting book is exactly the same: stick to what you're best at. As a writer, McIntee's strengths lie in the enormous lengths he goes to to research the societies he depicts, and his enviable ability to bring his scenes to life as if it were a movie. Neither really applies here, sadly - they're not meant to, I know, but it does mean this one lacks a certain something.

"Could do better". It's just as well that, in all McIntee's other books, he very much did. And anyway, if this really is the weakest in his own canon - or, indeed, for the BBC Books line (which is isn't) - it speaks volumes for the very high standards of the others.

Shannon Appelcline says

A fair novel that has a good feel for the Sixth Doctor era.

Jason says

The worst Doctor Who novel I've read. And there are some bad ones.

Pointless, aimless, and devoid of wit. Jampacked with useless, boring characters who take up most of the novel, leaving the Doctor on the sidelines most of the time.

Joseph S says

I enjoyed this. Froby AND Glitz? sign me up.

David Layton says

I grant that McIntee intended to write a light, inconsequential book. That he has done. But much of the humor forces a strain on the reader's credulity. Also, McIntee has chosen to rely on the awful Baker duo portrayal of Glitz as a nincompoop rather than Robert Holmes' superior characterization of Glitz as a smart professional who enjoys being a thief.
