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John Barrowman , Carole E. Barrowman

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It starts with a series of unexplained events. Earth tremors across the globe. People being driven insane by their heightened and scrambled senses. And the world is starting to notice - the number one Twitter trend is #TheLoco. Governments and scientists are bewildered and silent. The world needs Torchwood, but there's not much of Torchwood left. Captain Jack has tracked the problem to its source: a village in Peru, where he's uncovered evidence of alien involvement. Back in Cardiff, Gwen Cooper has discovered something lurking inside the Torchwood software - something alien and somehow connected to Jack. If the world is to be restored, she has to warn him - but she's quickly becoming a victim of the madness, too!

Exodus Code Details

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Dan says

Your enjoyment of this new Torchwood book probably depends largely on how much you enjoyed the TV show's fourth series, Miracle Day. If you hated it this isn't for you. If you thought it was OK though this is a decent follow up. It sees a new disaster for Earth where women are having breakdowns and hydrothermal vents are popping up instantaneously all over the world. It doesn't look good.

The use of the main characters in this book is pretty atrocious. Gwen is one of the women having a breakdown and whilst that gives a good window to the plot it means half of Torchwood is out of action. Rhys and Andy Davidson are both in it but as more minor characters their roles aren't very important. Captain Jack is the hero of the tale and whilst he is characterised well (who knows him better than John Barrowman, the actor who plays him) he spends most of the book out of it as well. Miracle Day's Rex Matheson makes a very fleeting appearance which seems unnecessary. Either use him or don't.

Having said that, some of the supporting cast is pretty good. A portion of the book is set on The Ice Maiden, a high tech boat with a crack team of scientists and thanks to Jack a holographic computer personality. It feels like a new Hub and team and I only wish their role had been used more.

The plot itself is in many ways like Miracle Day. Not a lot really happens for the first three quarters, it all building up to a decent but actually pretty easily solved finale. It's pretty global with large bits set in South America and although technically an alien is involved it's a sci-fi story without any aliens, again.

It's a decent effort from John and his sister and at least it continues the show whilst on it's everlasting hiatus but it doesn't quite work. Too long is spent on build up and the characters aren't used effectively and it's like they haven't learnt any lessons from the bad press Miracle Day got.

Kristi says

It took a while before it really felt like another chapter to the Torchwood story to me. It was nice to get back to Jack, Gwen, and Rhys again. Anwen is adorable in her few appearances in the book. I could have done without Rex Matheson and the CIA in a few chapters. Losing Esther and keeping Rex was one of the low points of Miracle Day for me. New characters that I liked were Eva and Vlad. I was glad when the Renso, Gaia/mountain/puma, and Isela connections were explained by the end because those were making the story a bit disjointed for me. I liked that the chapters were short, which motivated me to read more chapters in a single sitting.

Carl says

Given the authors, almost everything about Torchwood (including references to Doctor Who and The Sarah Jane Adventures) was included in this amazingly written novel. To be honest, it was the best Torchwood book I've read, and I've read almost all of them. I read this one in just under 24 hours: I couldn't put it down. The pacing was excellent and it was told in a way that reminded me of both Miracle Day and the original

Torchwood series (aka it was brilliant). Obviously Captain Jack Harkness stole the show here (not surprising for many reasons) but it was nice to see some old friends too: Gwen, Rhys, and even Rex. It was a great story that I wish hadn't ended. The only complaint I had is that it seemed to end before I wanted it to, before everyone was back together. But that's only a very small complaint in a novel that I absolutely loved. Do yourself a favor and pick it up!

R J McKay says

Who else but John Barrowman aka Captain Jack could write a Torchwood novel. John and Carole Barrowman do a fantastic job of staying true to Torchwood history.

In “Torchwood Exodus Code” women around the world are going insane, attacking loved ones and mutilating themselves. While across the earth, tremors are occurring. Geysers are popping up and underwater chimneys are venting toxic element. The world governments seem unable to cope with the growing catastrophe. This is just the sort of thing Torchwood would have handled, but Torchwood no longer exists.

Captain Jack realizes the world needs to be restored to its natural balance. Faint memories of a time in the 1930's when Jack visited a small village in Peru seem to be at the center of all the problems. Meanwhile, Gwen Cooper has been afflicted by the insanity that is spiraling out of control. But it isn't until Jack sees what Gwen has carved into her arm that things start to come together. In true Torchwood fashion, Captain Jack hitches up his braces and comes to the rescue.

Mel says

Amazing

What a great Torchwood story by authors John and Carole Barrowman.

I loved the path this story took and the way it ran along a timeline of Captain Jack Harkness' past present and future.

Great plot- it covered a range of topics, including the impact man has on climate change, magic, Jack flirting and sci-fi, what more do you expect from a Captain Jack story. There were no plot holes or areas of concern, pulling me from the story.

Strong, new characters that were relatable and absolutely endearing. I loved how we got to explore a little about Rhys and Gwen, and we got another amazing Captain Jack adventure. The boat crew and village that played prominent roles in the story were well developed and made the story more enjoyable.

I found this story hard to put down, unfortunately being an adult requires work, eating and sleeping be done daily, meaning I was unable to read this story in one go, like u wanted to.

I hope there are more Captain Jack stories in the future, as this made me miss him all the more ♥♥?

Siân says

I loved it. Loved it. It was brilliant. The storyline was gripping and the conclusion was fantastic. I love Carole's writing, and Captain Jack is there just like in the series on the telly. Highly recommended.

Lynette says

Remember when Torchwood fought aliens? Yeah, I miss those days. I would have rather seen this filmed than Miracle Day, but that being said, I didn't really like it. In fact, I don't think I actually enjoyed it at any point. There were a lot of aspects of it that I felt were unnecessary - Rex, the kidnapping storyline, etc. I have no problem with - and, in fact, like seeing - so many gay characters, but it felt like almost everyone was gay/bisexual.

In addition, I just couldn't care about the plot. it felt so much like Miracle Day - which I hated on a primal level - all over again. Did we really need another "OMG the entire world is going to be destroyed and only Jack's blood/body can save it" story? We need Torchwood books that take place in the UK with Gwen and Jack both as main characters, instead of the fairly minor role Gwen has been relegated to since COE. It needs to feel like Torchwood. Although, I suppose it can't since RTD messed everything up with Children of Earth and Miracle Day.

I am still waiting to find out more about the Time Agency. Please, no matter what form the next TW story takes, can we please find out something more about Jack's past before he met the Doctor?

I feel like I'm betraying the Barrowmans by not loving this book. I know they didn't have carte blanche, but I'm still so sorry!

Andrew says

You would expect this Torchwood novel, written by its star, John Barrowman (with his sister), to be fairly faithful to the tone of the TV series. And Exodus Code doesn't disappoint. As I read it, I could absolutely picture this being filmed for television. I could hear the actors saying their characters' dialogue, and imagined the scenes as they would be filmed. The Barrowman siblings have written a very visual novel. However, by throwing in an element of synesthesia, they've also created a story that works on the page better than it would on the screen, by including something that could only be experienced by getting into the characters' heads.

It's not a perfect novel; the ending feels a bit rushed and confusing to me. However, for fans of Torchwood, with no new TV series in sight, this will strike a lot of familiar chords, and will fill the desire for a new Torchwood story. It also speaks well for the writing team of the Barrowman siblings. It's easy to imagine that this book was commissioned on the celebrity name of the TV star. However, this doesn't feel like just some cynical vanity project, but the product of two authors who truly love the series, and want to do right by it. Lots of fun!

Amy Adams says

Maybe I'm still just bitter about the deaths of Ianto, Tosh and Owen and miss the days when Torchwood actually fought aliens but I just couldn't get into this as much as I wanted to. The writing was good though, so I have a feeling that I would have enjoyed this a lot more if it wasn't suppose to be a Torchwood book.

The plot was a little messy at times and the end seemed a little rushed and confusing, I wasn't really quite sure what happened.

Carmen D says

The book Torchwood: Exodus Code, written by John Barrowman and Carol E. Barrowmen, was very good, however a bit hard to read. It was as if an entire season of a show was smashed into one book and I tended to lose concentration of where I was or what was happening at certain points. I also feel as if the book jumped around into too many perspectives, and it was hard to keep track of what was happening at what time and place. However, the plot was fascinating and I liked how in the end everything tied together nicely. This book was fairly good, and I would recommend it to anyone who has watched Torchwood on TV, and is looking for some new material to indulge on.

Gareth says

Very disappointing after their excellent YA novel "Hollow Earth". Far too much build up and Gwen being a misery, before a weirdly abrupt ending. Was often a hard going read.

Mary says

First off, I am a big fan of the Torchwood television series, which would be the only reason to read this book. I doubt it would have much draw if you were not already familiar with the characters.

Second, I found this book to be quite readable and well written overall. I might have given it 2.5 stars. Yet it is deeply flawed—as part of the ongoing Torchwood drama. It doesn't add much, if anything, to the individual characters' development; we learn nothing new about Jack or Gwen, and they don't grow or change in any way. I found it annoying that Gwen was taken out of commission early on and played essentially a minor role.

The crux of the novel's problems was in plot flaws, though. Like, why was it that Jack couldn't remember this significant thing that happened to him back in 1930? I mean, the plot really turns on it, that he couldn't remember, and that just seems weak. I also did not care for the mystical Gaia thing—because it turns out to be a lame plot device that remains unexplained. In keeping with the more-or-less scientific sci-fi tradition of Torchwood and Dr. Who, “gods” must always turn out to be alien life forms. So when Gaia is just Gaia, and the whole thing is just “the prophecy must be fulfilled,” it seemed pretty stupid.

As I read this on my Kindle, I always noticed where I was in the story. So when, at 85% through, I still had no idea what was going on over at the hacienda in Peru, I thought, WTF? So the pacing seemed off. And obviously that whole bit was only there to add guns and drama. It wasn't really integrated with the weak main story of Gaia. In fact, I am still thinking, what was that part about?

I was really surprised that the new character from the American series, Rex Matheson, was almost nonexistent in this story. It seems like there is a lot of potential there—another immortal, for god's sake!—plus Rex is really likeable and provides a nice contrast to Jack's character. He should be a feature in the next Torchwood story.

Last but not least, the whole synesthesia thing got old while reading it. I mean, how many times can I read about the character having a "strong taste of ginger" in his or her mouth and be expected to care about it?

So there you have it—in my humble opinion, this wouldn't work that well as the next miniseries or season of the TV show, unless it is heavily re-worked.

Karin says

As a fan of the BBC television series, I was eager to read this book co-authored by its talented lead actor, John Barrowman, and his sister, Carole. The book is fast-paced and reads like a screenplay... full of flashbacks from present day to 1930s Peru, chapter-closing cliff-hangers, witty and suggestive dialogue... all the pillars of Torchwood fans expect from the television episodes. Jack is brought to life again (in art... as in his DNA) through skillfully crafted words... flashing his beguiling grin, clenching his square jaw under stress, and changing in to slightly too-tight T-shirts whenever possible. Highly recommended for fans of the series.

Lucinda says

An adrenaline-pumping, nail-bitingly brilliant read that is fast-paced and full of the unexpected!

This eagerly-awaited Torchwood novel, written by Carol E and John Barrowman (who played Captain Jack Harkness since 2005) certainly lives up to expectations. Full of intense drama and absorbing narrative this captivating, compelling read is a real page-turner. Complete within this universally loved creation are those distinctive, markedly memorable characters such as Gwen Cooper and Rhys, this book would make a fantastic drama adaptation and fifth series after *Miracle Day*. Once this exciting adventure takes hold it never lets go, as you are plunged into a world of danger, mystery and unstoppable action that keeps you sat on the edge of your seat in suspense throughout.

Unexplained, curious events take place such as Earth tremors across the globe and women bizarrely being driven insane by their heightened and scrambled senses. The number one on Twitter is '#realfemmesfatales' which not only baffles the government and scientists (who remain inconspicuous and silent) but also civilians. It seems that this curious conundrum can only be solved by the Torchwood team, but sadly this secret organization doesn't contain many members. Fortunately Captain Jack Harkness has traced the problem's source, a small village in Peru, where he's uncovered evidence of alien involvement.

Meanwhile in Cardiff, Gwen Cooper has discovered something alien and somehow connected to Jack. If the world is to be restored, she has to warn him - but she's quickly becoming a victim of the madness, too...

Torchwood is back, after the Miracle, with another mystery to solve that again links to Jack's remarkable and eccentric past. Full of energy, intelligence and humour this cleverly crafted, deeply thought-provoking read is truly astonishing and a fantastic read. As a fan of the television drama series and all things science-fiction and fantasy, this action-packed adventure will delight many fans by taking you on a thrilling, blood-curdling, unforeseen rollercoaster of a ride! Amidst the exquisite storyline is such undeniably fabulous originality as to delight, containing arresting and well-written prose.

Any fan of Torchwood and The Hollow Earth (also by Carol E and John Barrowman) must mark this as a 'must-read'!

Eri says

I'm still hesitating between 4* and 5*, very upset I can't set 4,5* because right here, I really want to use it.

So. Last Torchwood book I had to read. I enjoyed whole series with passion of fan who just found something they didn't know they missed from their life. So basically, I devoured them, including, with certain hesitation, this piece.

At first, this book didn't immediately catch my attention fully. It was *kinda interesting*, but I was still able to put it aside and go to sleep.

Because it was made of really nice scenes that did not completely connect with each other.

But somewhere around half of the book it simply clicked and I had no time to make myself new pot of tea, I simply had to finish reading it.

(view spoiler)

I shouldn't probably write these shoutouts as soon as I'm finished with reading but nah. I also wonder about one thing - given that first Doctor Who book translated into Czech language was just published in CZ, will I get to see TW books in Czech bookstores as well? Book like this is certainly something I would like to see also my not-English-speaking friends read.
