



# Doctor Who: Relative Dementias

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*'Do Time Lords get Alzheimer's disease?' asked Ace. 'Oh, we get far worse things than that, Ace. The dementias that plague us are much, much darker.'*

Collecting his post in the London of 2012, the Doctor and Ace are called through time to south-east Scotland to help out an old friend -- an old friend who's vanished. They find themselves at Graystairs, an Alzheimer's treatment clinic and a place of healing, where the patients seem to be gaining a new lease of life. But whose life is it?

Why is the Doctor so reluctant to reveal what happened in the TARDIS before their arrival? Why are cats and dogs -- not to mention people -- disappearing? Who is the shadowy figure stalking the Doctor and Ace? And what is the secret of the mysterious Miss Chambers, whom no-one remembers meeting?

Soon, the Doctor and Ace find out the hard way that actions have consequences -- and that there's more than one kind of dementia.

## Doctor Who: Relative Dementias Details

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Author : Mark Michalowski

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**Nicholas Whyte says**

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2590470.html>

2002 novel, set immediately after Battlefield, involving alien invasions, UNIT and an old people's home. There is a decently complex alien behind it all, and a nifty bit of timey-wimey manoeuvring at the end, but I felt it was fairly average. The Seventh Doctor / Ace relationship is nicely reset to the Season 25 status, this after years of development through the Virgin New Adventures. It was Michalowski's first novel - I've enjoyed his later work more.

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**Daniel Kukwa says**

A beautifully told tale that captures the 7th Doctor's era with great deftness & sensitivity. It combines all the charm of the TV adventures with the moodiness & complexity of the best "New Adventures" novels, and even offers up a moment of shocking comeuppance for the chess-playing McCoy incarnation of the Doctor. A satisfying debut novel from Mark Michalowski.

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**Christopher Buchanan says**

I was originally going to accuse this book of being a bit slow and scooby-dooish, however, the ending sold me. A very intriguing bit of the old Timey-Whimey that actually makes sense. Moffat could take a lesson from this guy. I did like the exploration of the heart break of dementia as well. All in all a good book. Perhaps a bit slow or over long in parts but it pays off.

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**Leela42 says**

Past Doctor Adventure (PDA) with the seventh Doctor and Ace. Written like a TV episode. Excellent characterisation of the Doctor and Ace. An excellent construct, but I enjoyed the book less and less as I went thanks to the arbitrary usage of the Plot Device family.

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**Simon Curtis says**

An excellent Who story, and excellent novel, and a sad look at the mental demise cause by dementia. Moving.

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## **Michael T Bradley says**

Oh, hey, a Doctor Who book featuring the Seventh Doctor where he MOSTLY acts like the Seventh Doctor! I get so frustrated with the New Adventure books and their insistence on taking away his memory/mojo all the damn time in order to be "fresh" and/or "exciting." In this book, that happens, but for just a couple of chapters.

Overall I found this very fun, though Act II is a bit of a slog with not much happening, it feels like. But we get some great bits that feel right at home with this era of the show, and a good peek into Ace's mind without having to get all mawkishly navel-gazey like the NA stuff seems to love (I honestly do like a lot of the NA stuff, it just feels like, at times, they're trying SO HARD to prove they're cool they feel like 1990's Marilyn Manson).

A decently good reveal behind the mystery of the events going on throughout the book, too. Nothing too complex, and nothing too straightforward, either. Just pretty solid overall, if a bit padded.

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## **Tim Dunn says**

So many Doctor Who books (and I have all the new ones)....a written review is unnecessary for them all.

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## **Dave Bowmore says**

The Doctor apart from being a powerful time traveling, face changing hero, is also an interstellar detective. There is always a problem, inevitably a dead body or two, lots of action and some sort of twist. This is Aces story and what a story, she truly messes with time and plays The Doctors game superbly.

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## **James Barnard says**

I have read this one before, but, for once, on re-reading it I found I couldn't remember anything about it!

That is more down to my state of mind at the time, I suspect, than any fault on the part of Mark Michalowski in his first novel. The fact that Michalowski has subsequently become something of a leading light in Doctor Who fiction can be traced back to this novel - a strong idea, with a well-plotted story which makes full use of structure to persuade readers to keep reading past the end of each chapter!

My only slight criticism is what, in this Steven Moffatt-led era, we now refer to as "timey-wimey" elements. It may have been a good idea at the time, but on balance I think the book may work better without it. That, incidentally, is the reason I've given this three stars rather than the four the rest of the book so thoroughly deserves.

That, and the fact that Michalowski has built on this strong starting point with each work he's given us.

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## **Travis says**

A lot of good bits add up to an unsatisfying whole.

The mystery at the nursing home was clever, the characterization of the Seventh Doctor and Ace was strong and the 'wibbily-wobbily, timey-whimey' bits were well handled.

At the same time I wasn't 'wowed' by the book.

The bad guys were a bit weak and some of the background bits dealing with UNIT came across as overly cynical and dark. More of the 'it's only realistic if we show people and groups as flawed' school of writing.

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## **Shannon Appelcline says**

Strong characterization of the main players, a neat plot, lots of good secondary characters, and an actual attention to time travel that's surprisingly rare in classic Doctor Who.

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