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The TARDIS lands on Phobos, moon of Mars - where extreme sports nuts of the future indulge their passion for gravity-boarding and wormhole-jumping. But there's something lurking in the shadows, something infinitely old and infinitely dangerous. It's not for nothing that 'Phobos' is the ancient word for 'fear'...

Doctor Who: Phobos Details

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Aidan says

I was intrigued by the setting for this story - a moon of Mars that has become a draw for the extreme sports crowds who have discovered a strange phenomenon that allows them to experience an amazing adrenaline rush when bungee jumping, and which one inhabitant claims is infested with monsters that kill (that no one else has seen).

Disappointingly though I found the storyline Robson created to be much less intriguing than the setting. Though the script tries to cultivate a sense of mystery one of the character's motivations are pretty clear long before the big 'reveal'.

Where Phobos does work though is in the strength of the cast that includes Timothy West and Nerys Hughes. Both actors give splendid, thoughtful performances which helps elevate the performances.

Jamie Revell says

The fifth episode of Big Finish's 8th Doctor series is set on the titular moon, at a time when it has been turned into a resort for extreme sports enthusiasts. Something is killing off the tourists, and, while the ultimate explanation isn't the most original in SF, the mystery of getting us there is quite well handled.

As is often the case with this series, originally produced for BBC Radio, some high quality actors help lift the material above what might otherwise be a fairly standard story. Lucie, in particular, is well used again, and is turning out to be really rather a good companion, in some ways foreshadowing Donna on TV.

In what may be another nod to the then-fairly-new RTD era, there's even a gay romance subplot, and quite a human dimension to the story. Indeed, it's possibly the most like Nu Who of any of the episodes in this particular series.

On the other hand, one is starting to get the impression that the season's recurring villain is a bit incompetent...

Steven says

The Doctor and Lucie land on Phobos, the moon of Mars, which has become popular with extreme sports fans in the future, due to a wormhole on the surface which is used for bungee jumping. The Doctor and Lucie listen to Kai Tobias's stories of monsters on the surface, although no-one takes him seriously. Later the monsters from Tobias's stories appear and begin attacking visitors. When The Doctor discovers that the monsters are just robots, Tobias reveals that an entity from another universe is in the wormhole and that it feeds on the pleasurable fear extreme sports fans feel. However, it is hurt by real fear and Tobias made the robots to create real fear. The Doctor enters the wormhole and shows the entity his fears, which kill it, and The Doctor and Lucie leave. The Headhunter awakens on the moon's medical ward, angry that she has missed Lucie again.

Tabitha says

This was a much more interesting story than the last couple I listened to, and feels very much like something you'd see as a Who episode (TV) in the post-2005 series. To be fair, I'd listened to several back-to-back, and so found myself comparing them. This reminded me a bit of a David Tennant TV episode (Satan's Pit, maybe?) crossed with another episode that I can't quite recall at the moment.

Overall, I felt this one was well done. Lucie is turning out to be a great companion, and it's nice to see (hear) the relationship between her and the Doctor evolving.

Mel says

I enjoyed this one despite the idea of extreme sports. There was a girl married to a giant monster, a gay couple, a mad old man, beings from another dimension. It was a different story and good to revisit the first series version of Lucie Miller again. She seemed much tougher and funnier. I also liked the scary doctor at the end. In many ways this felt the closest to a "new who" episode of any of the BF audios I've heard.

6 years later and I liked it even more.

Sara Habein says

A solid, briskly-paced story with queer male characters. Would recommend.

Nicholas Whyte says

On Phobos, the Doctor and Lucie find themselves in a leisure resort on the eponymous Martian moon, where there are peculiar things afoot. It turns out to be a bit of a mess of aliens, robots and conspiring humans, with Big Name Actors such as Nerys Hughes and Timothy West. It gets unpacked more or less convincingly, with a couple of lucky escapes and fortunate coincidences. Wikipedia sees links with The Fearmonger and The Impossible Planet/The Satan Pit; it reminded me more of The Leisure Hive.

Steven Shinder says

This wasn't as enjoyable as the previous installments, but the voice acting was still good.

Tara says

this was FUN, if not necessarily good? I'd have liked this a bit more if there was any crossover with the Xander Cage movies.

Emily Ross says

I really enjoyed this audiobook, and I think its much better than the previous installment. I love the relationship developing between the Doctor and Lucie, and I think that the both of them are narrated brilliantly. The plot itself was a bit cheesy, but still enjoyable. It was really good.

Cthonus says

Slightly less than the sum of its parts.

Taken individually the strands of the this murder mystery are strong: a well-defined location, disparate characters. strange goings on... Yet despite the first rate appearances of Nerys Hughes and Timothy West (or maybe because they're the strongest things here) it never quite gels into a compelling whole.

There's a whole subtext of gay man loves best mate running through it but with a massive unreveal at the end. Maybe it was a bit more radical back in 2007 but now it just seems like a cop-out.

Still it is an enjoyable romp if not entirely memorable.

Hasselhh says

Kind of a let down. The plot felt like there was something missing somehow, like it just jumped ahead to get to the action before the time ran out.

Amanda says

I listened to the first season and half of The Eight Doctor & Lucie Miller incredibly close together and back to back, so all of them are going to end up with the same review for the moment while I'm fixing up my forgotten rec's and clearing out my Currently Reading Folder (which shouldn't be 40+ books, it should be somewhere relatively close to right under ten).

I have loved meeting Eight, and his resigned but inspirational way of being. I love Lucy's moxy, and her mouth. Her mouth may be the best thing on the planet. Even though I know the episodes are roughly the same length as tv episodes, from single one hours to double-extended two hours, somehow they end up feeling like bite-size, leaving me wanting just a little more from every single one.

H.K. says

Pretty enjoyable. I wish there was more closure on the two characters at the end. Also, I like the twist that someone is after Lucie.

Even though Eight and Lucie bicker a lot, this story finally got some headway with their growing relationship. Lucie begins to realize that the Doctor might be scarier than he appears, and the Doctor is starting to be protective of her even though they do not seem to get along much. I like this dynamic. As for this story, I liked the concept of it even if it's a bit of an overused Sci-fi trope. Fear monsters? Not like we haven't seen that in Doctor Who before. I do like the element of the adrenaline junkies though on one of Mars's moons. Pretty enjoyable audio play.

Gayle says

Enjoyed listening to this story. Phobos initially seems like the ideal holiday destination - no one particular person in charge; if a person can do a certain job then they do it, and you just pay what you can afford for things - however it soon becomes apparent the place is far from ideal...

I think Lucie Miller is my favourite 8th Doctor companion so far. I've recently started listening to the Charley Pollard stories but I don't find her as interesting as Lucie. I would love to see Lucie and indeed the 8th Doctor appear for Doctor Who's 50th anniversary in 2013 on tv, with Tennant, Smith and Eccleston.
