



Doctor Who: Demontage

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The Doctor, Sam and Fitz land on the Vega station, a pleasure center given over to gambling, shopping and the Arts. It hangs on the edge of Battrulian Space, close to the Earth colony's frontier with the Canvine, huge, wolf-like dog creatures.

The Earth colony president is arriving to attend an exhibition of the 3-D reality scans in oil paintings of Toulour Martinique. But the Doctor soon discovers there is more to the paintings than meets the eye. A dark secret is hidden behind the shallow delights of the station, and it seems that it is not only the President who is marked for death but the Doctor and his friends, too.

Doctor Who: Demontage Details

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Author : Justin Richards

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Em says

I was initially intrigued by the cover. That intrigue turned into resigned disappointment after the first few chapters of boring character introductions. The drama had too many characters, with too little focus on the Doctor. Poor Doctor took a back seat for most of the story. Even Sam was small and insignificant (although she didn't die or get mortally wounded for once, so I doubt she minds).

I still don't like Fitz. He has few redeeming qualities, and I am a bit incredulous every time Sam seems drawn to him or the Doctor tolerates him.

The pacing of the story was alright, but the bloodbath at the end seemed uncalled-for and I feel like the Doctor should've/could've done something about it. It's almost like the writer just said "screw this story, I'm bored. Time to kill some people," and BAM, there's your grand finale!

There were a few good bits: The Canvines were interesting aliens, the imagery was decent, and the end was satisfying--in a very childish 'just-desserts for everyone' kind of way.

If you love the Doctor but don't really care if he's the main character or not, go ahead and read it.

But you don't really need to. Continuity-wise, it doesn't change anything.

James Barnard says

This is probably the most enjoyable EDA from its year of publication, and one of the last genuinely standalone novels before the Faction Paradox saga sent the range hurtling up its own backside. In a lot of ways, it's an old-school Doctor Who story – almost a Base under Siege tale, but with a lot of, to coin a phrase, Artistic License on display.

Justin Richards excels at Doctor Who books. There doesn't seem to be a sub-genre he can't master, and 16 years from first publication, this has lost none of its flair and pizzazz. It's a masterclass in telling a story without undue reliance on continuity or familiar settings, and I can't help but feel that if the space opera style tales which preceded it had followed this pattern, the entire BBC Books range might be a little better remembered.

As our heroes – and for once there's no ambiguity about the fact they are heroes – almost say, they don't know much about art but they know what they like. I like this a lot.

Simon Curtis says

One of my favourite Who novels, and, oh look, it's Justin Richards again! Good setting, good characters, good conceit.

Angela says

The Doctor and Fitz got to a space station casino for a competition. Sam, meanwhile is bored and visits an art exhibition. The art is incredibly weird, and there is trouble on the station. This is a light hearted read, a welcome break from the previous books. It's nice to see the Tardis crew actually setting out to have fun before the adventure starts. Fitz is funny trying to be like James Bond. A good read.

Leela42 says

Eighth Doctor Adventure (EDA) with Fitz and Sam. The book that set the tone for many of Fitz's misadventures. A pleasant enough read, although if you're an experienced reader there are no surprises; the circumstances are just extraordinary enough that you keep reading out of curiosity as to how it's all going to work. It is occasionally obvious that the author is making characters thick just to stretch out the time. The climax is bad; worse, it doesn't fit with the rest of the book and it doesn't add up. As usual Sam is a jerk, but fortunately she has little to do.

Daniel Kukwa says

A novel full of interesting, well-drawn characters, a beautifully realized 8th Doctor/Sam/Fitz combo, that positively sings from the page, and a use of paintings that actually prefigures something similar being used in "The Day of the Doctor" by over a decade. But the most pleasant aspect of this novel is its pace. There is quite a bit going on, yet it's never in a hurry; it draws you in slowly & methodically. You can't binge on this novel -- it demands that you read it a few chapters at a time, then put it down to contemplate what is happening. A serene adventure in time & space.

Travis says

Fun read with an odd menace and some great scenes of Fitz trying to be a man of action and ending up in way over his head.

The Eighth Doctor books are real hit or miss, but I like the companions. they tried some different types than just the usual 'girl from earth'.

Nenyia says

Good fun scary mystery in this one. I think this was the first book where I started to like Fitz, for the times when he's trying to hard to be James Bond and failing. I like that unexpected vulnerability, and how he admires the Doctor, and how pretending to be him (from a combination of imitation-as-flattery and not wanting to back down and lose face) gets Fitz in way over his head. Looking back (it's been a while since I read this one) I wish there were more Sam, Fitz, and Eighth books; they're a team I really like and it won't be

long now in the series before we lose Sam.

Ken says

I really like how the story opens with The Doctor, Sam and Fitz are already on the space station Vega, it felt like they have been traveling together for awhile.

Theres lots of fun continuity references too, especially Fitz finding out that The Doctor can change appearances.

The mystery in the story is also good.

I really liked the idea of the paintings too, something that be used in the television series.

Overall an entertaining read, this felt like a traditional Who story with a great TARDIS team.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1770234...>

Demontage is one of the many Who novels of Justin Richards, who has written more of them than anyone except Terrance Dicks. It is one of the better ones as well, takin the Eighth Doctor, Sam and Fitz to a space station which thrives on gambling with an underpinning of organised crime, but also features an art exhibition where the pictures are more than they seem; ideas which have been done elsewhere, including elsewhere in Who, but are done well here with the formula successfully assembled. One of the better EDAs, and it made an interesting paired read with Alastair Reynolds' Chasm City.

Andy says

3.5 stars really, a good story that I think would work better on tv strangely enough
