



Doctor Who: Max Warp

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Welcome to Max Warp! Broadcasting live from the Sirius Inter-G Cruiser Show. Hosted by outspoken columnist and media personality Geoffrey Vantage, with spaceship-guru-extraordinaire O'Reilley and daredevil pilot Timbo 'the Ferret'.

When a test flight of the new Kith Sunstorm ends in disaster, the Sirius Exhibition Station is plunged into a web of murder and intrigue. Someone – or something – is trying to re-ignite a war between the Varlon Empire and the Kith Oligarchy.

As the fate of the galaxy hangs in the balance, only two investigators, the Doctor and Lucie, can hope to uncover the truth.

So strap yourself in, engage thrust, and prepare for... Max Warp!

Doctor Who: Max Warp Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Max Warp for online ebook

Inez says

Time and Relativr Dimensions... IN SHED!

Aidan says

As is often the case with these New Eighth Doctor Adventures, the casting for this story is excellent. Graeme Garden nails the character of Geoffrey Vantage, a not-at-all veiled parody of Top Gear presenter Jeremy Clarkson, replicating his over-the-top macho style perfectly. As much as I enjoyed Garden though, I had the most laughs from James Fleet in the role of O'Reilley - the boorish spaceship expert who suffers constant put-downs from Vantage.

While I think listeners who are knowledgeable about the TV show this production parodies will probably catch more of the jokes, Morris' script is funny enough to work without that background knowledge. Fortunately in any case, there is more to the story than the parody elements as there is also an intriguing murder mystery for the Doctor and Lucie to investigate played out against a backdrop of political tension.

Morris' script moves swiftly and he throws in several twists and turns to keep things fresh and maintain interest. Both leads seem to be enjoying the comic moments they are given, each receiving some good lines, and it is certainly nice to have an adventure in which both the Doctor and his companion seem to be enjoying themselves (at least for most of the time!).

A good, solid entry in this second season of adventures. It feels a little unimaginative compared to the previous story, Dead London, but it does what it sets out to do and does so pretty well.

Christopher Buchanan says

A solid little who-dunnit. (I'm hyphenating there, haha!) The supporting characters are fairly two dimensional and it's not exactly a mind bender of a story but it is fun. It's a Scooby-do. Paul McGann and Sheridan Smith have their usual chemistry going on and the production itself has some nice color to it. Not spectacular, but very enjoyable.

Emily says

It was ok and some of the Top Gear parody stuff was funny (especially James Fleet in the James May role), but it was a little overdone and the rest of the story was just average.

Jamie Revell says

The 8th Doctor series does its first comedy episode as it spoofs a certain BBC show that's on a par with *Doctor Who* itself in terms of popularity. The story is a murder mystery based around the eponymous show for spaceship enthusiasts in an unspecified future setting. It moves along at quite a pace, although the plot itself is rather bonkers and probably doesn't bear too much thinking about.

This would probably just be a 3-star audio if it weren't for the spoof elements, which serve to push it above the middling, if not quite to the height of excellence. Graeme Garden is particularly good as *Jeremy Clarkson* Geoffrey Vantage, and both he and his minutiae-obsessed co-presenter are well-written enough that it's hard not to envisage them as their real-world inspirations. (For plot reasons, the third presenter has rather less to do).

The jokes are at times a little laboured, and Lucie's increasingly mad theories about whodunnit somewhat implausible (if often quite funny), but, on the whole it's a decent entry in the series. Although it probably helps if you have at least a basic familiarity with *Top Gear*.

Steven says

One of the more comic outtins from the 8th Doctor and Lucie, built around a parody of the BBC's hit series Top Gear. Sadly, while the Clarkson parody is spot on, they kill off the equivalent of the Hamster right away, and render the James May analog as actually rather boring, lacking the glint of Mad Scientist May always has. It's a murder mystery underpinned by the possibilities of war.

Nicholas Whyte says

Also moderately good fun, with Graeme Garden guesting as a Jeremy Clarkson character whose equivalent of 'Top Gear' is at the centre of tensions in a delicately balanced peace process. Which makes more sense than at first sounds. I have never knowingly watched Top Gear but I still enjoyed it.

Christoph says

“Spin Droid, analysis murder investigation.”

- President

“Calculating. An announcement of further investigation would increase your approval rating of 4%. You should also wear a dark blue suit when making the announcement.”

- Spin Droid

“It’s amazing how effective politicians can be when they stop doing what their spin droids tell them.”

- The Doctor

Von einem atmosphärischen Start gleich rüber zu einem Mystery Crime Thriller, was will man mehr?

Der Doctor und Lucie landen inmitten einer TV Show über schnelle Autos, umgeben von prominentem Publikum. Die hiesige Präsidentin, berühmte Rennfahrer und die aktuellen Star Moderatoren sind vertreten. Die Show beginnt und der Pilot verliert die Kontrolle über sein Raumschiff, fliegt inmitten eines Mondes. Der Doctor erkennt sofort, dass dies kein Unfall gewesen sein kann, beginnt sofort mit den Untersuchungen, befragt die beteiligten Personen und deckt Schritt für Schritt das Geheimnis gemeinsam mit Lucie auf.

Eine spannungsgeladene Episode mit einigen Twists wird hier aufgelegt. Der Doctor ist ganz in seinem Element und spielt sich als ein von Neugier und Wissensdurst getriebener Hercule Poirot-Verschnitt auf. Jede befragte Person weist ein potentielles Motiv auf, egal ob durch politische Konflikte getrieben oder Rachegelüsten, vieles ist hier dabei.

Das Kernstück ist hier aber die Unterhaltung, unfassbar viele Querverweise und satirische Darstellungen manch bekannter Figuren - von denen ich ehrlicherweise die Wenigsten erkannt habe. Mein persönlicher Höhepunkt war der Spin Droid, der Wegbegleiter der Präsidentin, der oftmals mit verqueren und recht typischen Empfehlungen (für seine "Spezies") auftrumpfte.

Wikipedia sei Dank und meine Douglas Adams Verknüpfung hat sich bestätigt, die satirischen Darstellungen aus der "Branche der schnellen Autos" blieben mir verborgen, waren aber auch als Unwissender unterhaltsam genug, da sie die gängigen Klischeebilder schön bedient haben. Ein paar Episoden von Top Gear hab ich ja gesehen - wobei es waren auch jene, wo Darsteller aus Doctor Who als Gäste aufgetreten sind. *räusper*

Insgesamt: Spannend unterhaltsam, mit Twist

Dichotomy Girl says

I enjoyed this one a little bit more than the first one that I listened to.

Tabitha says

I could actually picture McGann's face as he drooled over the "toys" and when he was offended by Lucie insulting the TARDIS. It was a fun opening to the adventure.

There were many parallels between this story and modern day. Besides having a "Top Gear" feel about it, there was the boys with their toys, politics, war, sexism and even some conspiracy theorists. For the most part I was impressed with the way this was all handled in the time allotted.

The Doctor's speech near the end felt like a Scooby-gang who-done-it style of speech. Unfortunately, it did feel necessary to explain what was going on. It wasn't the best story I've listened to, but it was still worth the time.

Mel says

One of my least favourite troupes in Doctor Who is when they re-do a modern thing set in the future. Here they have a mock version of Top Gear. Err.... And Lucie seems to have lost all her brain cells! What's up with the "hamster and rodent" hypothesis.

I think this was definitely the weakest of the bunch so far.

Jon Arnold says

The essence of high concept: Doctor Who does Top Gear. Jonathan Morris spins a diplomatic murder mystery around the apparent death of one of the presenters of a much-beloved by boys of a certain age show. As you'd expect from that it's a fast moving comedy, the quicker pace of these single CD releases feeling like a breath of fresh air compared to the contemporary releases in their main range. The Max Warp sections don't amount to much more than parody, but they're given comic weight by an enjoyable performance from Graeme Garden as the Clarkson substitute. And the deliberately absurd murder mystery works mainly through the brio of Sheridan Smith. Lucie seems to have lost a few IQ points in this but to excellent comic effect – Smith is easily the best timer of a comic line to appear in a Big Finish release. Given the nature of the murder mystery there's inevitably a fair deal of exposition, particularly at the story's climax, but that's inevitable and compensated for by having the solution to the mystery linked to certain perceived flaws of the Clarkson TV persona. Not deep but certainly one of the better Big Finish comedies.

And for their next trick: Doctor Who does the Great British Bake Off... in space.

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.

Sara Habein says

Though I like the Jeremy Clarkson character getting his comeuppance, this one was just okay for me.
