



Doctor Who: Trading Futures

Lance Parkin

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'Welcome to the future.'

The early decades of the twenty-first century. All the wars have been won. There are no rogue states. The secret services of the world keep the planet electronically monitored, safe from all threat. There is no one left for United States and the Eurozone to fight. Except each other.

A mysterious time traveller offers a better future - he has a time machine, and with it, humanity could reach the next stage of evolution, they could share its secrets and become the new Lords of Time...

...either that, or someone could keep the technology for themselves and use it to fight the ultimate war.

A Classic Doctor Who Adventure featuring the Eighth Doctor as played by Paul McGann.

Doctor Who: Trading Futures Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Trading Futures for online ebook

Travis says

A decent, if uneven adventure that has excitement, adventure, cool rhino aliens and some clever ideas. Unfortunately, the main bad guy is fairly weak and all the political scheming gets on my nerves. Fitz and Anji are both interesting characters, because they are so different from the typical Who companion, but together they bother me. They are both flawed characters. It's too much. The two companion formula works best when you have one normal companion and one 'different' (Rose and Captain Jack, Rommana and K-9 etc.)

Anna says

Not the best doctor who book, in some ways it was a bit disappointing. The author's portrayal of Paul McGann's doctor was lacking, in my opinion. The story was really exciting in some parts, but mostly it was strange.

James Barnard says

Light-hearted, rollicking and fast-moving, this certainly doesn't rank alongside Lance Parkin's best work. However, if your work includes truly exceptional Doctor Who stories like 'The Dying Days', 'Father Time' and 'The Infinity Doctors', you're entitled to a complete change in direction if you fancy it – and if 'Trading Futures' doesn't really come close to these lofty heights, that's probably because it was never meant to.

I did a first draft of this review a couple of weeks ago but decided not to publish it because I was being mealy-mouthed. I criticised Parkin for not managing to paint what for 2002 was the near-future – and for 2014 is the even nearer future – as well as he had for, in publication order, Nazi-occupied Jersey, an unnamed planet in Earth's future empire, contemporary England, a non-specific period of Gallifrey's history, or 1980s England. But then, that's the problem with predictions of the future – they date more quickly than anything else, and predictions of the near-future even more so. We may only be 12 years on from the book's year of publication – and thus 12 years away from the events the book depicts – but it's clear even now that the world of a stateless Eurozone at war with the United States, with Russia a spent, barren wasteland, is not going to come to pass.

I have to say, that was clear to me even when I first read it. Anyway, that isn't the main driver of the book. We're given more tantalising glimpses of how a cosmos without the Time Lords is shaping up, with a number of factions taking advantage of the situation. The fact that the book is one of the last to do this without linking itself to the at times patience-sapping Multiple Realities saga should have been a point in its favour. It wasn't seen that way, of course, because one prediction of the future everyone failed to make was how standalone novels like this would soon become the exception rather than the norm.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing. I remember being very confused at the time at the level of knowledge the Doctor (who is unequivocally Paul McGann) seemed to have about what, for him in his amnesiac state, is

uncharted territory. Well, that gap was later filled quite nicely in 'Fear Itself' – an EDA which surely slots into a period in the Doctor's timeline some time before this one. I don't know if this was a conscious decision on that author's part, but I like to think it was. And it's as good a reason as any to be grateful to 'Trading Futures'.

I enjoyed this, but not hugely. There's nothing wrong with it – and it's quite nice to see a rare example of an attempted crossover between BBC Books and Big Finish, before both ranges made a conscious decision to split. But, let's face it, despite the debt it clearly owes to the recently rediscovered Troughton story 'The Enemy of the World', this doesn't feel like a Doctor Who story. Characters seem to travel with remarkable ease and speed from continent to continent, emerge unscathed from (un)natural disasters, and seem unfazed by the remarkable levels of coincidence here. But then Parkin's main influence here – like 'The Enemy of the World' – is the James Bond franchise, and on this basis it works well.

Dale Rosso says

Another decent story about the 8th regeneration of the wandering time traveler from Gallifrey.

Richard Wright says

Published in the period when there was no Doctor Who on the tellybox, and featuring the Eighth Doctor as played by Paul McGann, this near-future mash-up of Bond-style shenanigans and Who is... well, fine. Nothing special. A reasonable runaround. There's an interesting political backdrop, with the USA and Eurozone the superpowers of the day, and some reasonable intrigue about a time machine for sale that may not be all it's cracked up to be, and it all passes the time in good humour. On the down side, there's little in the way of real jeopardy for the characters, and while it makes an admirable attempt to blend some Bond nonsense into the usual formula, it doesn't quite suit the Doctor, to be honest. Of the Parkin novels I've read, this is probably the weakest.

Stephen Osborne says

A Doctor Who novel that channels the James Bond movies...and mostly, it works. There are even chapter titles such as The Spy Who Shot Me and Tomorrow Never Lies. The books during this period were, for me, going into a dark tunnel that I didn't particularly care for, but this one was pretty good.

Richard Harrison says

Pretty fun James Bond-esque caper for the Doctor. Not really sure what the point was but had enough fun reading it that I didn't care at all

Michael Blackmore says

Middling Doctor Who novel. Certainly readable but not amazing. Not quite up to my ideal for commuter reading.

Tom says

Fun story.

A fun, lightweight, stand alone adventure for the Doctor. The premise is interesting and the story cracks along at a good pace. It never lags, but neither is it truly great.

Em says

Is this meant to be Doctor Who or James Bond with aliens?

The characters were somewhat disappointingly reduced to fit the continuous action sequences. Fitz's adventure was hilarious though, and I think it tells us a lot about how much he's learned from the Doctor that he basically handled the aliens on his own while the Doctor was busy playing 007. (Though I do question the fact that he basically committed genocide and no one had a problem with this.)

The non-stop action made the story amusing enough. The goofiness was uncomfortable at times. The Doctor has some really good one-liners though.

If you love the Doctor and Fitz, read it anyway.

Daniel Kukwa says

I was close to awarding this action-packed & witty adventure tale four stars, but two things held me back. The first is that the story is from a time when the 8th Doctor novels were going down a path that didn't exactly grab my enthusiasm...and one particular set of characters is inserted into the plot with a rather mechanical feel, for story arc purposes that didn't interest me. The second reason is that (in my humble opinion) this story could work better with another type of Doctor/companion combo -- the 4th Doctor, Sarah & Harry, or the 9th Doctor, Rose & Jack. The McGann Doctor doesn't have the vibrancy here that Mr. Parkin gave him in "The Dying Days"; I'd also become rather tired of Fitz by this point, and Anji is one of several EDA companions that didn't fire my imagination. Overall, I found this a pleasant, but qualified success. If you're looking for Lance Parkin at his best, I'd stick to the glories of "The Infinity Doctors", "Just War", or "The Eyeless".

James Bowman says

Another fine and highly entertaining *Doctor Who* novel by Lance Parkin, featuring the Eighth Doctor, Fitz, and Anji. *Trading Futures* mixes spy-fi and sci-fi in a not-entirely-implausible near-future setting, with secret agents and other powers competing over a time machine while America and Europe grow ever closer to war. Parkin does a great job giving all three of our heroes their own plotlines (especially Anji), providing us with an interesting supporting cast, and throwing in enough unexpected twists and one-liners to keep things interesting. Fun stuff, and definitely one of the better Eighth Doctor tales. (A-)

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2314646.html>[return][return]I am not always a big fan of Lance Parkin, but I rather enjoyed *Trading Futures*. Good old Anji, the longest-running non-white Who companion (Feb '01-Aug '03, compared with Martha's single season run, generously extensible to one and a bit) gets a proper story here where the Doctor and Fitz are rather in the background, and she gets both a James Bond-like storyline and a wee bit of character development. There are various other nods to both Bond and Who continuity, and some deliberately crap aliens. I don't claim it as Great Literature, but I was very entertained.

Liria says

A good and fun book, that is really short, and honestly, just has too many characters and opposing factions for its own good. It's definitely not a bad book, but it also isn't one of Parkin's best, and both Anji and Fitz feel underused, though I liked the character of Malady Chang. The general story is quite interesting, what with the time travel con. The twist about the coffee definitely is one I saw coming from the start, but that doesn't mean it wasn't a fun ride. The pacing was also a bit off all in all, with the ending feeling really rushed. As much as I find the Onhirs interesting characters (and let's be honest, they are totally related to the Judoons in one way or the other right?), their plot simply seemed there as a thing for Fitz to do and as *dues ex machina* to deal with Baskerville.

So all in all, a good light hearted book, but definitely not one of my favorite.
