



Doctor Who: Judgement of the Judoon

Colin Brake

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Elvis the King Spaceport has grown into the sprawling city-state of New Memphis - an urban jungle, where organised crime is rife. But the launch of the new Terminal 13 hasn't been as smooth as expected. And things are about to get worse...

When the Doctor arrives, he finds the whole terminal locked down. The notorious Invisible Assassin is at work again, and the Judoon troopers sent to catch him will stop at nothing to complete their mission.

With the assassin loose on the mean streets of New Memphis, the Doctor is forced into a strange alliance. Together with teenage private eye Nikki and a ruthless Judoon Commander, the Doctor soon discovers that things are even more complicated - and dangerous - than he first thought...

Featuring the Tenth Doctor as played by David Tennant in the hit Doctor Who BBC Television series.

Doctor Who: Judgement of the Judoon Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2009 by BBC Books

ISBN : 9781846076398

Author : Colin Brake

Format : Hardcover 247 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Judgement of the Judoon for online ebook

Jacquelyn says

A guy who looks like the Tenth Doctor, a rhinoceros that acts like Worf, and Veronica Mars walk into a bar.

No, really. That happened.

And I know that sounds kind of neat. If there were a DW/TNG/VM crossover, my brain would explode from the sheer awesomeness. This is not that crossover. If you want that, look elsewhere. You might have to write it yourself.

I know these Doctor Who books aren't meant to win any awards, but some of them are just bad. In this case, I was looking forward to another romp around space with Ten, and what I got was a convoluted spaceport mystery gang war with a guy who looked very much like the Doctor but acted more like a lobotomized cousin of the Doctor. I got the feeling that the story the author wanted to tell had nothing to do with Doctor Who. He didn't say, "Wouldn't it be awesome if the Doctor had to solve a mystery at a spaceport terminal, and the Judoon showed up?" It was more like, "I want to write a story that's part The Terminal, part Godfather, and part Raymond Chandler, with a mystery called the Invisible Assassin. Oh, what? You need it to be Doctor Who? Well, I guess I can write him a small bit, then." I was very upset I couldn't get my TV-series-hiatus fix with this book.

The other problem is that there were a lot of characters, everybody had a name, and some of them were never seen again. I had trouble keeping track of them all.

Also, I figured out every mystery way ahead of time, besides the Invisible Assassin, so even if it did start out as a mystery that the Doctor was just added to later, it wasn't a very good one.

So why did I think "it was ok" instead of "didn't like it"? Because I love Worf, and the Judoon Commander reminded me of him. That is all. I recommend skipping this one, folks.

Jenevieve says

Review first published on My Blog. Check out all my reviews there.

With the Doctor as played by David Tennant. The Doctor is traveling on his own, between companions when he discovers a distress call from a ship that has been boarded and left in horrible shape by a squadron of Judoon. After helping the ship, he decides to go after the Judoon and see how he can help them and halt the destruction that they seem to leave in their wake. The trail takes him to the Elvis the King Spaceport, Terminal 13, in New Memphis. The Terminal has just barely opened and has been experiencing nothing but problems in the weeks that have followed. The Judoon have followed the trail of the Invisible Assassin there and the Doctor has followed the Judoon. Now the Doctor has convinced the head Judoon to work with him in a more subdued fashion to try and find this assassin and bring him/her to justice without using typical Judoon methods. Along the way, they meet a young girl, Nikki, who is a private eye and whose case seems to be meshing up with theirs in unusual ways as she is trying to track down a pickpocket. Between the three of

them, maybe they can figure out what is going on or maybe they will just be drawn into the feud between the mob factions of Uncle and the Widow.

It was a fun book and it wasn't too hard to hear David Tennant's voice saying the Doctor's lines in my head which is always a good sign that they've captured the spirit of that incarnation.

Rosemary Reeve says

Wow, even I'm surprised that I'm rating a Doctor Who book this low. Sure, they're never great literature, but they're usually fun enough for what they are. This one, though... hmmm.

It starts out all fine and good, but then I started noticing something. The Doctor isn't in this book. Oh, he's there on the page (occasionally), opening doors and pointing out plot points that have become rather obvious. But he either isn't present or his presence is so insignificant that he might as well not be in the book. And once I noticed that, and nothing about the book was changing, I reallyreally started to dislike the whole thing.

The Eyeless totally nailed the Doctor traveling on his own; Judgement of the Judoon doesn't know what to do with a Doctor alone, other than create other characters for him to fall into the shadows of. And, well, that's just not the Doctor.

I'm especially disappointed as I went into this one with rather high expectations based on the Amazon reviews (US & UK). Bummer.

osoi says

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annikeh.net

Kati says

Dropping it. Halfway through I realized I simply didn't care about the missing luggage, the dead passenger, the invisible assassin or the 17-year-old wannabe PI. Not my cuppa, this one.

Puddle Jumper says

I expected this, as a Judoon story, to be a lot sillier.

Being an OLD Dr Who fan though, nostalgic for the days when he had no idea where he was (or at least said he did), I could've screamed when the Doctor, after rescuing the crew of a ship crippled by the Judoon, basically GOOGLED their destination and went straight there... sob...

"Salter stared at the man in amazement. How could anyone talk that fast for so long and say nothing?"

Wendy says

This book sees the Doctor teaming up with teenage sleuth Nikki Jupiter, and a Judoon commander, as they unravel a complex web of crime centered around the Elvis the King spaceport on New Memphis. So, yes, I gather this is a bit of a stealth *Doctor Who/Veronica Mars* crossover. (Reminding me yet again that I really ought to bump *Veronica Mars* up my Netflix queue.)

The detective story plot is colorful and engaging, but what really stands out in this book is the transformation of the Judoon from the Whoniverse's most one-joke alien into individuals with distinct personalities. Well, one of them gets a distinct personality, Rok Ma, the Judoon commander, turns out to be loyal, funny, and surprisingly clever underneath his rather bureaucratic Judoon exterior. Alas, maybe because these novels are targeted at children, Colin Brake does lay on the "don't judge people (or aliens) by their exterior appearances" moral a bit more explicitly than really seems necessary, but it doesn't ultimately spoil the book.

Nick Briggs's voice talents really shine in this one - he even manages to give individual Judoon slightly distinct vocal performances, so that when Rok Ma speaks to his subordinates, you never get confused about who is talking.

I find it interesting that I seem to be enjoying the later solo 10th Doctor novels more than I enjoyed the

earlier ones with Rose, Martha, and Donna. I don't know if this is just a case of authors getting more confident with the constraints of the novel range (something that seems to happen with every range of Who novels as they go on), or whether the writers actually do better when they can create a one-off companion tailor made for their specific plot rather than relying on one of the existing ones. I suppose I'll have to see how I feel when I get to the 11th Doctor novels and we're back to a television companion again.

Aidan says

In spite of Judgement of the Judoon featuring a return appearance by one of my favorite returning aliens from the new television series, I found the novel to be hard going and ultimately quite unrewarding. Though the adventure's set up was fun, particularly the 'buddy cop' dynamic of the sequences in which the Doctor works with the Judoon leader to try to save the day, it was let down by its simplicity and predictability.

Much of the novel seems to be building up to a couple of 'shock' revelations that take place near the end and yet the relatively small selection of characters made guessing those twists easy. The result was that when answers came they felt bland, removing any sense of emotional punch from the story's concluding sequences.

I was also surprised at how weak the characterization of the Tennant Doctor was here. Most of the dialogue the character is given seems fairly bland and, as if to compensate, Brake splatters a handful of expressions from the series into dialogue. The occasional cry of 'allonsy' is fine but remove that and the references to a little shop and this Doctor becomes almost devoid of personality. Given that this novel was produced late in Tennant's tenure it surprised me that the portrayal here felt so generic in spots.

It is in its earliest chapters that the novel, and Brake's characterization of the Tennant Doctor, feels most effective as the character expresses his anger at the clumsy and heavy-handed approach the Judoon take to law enforcement. I particularly enjoyed the prologue which was atmospheric and does a nice job of illustrating precisely who the Judoon are and what they do. I did appreciate too that later chapters allow us to spend time with a Judoon character whose personality is perhaps not what we would expect based on these early scenes.

While I was ultimately disappointed with this novel I do suspect that many of the elements that disappointed me would not prove so damaging to younger readers' enjoyment.

Becky Savoie says

Not a lot to say on it. Pretty decent for being a novel tie-in. About what you'd expect from Doctor Who.

Helen says

Elvis the King Spaceport has grown into the sprawling city-state of New Memphis - an urban jungle, where organised crime is rife. But the launch of the new Terminal 13 hasn't been as smooth as expected. And things are about to get worse...

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David Tennant is my favorite doctor, so books featuring the tenth doctor are always interesting to me. I don't know if he's the easiest doctor to write, but so far I've found his 'voice' comes over best in these books. I can picture him as the action unfolds, and hear him in the lines. This story doesn't feature a companion. I love the companions, but the doctor working with 'random' people he meets on his travels can be just as rewarding. I could definitely see this as an episode, and for a fangirl and fanfic writer, I know that to say that is about the highest praise you can give.

Andrew Beet says

I liked it the writer got the character of the doctor spot on I liked the man from uncle reference "open channel d" overall a very good book story was very fast paced

~Geektastic~ says

First off, I need to qualify that, while I gave this book a 5 star rating, it is 5 stars for a Doctor Who book, not as a work on it's own; I measure the Doctor Who adventures on a scale amongst themselves, rather than in comparison to other works. That being said, I enjoyed this adventure immensely. The premise of the Doctor and a Judoon commander working together was novel, and it allowed me to see the Judoon in a new light. There is a very strong message of "don't judge by appearances" running through the story, and had it not been handled as well as it was, it could have been very "after school special," but it was saved by the Doctor not being one to expound at length on something so very obvious. I understand from other reviews that his other companion, Nikki Jupiter, was intended to be a strong reference to the Veronica Mars universe, but since I've never watched the show it has no real bearing on my interpretation of the character. She was rather typical for a temporary companion: young, spunky and clever; not bad but nothing special. The plotline was strong, with many twists and turns to keep you guessing, even if the biggest secret was rather obvious from the very beginning. This early "reveal" still didn't undermine the story though, as the excitement then came from the "when" and "how" of the other characters' discovery. One of the best aspects of the story was the fact that the aliens were not the menace, as may have been initially suggested by the opening, but rather humans presented the major threat.

Also of interest, from a "fangirl" point of view, was the author's subtle hint at when this adventure occurred on the Doctor's timeline: he snaps his fingers to open and close the Tardis, which suggests that this is a post-Donna Noble event and near the end of the 10th Doctor's run.

As an audiobook, Judgment of the Judoon was particularly good. The narrator is a regular voice-over actor for the show, so his Judoon voice was spot-on and his Doctor was really excellent as well, catching all the manic cadences of his sentences and mimicking his accent expertly.

Overall: Highly recommended to fans
Well-plotted and characterized
Some minor plot weaknesses but nothing major
Inventive use of recurring alien species
Nice inclusion of timeline-specific details
Temporary female companion underwhelming

Ian says

This and other books by Colin Brake reviewed here: <https://fsfh-book-review2.webnode.com...>

Unwordy says

I really wanted to give this book more stars than two, because Nicholas Briggs does a stellar job as a narrator, I like the Tenth Doctor travelling alone, and the idea of the Doctor teaming up with a Judoon who has a sense of humour appeals to me greatly (he makes one of the worst puns I've ever heard, thus cementing himself as awesome in my heart forever). However, I could not get over the fact that the Doctor's second one-off companion in this adventure, the seventeen-year-old private detective Nikki, is a huge flaming Mary Sue of such transdimensional proportions that she'd tear the Time Vortex apart, were the Doctor ever to try taking her there.

Oh, and the great 'reveal' or 'twist' concerning a certain character? My god, you can see it coming a mile away in the very scene the author actually introduces said character, but then you have to wait another gazillion hours before the great unveiling. I was almost worried the story would not get around to the so-called reveal at all, but I needn't have done so - inevitably, it did.

CatBookMom says

8/21/18 - FINALLY finished this. It was quite interesting, and I loved the way the Judoon commander became less rule-bound over the course of the story.

I am impressed with the way in which the narrator, Nicholas Briggs, brings the Tenth Doctor's vocal mannerisms to the story. This is interesting and keeping my interest.

In this tale, the Doctor is off on his own and becomes inadvertently involved in another visitation by the Judoon, still in search of the Invisible Assassin.
