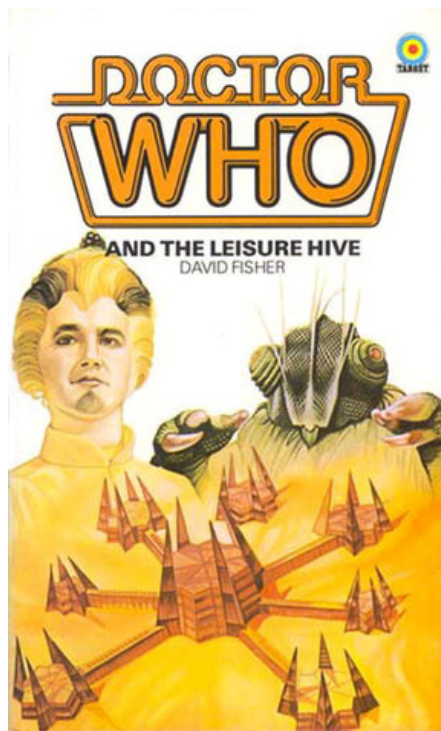




Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive

David Fisher

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Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive for online ebook

Rebekah says

Had to frown at the whole, "Whites vs Blacks, Foamasi Style" but otherwise it was fun.

Jamie says

Not sure if it is Doctor Who fatigue or this book just didn't grab me. Either way I didn't enjoy it. The whole book seemed to drag on a wee bit.

Mel says

This is one of my favourite Doctor who adventures and this was an exceptionally good novelisation of it. In fact it put to shame pretty much all other Doctor Who novels I've read so far. It really built up the cultural backgrounds of the two main alien races. It went into a lot of not just individual character motivation but also the cultural motivations as well. The story involves two races that have all but destroyed themselves trying to get beyond their hatred of each other. There are spies and misdirections and the attempt to make a device that contains the secret of immortality (which almost works thanks to Romana's technical brilliance). It's a shame that Fisher only wrote one other Doctor Who novelisation, but I will definitely be keeping an eye out for that one!

Mary says

A nice book. I have read better Who books.

Jennifer says

This took quite a long time to get going with a good deal of exposition on the history of the warlike Argolis and their foes the Foamasi.

There were some things which were good about the story but I never had a feeling for it being the Fourth Doctor, not just in Lalla Ward's reading but in the words. The title didn't really work for me either.

Leela42 says

Fourth Doctor and Romana (II). One should see the episode first, as there are no surprises in the book. But the book clarifies a few things and expands on what's going on. I don't think the Douglas Adams style quite

works for what is at heart a cautionary tragedy, and the more outrageous claims let it down from time to time. A few spelling errors (including one on the first page).

Su says

I wish I could give 2.5 stars! This was an impulse pickup at the library, and was fun enough as a Doctor Who story, but there was enough bad editing to distract me from the story. I don't mean spelling and punctuation errors (although there were some of those, and not a UK/US spelling difference, either; legitimate spelling errors), but a few plot points that didn't go anywhere. Perhaps if I read more of the books, I would feel like there were fewer loose ends, but it would be nice if it could stand alone without outside explanation.

Even though I gave this book a low rating, I would read other Doctor Who books. I mean, it's The Doctor. It's hard not to like it a little bit!

Travis says

Not a classic, but still a very fun read.

When their vacation in Brighton turns out to be a bit of a dud, the Doctor takes Romana to an alien health spa and they get involved in some alien politics.

Except it might not be the monster they need to worry about.

Some interesting new aliens and a few clever ideas take a fairly light weight story and make it one of the more entertaining of the later 4th Doctor stories.

Only gripe is how little we see of K-9.

Otherworld says

This is an adaptation of a story that features the Fourth Doctor and Romana II and was first shown on TV in 1980. I have absolutely no recollection of seeing this serial even though it would have been during the time I was watching the show, which is not a good sign. An image of the cast on Brighton Beach did ring a vague bell, but could equally be a publicity shot I saw later.

This means that this book has to stand up to being read on its own merits rather than as an adjunct to what I saw on TV. Unfortunately, this just isn't a very good story no matter which way you look at it.

Part of the problem is that for a story called Doctor Who, the Doctor isn't in it very much. After the Brighton Beach introduction the Doctor disappears for over 30 pages, which is not good for a book that only lasts 127 pages in total. In his absence, we have a whole history lesson on the war between the two main alien species in the story which is probably just as boring to read as it must have been to watch.

Even when the Doctor reappears, he seems to be pretty much a passive spectator to the whole story, allowing his scarf to go missing and then ending up as a murder weapon, getting convicted of said murder and then allowing his sentence to be carried out, which is to be turned into an old man who is suffering from dementia. Quite frankly, the Doctor is a bit rubbish in this story, and it's a good thing that there is another

Timelord here to pick up the slack(would a female Timelord be called a Timelady? I'm not sure it was ever discussed, and its a pity the BBC didn't pick a gender neutral title for their main character). Romana does quite well on her own, even sorting out how to make their Recreation Generator work.

Even if this wasn't bad enough, the main story just never engages. The war element doesn't work, and the less said about the megalomaniac who takes charge at the end the better. At least he (sort of) ends up getting his just desserts, being turned back into a baby at the end. The main plot hinges on the Recreation Generator, which seems to be able to do almost as many different things as a sonic screwdriver, and with just as much logic involved.

In the end everything is sorted out, but not by the Doctor (who at least gets turned back to his correct age). All this time, poor K9 is left a dripping mess in the Tardis, having accidentally got waterlogged at the beginning of the story just to get a cheap laugh.

Pretty much a miss.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/896496.html>[return][return]David Fisher wrote two Doctor Who novels based on his own scripts for the Fourth Doctor stories *Creature from the Pit* and *The Leisure Hive*. (He also wrote the original scripts for two Fourth Doctor *Key to Time* stories, *The Stones of Blood* and *The Androids of Tara*, but the novelisations of those were done by of course Terrance Dicks.) I remember really enjoying his *Doctor Who and the Creature from the Pit* when it first came out, and *Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive* is, for the same reasons, also a hilarious read Fisher has a Douglas Adams-like ability to build in circumstantial detail and hilarious commentary to make you feel that this is a real, zany universe in which the Doctor and Romana are dealing with complex alien societies as well as future technology.

Michael says

Revisiting some of the original *Doctor Who* Target novels in audio form has been an interesting experiment, especially going back to those that I have strong memories of or recall enjoying a great deal the first time around.

One that elicits good memories and feelings of enjoyment is David Fisher's adaptation of his script for "*The Leisure Hive*." My recollections of the novel were that it did a nice job of world-building and character development, all while keeping the basic story from the television screen in tact, even if it wasn't necessarily a beat for beat adaptation.

In fact, I'd say that Fisher spends the bulk of his time adapting what is (on-screen anyway) the first installment of the story that the rest of his novel ends up feeling a bit too rushed to get to the finish line. I'd love to know what Fisher might have done without the publisher imposed page-count on the Target novels of this era.

Alas, it appears that Fisher isn't going to re-work his initial novelization or expand it any for the audio release, which I think is a bit of a shame.

All of that said, this one holds up remarkably well. Again, a lot of it comes down to Fisher's world-building and filling it details that are merely hinted at in the television version. Fisher also brings a bit of a Douglas Adams sensibility to certain passages of the novel, which works fairly well, for the most part.

Lalla Ward's reading of the novel is solid and exactly what you'd expect from the woman who brought the second Romana to life on our screens. The only disappointment to the audio version is that they couldn't secure the rights to use the musical score from the televised version for the audio book. Of course, this is entirely a personal bias, but I think the audio score for "The Leisure Hive" is one of the best and most memorable incidental scores ever created for the classic series (part of it may be the umpteen and one listens to my dubbed copy of *Doctor Who: The Music* growing up), thus making it feel a bit odd when another set of musical cues are used to signal chapter breaks and changes in the audio book release.

But if that's all I can find wrong with this release (and it pretty much is) that means I'm probably nitpicking and obsessing over details that don't amount to much in the final equation.

Yes, this one is as good as I recall and it's one of the better adaptations Target produced from the range.

Cory Eadson says

A wonderfully witty expansion of the televised version. Hugely enjoyable.

Simon Harper says

David Fisher might be one of the most underrated writers in all of Doctor Who. Blending sci-fi ideas with sharp wit and comedy, his four stories encapsulate the Graham Williams era at its best, and he was arguably the writer who best suited the version of the show with Douglas Adams at the helm as script editor. While *The Leisure Hive* was made after both had departed the show, there's still something resolutely of that era in its DNA, which is only heightened here. This novelisation of his own story gleams with madcap comic energy, adding plenty of Adamsian humour - especially in the early portrayal of the Argolin and Foamasi, and their war against each other. A terrific read.

Julia says

The performance by Lalla Ward is excellent but I listend to a Tom Baker performance (Brain of Morbius) previously. Lalla couldn't win this game. She is very good though.

I watched the serial some years ago. Yet the only thing I remembered was Romana and K9 at Brighton Beach...

Tbc...

Daniel Kukwa says

On TV, "The Leisure Hive" is a slick & moody piece of storytelling. In print, the story takes on a different tone, thanks to David Fisher's Douglas-Adams-inspired writing style. In a book that manages to take the mickey out of both photography-mad Japanese tourists & Amok-Time-style single combat, we also get nicely fleshed out characters, droll lizard men, and a solid command of the 4th Doctor & Romana.
