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The Romance Of Crime (Doctor Who: The Fourth Doctor Adventures)



Synopsis

The TARDIS brings the Doctor, Romana and K9 to the Rock of Judgement; a court, prison and place of execution built into a rocket-powered asteroid. When involved in an investigation by the system's finest lawman, they begin to seek answers to some disturbing questions. Other guest stars include Miranda Raison (Spooks) and Michael Troughton, son of the second Doctor, Patrick Troughton.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is everything a Doctor Who novel should be. Gareth Roberts is a magician: he follows the formula for '70s-era Doctor Who so perfectly that one can immediately picture the actors from the series saying his dialogue. However, the steel-trap plot remains unpredictable to the very end, and the villains--even while giggling maniacally or declaiming on their nefarious plans with mustache-twirling abandon--are colorful and multi-dimensional. In particular, the supreme murderess Xais is given a genuinely wrenching "origin" story which provides real motivation for her actions. If you are a fan of the TV episodes written by Robert Holmes (Caves of Androzani, The Talons of Weng Chiang, etc.), *The Romance of Crime* is the perfect entry point for the novel range. And like Mr. Holmes before him, Mr. Roberts is now penning scripts for the TV series itself--a well-deserved career promotion. Snatch this little treasure up while it is still affordable.

The Doctor and Romana arrive on the Rock of Judgment where dangerous criminals are executed and others held. There are strange goings on that has a police investigator on board and the Doctor and Romana end up taken into his confidence. The story works on several levels. There's a nice mystery plot for more than two episodes, and some great concept ideas thrown in. A lot of the comedy of the story works, though some of it falls flat. Gareth Roberts novel dialogue sounds weird actually spoken by actors. The story seemed to be influenced a little bit by City of Death with the character of Frank Spiggot calling to mind the hapless Private Eye who met with the Doctor and Romana in that story. While there are some off moments and the villain doesn't quite rise to the level of the very best Doctor Who baddies, the story was still very enjoyable as Roberts captures the spirit of the best of Season 17 quite nicely. The acting is top notch and overall, this story makes for a very charming two hours.

The TARDIS arrives at the Rock of Judgment, an asteroid that combines the functions of court, prison and place of execution. Here they are drawn into a series of events including a crime committed with the modus operandi of a criminal some three years dead, the peculiar art of Menlove Stokes, and the operations of the Nisbett brothers and their Ogron thugs. This novel is written with a very light hand, and flows wonderfully. Gareth Roberts captures the characters of the Doctor and Romana brilliantly, and Menlove Stokes, who returns in 'The Well-Mannered War' is a great supporting character. The plot line unfolds very neatly, and should have sufficient twists that you won't know how it will end.

Hugely entertaining, fast-moving and well plotted with some wonderful characters (especially eccentric 'artist of death' Menlove Stokes) and great villains in the Nisbett brothers, the welcome return of the Ogrons and the sinister all-powerful Xais. Gareth Roberts effortlessly recreates the fourth Doctor and second Romana era and this book features the very best of that combination. Great stuff! The editorial review above is completely wrong though, sounds more like 'The Plotters' also by Mr Roberts.

Classic fourth doctor action with romana and k9. The author really capture the feel of that era of doctor who.

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