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The Skull Of Sobek (Doctor Who: The Eighth Doctor Adventures, 2.4)



Synopsis

On the isolated planet of Indigo 3, far out in the wastes of the Blue Desert, lies the Sanctuary of Imperfect Symmetry. Something from another time, from another world, has found its way inside the hallowed walls. Tick tock. Here comes the crocodile...

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Customer Reviews

Alas, a real let down, far and away Mr Platt's worst Doctor Who offering. It starts with two and half minutes of 'sword and sorcery', mixed with a less than original parody of Christianity ("lead us not into perfection, for never and never"), then another two and half minutes of it after the opening theme, followed by lots of descriptions of how blue everything is. As the story continues, it is dragged down by incessantly portentous dialogue ("Blood feeds on blood!" or "Revenge will taste good"). The alien menace are, don't laugh, "Crocodilians" and it just so happens that crocodiles are what scare the Doctor's companion Lucie more than anything else. The supporting cast are well below par (Barbara Flynn is great and Sheridan Smith puts in a pretty good show as her altered self but the rest are really flat) and the dialogue is never too far from dumb: "Unless it's a bone brain"; "Lucie, who is in much danger from crocodiles"; "Your prayers balance out the dark of the skull's thoughts". Nerdy and naff.

The Skull of Sobek is a decent outing for the Eighth Doctor, but probably one of the weaker of the series as the Doctor arrives in a monastery. Much of it is dull stuff that's been done before, in particular an alien religion that seems to borrow the style of its liturgy from the Book of Common

Prayers. Doctor Who writers, do you ever get tired of that trope? (See Face of Evil, Meglos) Sheridan Smith is the saving grace of the entire production. Lucie Miller is great possessed but there's a nice reflective moment for her where she wonders if she's get used to all the death. I've been liking Lucie with each passing episode and that trend continues with this episode. Still, Lucie and a few good elements save this story from being a fiasco like Minuet in Hell, but the result is merely okay.

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