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The Zygon Who Fell To Earth (Doctor Who: The Eighth Doctor Adventures, 2.6)



Synopsis

There are no monsters this time... are there? Ten years later and Aunty Pat is in her prime. However, still waters run deep and friends from the past are returning, intent on milking the old cash-cow...

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Customer Reviews

This story of a Zygon warlord marrying an Earth woman and going native and the efforts of his crew to bring him back to the old Zygon way has some good points. The music is solid. Sheridan Smith turns in a great performance as the Zygon impersonator of Lucie as well as the regular Lucie. The story fails for several reasons. First, the Doctor is essentially useless in this tale and with Lucie being replaced by a Zygon early on, her actual contributions to the story are nil as well. Which would be fine if the rest of the cast could carry the story, but they can't. The story wants to have a light tone, but it just doesn't. There's nothing that happens that's all that clever. The idea of interspecies relationships as some metaphor for human sexuality is a theme that's been explored to death and this adds nothing new. A better example of this was actually in the previous season's Phobos. The ending was contrived. It cleverly avoids a timey wimey event and from what I've heard, does set up key events in the Doctor's future. But even if the end result of the story is necessary for the Eighth Doctor's story, it could be better done. The story also is weakened by trying to have three separate messages. There's not only the interspecies subtext, there's also a huge ecological subtext, and for the progressive hat trick, a slam on the 1980s. Unfortunately, the story really got lost in these messages. This has been the least enjoyable of the fourteen Eighth Doctor Adventure stories I've

listened to.

The Zygon's return as the 8th doctor's 2nd season audio adventures continue. The Doctor and Luce again visit her aunt in the past finding her married to a singer who has a secret in the basement. Although I can't explain why without giving things away there are a few things that I think just didn't work or were not pulled off. However a strong cast, and a great plot overcome the weakness' of a scene or two. The decision to divorce the McGann episodes from the rest of the run has given us a double plus. The linear storyline that we didn't receive after the movie and an increase in stories for the 5-7th doctors as they pick up the monthly release pace. Now if they could only talk Tom Baker in to doing an episode or two...

The Zygons are a bit silly, but nevertheless this story is an above-average Paul McGann tale. If you've ever seen a BBC program called Blake's Seven, you may recall Steven Pacey as Del Tarrant. He is the highlight of the story for me, he plays a character here who is required to perform some sixties-style pop music and its eighties-style remix. Apparently Mr. Pacey does a lot of musical theatre, he did a great job as an actor and a singer.

Fair enough, the cast do their best with what they have to work with (which is nothing at all) but every single feeble attempt at humour or dramatic tension falls flat. As this is from the pen of Paul Magrs, it comes as absolutely no surprise that the only woman in the cast other than Sheridan Smith has her throat ripped out, only to survive as a male pretending to be a human female. (Am I missing something or is the ubiquitous treatment of women as victims supposed to in some way redress the balance of sexual equality?) The plot is painfully obvious and at times frankly embarrassing. The love theme is crass and the ending is an appalling get-out-of-jail-free card. Worst of all, the Zygons, one of the finest alien creations of the Tom Baker era, are reduced to any-old alien menace as you listen.

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