

Doctor Who: Timewyrm-Exodus

Terrance Dicks

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The pursuit of the Timewyrm leads the Doctor and Ace to London, 1951, and the Festival of Britain -- a celebration of the achievements of this small country, this insignificant corner of the glorious Thousand Year Reich.

Someone -- or something -- has been interfering with the time lines, and in order to investigate, the Doctor travels further back in time to the very dawn of the Nazi evil. In the heart of the Germany of the Third Reich, he finds that this little band of thugs and misfits did not take over half the world unaided.

History must be restored to its proper course, and in his attempt to repair the time lines, the Doctor faces the most terrible dilemma he has ever known...

Doctor Who: Timewyrm-Exodus Details


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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Timewyrm-Exodus for online ebook

David Sarkies says

Hitler wins World War II

25 January 2012

The first of these books ran decidedly too close to the original Doctor Who stories, and it seems that in the second instalment of this new series they brought one of the experienced Doctor Who writers into the fold, namely Terrance Dicks. In this story we once again meet up with the Timewyrm (who has possessed Hitler) and also one of his old foes in the form of the Warlords from the episode The War Games (the Warlords are a group of renegade Time Lords).

The story begins with the Doctor and Ace arriving at the Festival of Britain but it is clear that something is wrong - Hitler won World War II. Realising that the time stream has been changed, they decided to investigate to find out what went wrong. This is when the Doctor gets really cunning. First he disguises himself as a high ranking Nazi, and when he has what he needs, he travels to the fateful Bearhall Putsch where he saves Hitler. Now that he is on Hitler's good side, he then travels to the eve of World War II where he gets in close with Hitler.

It is true that Hitler is possessed by the Timewyrm, but there is something larger going on because the meddling is too subtle to be the work of the Timewyrm, and when they see Hitler flying into a rage (which did not happen until later in the war) they realise that the Timewyrm is not responsible. Their investigations point to another Nazi, who is manipulating Himmler with his fascination with the occult, and are attempting to prevent Hitler from making the mistakes that led him to losing the war.

The two mistakes that they indicate is the pause at Dunkirk which enabled the English army to escape across the channel, and the opening of the second front against Russia. I am not so sure about the first one, because even though he made that mistake, it was during the Battle of Britain where Hitler diverted his resources from bombing British airfields to bombing London that helped turn the tide of the war. Without the airfields being bombed, Britain was able to send planes into the air and attack the Nazi bombers and obtain air superiority not only over Britain, but also over Europe.

The second mistake was correct: opening a second front against Russia. That was incredibly foolish. It was a surprise when Hitler signed a non-aggression pact with Russia because the allies were hoping that having opposing ideologies, Hitler and Stalin would exhaust themselves fighting each other. When this didn't happen, Nazi Germany suddenly became a huge threat. However, if Hitler had honoured his pact and assisted Rommel by sending a second prong through Turkey and into the Middle East, this would have effectively starved Britain of much needed oil. Hitler, in his invasion of Russia, attempted to cut off Russia's oil supplies, but if Britain's had been cut off, then not only would their airforce have been grounded, but so would have their fleet.

It was an okay book, but considering that the series ran from 1991 to 1997, releasing a book a month, it does suggest that it was somewhat successful. It was in 1997 that the BBC took over production of the literature from Virgin, and as such, the Virgin characters, such as Bernice Summerfield, left the scene.

Jay Szpurs says

A well executed time travel story worthy of the title character. Dicks' prose and dialogue are generally free of the melodramatic commentary that plagued the previous novel although some problems remain in continuity (Ace's admission that she isn't fluent in German is swept away once the characters are ensconced in Berlin, for example). As a story, Exodus succeeds in building risk, conflict, and a few genuine twists. Like Genesis, this story also uses continuity to tie it to the previous series of the Dr. Who tv show and does so in a way that neither alienates readers who didn't watch (like myself) nor overloads on exposition.

I have mixed feelings about the somewhat light treatment Dicks gives the Nazi characters...although the alternate 1951 characters were downright contemptable, the historical figures have some comedic touches that are almost endearing. There's something to be said for sympathy-for-the-devil stories but I don't think Nazis are worthy of them. That said, Dicks generally stays on the right side of taste; besides, no one ought to expect a Dr. Who novel to be Schindler's List.

Andrew Loader says

Doctor Who Book Review: NDA002 – Timewyrm: Exodus by Terrance Dicks

Doctor Who New Series Adventure Novel Starring the Seventh Doctor

This is the second of the quadrilogy that Virgin decided to start their New Series range of books with back in 1991. It continues directly on from *Timewyrm: Genesis*.

And what better way to entice the Doctor Who fan base to start buying this range of books, than to contract the most prolific writer of Doctor Who fiction of all, Terrence Dicks, to write a novel early in the range. This is unmistakably a Terrence Dicks, too. Yes, it still caters for the new, older-aged market that Virgin was targeting, but there is absolutely no doubt who has written it. It reads easily and has all the hallmarks of a Dicks book – just twice the size of the Target novelisations that had become his staple over the preceding 15 years.

Key Features of the Book

The Timewyrm had escaped the Doctor's snare in the preceding book, vanishing into the space-time vortex. However she managed to find a way to escape – into the mind of one of the most evil, maddest men in recorded history – Adolf Hitler.

The Doctor finds this out during a visit to England in 1951, where he was expecting to be celebrating the Festival of Britain. Only problem was, he quickly discovered that this England was very different from what it should have been in 1951 – it was actually being ruled from Berlin, as Germany had now won World War II.

It was very clear to The Doctor that someone had been interfering with the time lines. He and Ace survive Nazi Britain (a little precariously at times, with The Doctor misleading a few important people), but it gave him the opportunity to work out where time had altered.

Next stop for The Doctor and Ace is 1923 Germany where the Doctor makes the acquaintance of Adolf Hitler – but still he is unable to solve the time-altering problem.

So the Doctor has to try, once again, to get history back on track. He manages to get The Tardis to do a short trip through time (but not space) to 1939 – this was a case of unusually good navigation by The Doctor here, quite atypical for the time.

The rest of the book involves The Doctor trying to get history back onto its established track, as he

encounters Hitler and his main support crew (I had no idea that Goering and Himmler were such bitter rivals).

To the Doctor's great surprise, the Timewyrm is not the only enemy manipulating things here. An unexpected character from the Doctor's past is also trying to manipulate Earth's World War II history, and it takes all the Doctor's skills to untangle this mess.

Opinion

Although Terrance Dicks novels are not known for their complexity, I found this book to be a real step up from his previous Target novelisations. Although this book was extremely easy to read, it still felt substantial enough to be satisfying. The storyline itself has enough complexity to justify the additional length, and there are a number of twists and turns.

The main characters feel true to their screen counterparts, and it is easy to imagine this as a continuation not long after the broadcast of *Survival*. There is less of an attempt to be "adult" about the story than there was in *Timewyrm: Genesis* – no half-naked acolytes who are thinly disguised prostitutes in this book.

In saying that, there would probably be issues with Mary Whitehouse (was she still around in 1991?) in relations to violence, if this story had actually been televised. Himmler's SS Gestapo officers did seem to have quite a liking for blood.

Ace has less of a leading role in this book than its predecessor (indeed she could easily have been a companion from Mr Dicks' screen-edited era of Doctor Who; I could easily have managed Jo Grant in action here), although there are still vestiges of Ace's take-no-prisoners feisty nature that was evident on Season 26. The Doctor, however, is clearly portrayed as the Seventh Doctor. It is easy to visualise Sylvester McCoy strutting around Berlin playing the role the Doctor does in this book, bamboozling and confusing those around him.

Of course, at this point we are only half way through the Timewyrm quadrilogy of books. The Doctor hasn't fully won the battle yet. It will be interesting to see how things progress through the next two books.

April Mccaffrey says

An alternative What if the Nazi's had won the second world war?

THIS BOOK WAS BRUTAL.

I absolutely loved this book.

Terrance Dicks is a genius when it comes to historical Who books, especially about famous Wars as proven in the War Games and Exodus certainly lived it up to that.

Seventh Doctor and Ace fighting and even working Nazi's whilst fighting their one true enemy-Ishtar or the Timewyrm as best known as but even she wasn't fully behind this movement of the Nazi's taking over the British Empire.

But the War Cheif's son was.

I cannot fully describe the book without giving away too much spoilers but it was amazing and I absolutely love bleak and grim books such as this and Terrance dicks certainly lived up to that.

Sammy says

A ripping adventure story, "Timewyrm: Exodus" is the second book in the 'New Adventures' series, a sequel of sorts to Timewyrm: Genesys.

As with the first book, there's some good stuff and some bad - although thankfully it's heavier on the good. Arriving in an alternate England, where WWII went in a very different direction, the Doctor and Ace realise that someone has altered time. Dicks' narrative takes us through different timelines, various locations, and a wide host of supporting characters. Every characters feels well fleshed out, and Dicks' prose - he was one of the most prolific writers of the original "Doctor Who" novelisations - is brilliant at quickly conveying locations and scenes. Thankfully, the sci-fi Timewyrm is rarely in evidence, and so we get a taut character drama dealing with the consequences of history, and the monstrosity of man.

While the characterisations of the Doctor and Ace are reasonably embryonic (one review I read online stated that "Dicks was perennially writing for" Jon Perwee), there's a playful relationship between them which still showcases the close bond they have after two seasons of travelling together. Dicks, meanwhile, is a WWII buff and his knowledge of the theatres of war and the internal politics of the Nazis is put to good use.

There are two areas of concern, although neither of them stress me personally. The first is the return of characters from 1960s "Doctor Who", which muddies the water considerably given we already have both alien and human villains at play here. Do we need this extra complication? It seemed like a stretch, I'll admit, and I'm never a huge fan of villains who are incapable. (The Doctor trashes their original scheme from the TV series, and then at the end crows that their scheme in this book was doomed to failure anyway!) Yet, the mystery is carried along for a reasonable part of the book, and ultimately their scheme is nightmarish enough that I'm not concerned. I'm sure there are fans who would argue that this is just Dicks writing his own novel which happens to include references to the Timewyrm. I can see their point, but I think that - for the very early days of a series that had a major challenge in taking a series from cancelled television programme to books - it's done quite well.

The other, thornier issue is that of the Nazis themselves. As greater critics than I have pointed out, blaming the rise of the Nazis on aliens is a bit of a cop-out. The utter monstrosity of the Holocaust is that humans - our own species - were the cause. Humans supported the Nazis, humans committed those acts, humans managed to gestate those repulsive attitudes for so long. The only moments in the book that don't ring true are those where the Doctor doubts that someone like Hitler could've spurred an entire movement without extraterrestrial help. Why not? These kind of horrific attitudes happen all the time on Planet Earth. Usually, it's just that they're not able to get so far. (It's fair to say though that any controversy about using Nazis is inherently subjective. If the Doctor battles oppressive, genocidal regimes on other planets, we never blink an eyelid. The Holocaust is something that still exists all too prominently in our collective memory, and we can't exactly treat it with objectivity. Nor should we.)

Thankfully, this questionable attitude is balanced by the thoughtful characterisation of Hitler, Goebels, Goerring, and their minions. The leaders are unquestionably monsters (and even the subordinates, while admitting that they fell into the life because it was the easier choice, are not exonerated by Dicks), but they're each so well-shaded, with their thoughts and fears on display. It's not hard to see how these men stirred up such violence and bigotry to such a bloodthirsty extent. The scenes where Ace and the Doctor enjoy champagne or caviar during their trip are supposed to point out how easily people get corrupted. At times,

they do feel a bit simplistic, as one worries that our heroes shouldn't be enjoying anything in the midst of one of history's greatest atrocities. Perhaps it would've been better not to head into Nazi territory at all. Yet, Dicks made the most of it, and I think the novel is ultimately a success not a failure. It may not be able to capture all the moral complexities of the situation, but as long as you accept that the Doctor is morally bound not to avert established history, it's an easy read.

It's also a quick read, a captivating one, and a very well-told story. Here's hoping the range can continue to shade in its characters and situations, but still to tell them with the simple narrative style of Mr. Dicks.

Tom Jones says

Now this what I expect. Terrance Dicks is a Doctor Who legend and a writer I admire. Horror of Fang Rock and The War Games are my all time favourite pieces of Television.

And Timewyrm: Exodus is one of the greats when it comes to the Doctor Who books. The plot itself is enough to make me interested: What if - Germany won the world war? That enough you can do so much and Terrance delivers with flying colours.

The first part is we can see Britain occupied by German control and we can see just how vile they can be. An example would be with a background character minding his own business when a German parade goes past. Everyone salutes the flag but this man doesn't. The Parade stops, they look at him and proceed to beat the living crap out of him and the authorities don't care. The Doctor explains it could of been far worse for him. Either execution right on the spot or even sent to a concentration camp.

The Doctor and Ace are characterised perfectly. Excellent action and dialogue. LT Hemming's is a real nasty character who really shows his superiority and dominance straight away and nobody to threaten.

The first part is fantastic 10/10 material. And has a very mysterious scene with Hemming's which is addressed in the final part of the series Revelation.

The Doctor and Ace have been tracking The Timewyrm which sent them to this what if timeline and it comes up with a question straight away of the true villains. The Timewyrm is more chaotic and destructive in nature and this what if timeline is more of a intelligent and sophisticated mind at work. Yes there is another villain and it's a returning one. It's brilliant! All that stuff is in part 2 and 3

Overall, almost perfect! I will still give it 5 stars. The third part I give a 9/10 as I have a few nit picks with that part which I discussed in my YouTube review but it really is one of my favourite Doctor Who books and it's the true start of the New Adventures! I pretend Genesys never happened. ;)

Thank you Terrance Dicks for this classic.
9.5/10

C S says

The Doctor and Ace, after their confrontation with the Timewyrm, find themselves in an alternate timeline where (to put it bluntly) the Nazis won. Masterfully structured and impressive in its ambitions, novelisation king Terrance Dicks' first foray into original Who prose is a clear winner, not to mention a huge improvement on its predecessor.

Matthew Kresal says

Having read my way through the wooden beginning that was *Timewyrm Genesys* I turned my attentions to this novel, the second in the opening *Timewyrm* arc of the *New Adventures* and the first *New Adventure* by Terrence Dicks. Having been disappointed by *Genesys* I was hoping for a much better novel this time around. That was exactly what I got and more.

For starters Dicks has a much better grasp on the characterization of the seventh Doctor and Ace than John Peel did. From their first appearance in chapter one all the way to the epilogue I never once got the feeling I was reading anyone but the Doctor and ace I have come to enjoy so much from the TV and audio stories. There's a moment in chapter seven of the first part of the novel (or pages 61-63 to be more precise) that stands out as a moment where Dicks perfectly captured the personality and (quite possibly) the inner workings of the seventh Doctor. Then there's the final chapter before the epilogue as well which, to my mind at least, perfectly captures the relationship between the Doctor and Ace. My only real qualm with the characterization is that given the Doctor's comment about Hitler in *The Curse of Fenric* it seems odd to see him socializing and becoming chummy to a degree with some of the Nazis he becomes involved with in the course of the novel. Otherwise Dicks gives on the best novel sketches of a TV TARDIS team.

The supporting characters are well drawn out as well. From those who occupy the alternate 1951 London to the leaders of Nazi government to the return of old foes of the Doctors and right down to one of the worst madmen of the last century Adolf Hitler Dicks fleshes out intriguing little portraits of those surrounding the Doctor and Ace. As someone who has read quite a bit on World War II and the Nazis I was surprised by the detail that Dicks put into the personalities of those in the Nazi leadership with some pretty accurate portraits especially of Himmler. Even more intriguing is Dick's use of the villains from *The War Games* and how Dicks manages to show how those characters have progressed since we last saw them and even adds some much needed background to the lead villain of that story. All in all it's a nice cast of characters.

To understate a fact Dicks does a lot of things better than Peel did. He uses continuity references sparingly and when they feel generally needed like the background of a character as listed above. In fact mostly avoids them and uses them really only to reintroduce elements from *The War Games*. After all the needless references in *Genesys* this comes as a pleasant surprise. Dicks trades this fact off by creating a convincing atmosphere of not only Nazi occupied Britain but of Nazi Germany itself. And into all this Dicks brings sci-fi elements into the mix in a much more convincing (if not better handled) way than the wooden elements of *Genesys*. In fact judging from the prologue at the beginning Dicks has a better handle on *Genesys* than Peel himself!

There is one thing that both *Genesys* and *Exodus* share. Despite having the *Timewyrm* in the title both have it mentioned in the beginning and suddenly has it appear at the end. Yet, believe it or not, Dicks manages to actually put this weakness to good use. Because the *Timewyrm* appears in the last place you'd expect it to and, unlike *Genesys*, it doesn't feel like a cheat. That said it's still a weakness.

Recently I was asked by an interesting question by a friend. It was that if *Genesys* wasn't a good place to

start from someone wanting to get into the New Adventures where would be? Well with this novel's excellent characterization, nice use of continuity from the TV series and a much better science fiction plot I think I have that answer. Skip Genesys and go straight to Exodus! It's one of the best New Adventures I've read and one of the best Doctor Who adventure stories I've read period.

Scurra says

As a kid, I grew up reading the Target novelisations of the Doctor Who stories. We didn't have digital archives (or even videos!) in those days - when you saw an episode on Saturday night, you only had your memories to remind you and, later, the Terrence Dicks version of the story in print. (Or even to read those earlier stories which you were too young to have seen.)

And Dicks had a reputation. Yes, he had written for the tv show, but he was best known for turning out these straight-forward simply-written adaptations on a regular basis. So no-one really expected much from a full-length Doctor Who New Adventure (even though Dicks had a perfectly good track record with other writing.)

But Exodus changed everyone's minds. Not only about Dicks, but also about what the NAs could do in the right hands. For a show about time-travel, Doctor Who rarely dabbled in the actual nuts-and-bolts of the implications of changing history - if it did, it was typically to stop someone before it happened. So to throw the reader in at the deep end with a depiction of Britain after a Nazi victory in the Second World War is jarring to say the least. The exploration of this new world is well-drawn, with very little tell and lots of show instead. And there are some excellent farcical elements as well - the Doctor passing himself off as a Nazi bigwig and getting genuine officers into trouble is a hoot. And the "what-if" moment Dicks uses is also interesting, keeping the historical element a crucial part of the story.

And the second element of Exodus that is significant is the reintroduction of a character from the history of Who itself, showing the possibilities for NAs building on a twenty-five year back-catalogue of a universe that might be inconsistent but not irretrievably so (after all, fans have spent just as long reconciling these inconsistencies themselves - a process known as "retro-continuity" or "retcon" for short.)

And finally, Dicks manages a genuine sense of menace in the story. There is a real feeling of danger at times, even if you know our heroes are going to survive. In Genesys there was no threat - too much "supervillain gloating" instead; but here you are occasionally concerned that the threat of torture might actually be carried out.

Exodus showed that the NAs had proper credentials - they weren't going to be merely long Target books, but stories with ideas that, if not original, were going to be never less than interesting. Next up: Timewyrm: Apocalypse.

F.R. says

Probably because by the time he wrote this Terrence Dicks was twenty-five years into his Doctor Who writing career, he isn't as interested in a new adult Who as John Peel was. There are a few moments of violence, but nothing too gory and nothing - to be frank - to scare the horses. Instead we have an

entertaining if undemanding tale of alt history. Actually alt history is an area that Doctor Who hasn't explored as much as it could have, and so that old fall-back of 'what if the Nazis had won the war?' is as good a place to start as any. Even if Dicks does seem to lose interest in it mid-way through

What I took away from this book more than anything is a sense of annoyance, as Dicks can clearly only see the rise of Hitler and his cohorts through means of some other-worldly power. It wasn't charisma, a gift of oration, and the perfect moment of history for such extreme beliefs to reach the mainstream – no there has to be more than it than that, there has to be an extra evil which goes beyond man's comprehension. Surely though fiction's tendency to do this is dangerous. If you are going to ascribe Hitler's rise to some demonic (or other) power, if you see him as something more than just a man, you run the risk of not spotting the next Hitler, as what you'll be looking at in the now is just a man, while your imagination of Hitler makes him so much more than that. Therefore this man – no matter how dangerous he looks – cannot (except in hyperbole) be like Hitler, because Hitler was more than just a man. He was something other.

The fact that Dicks does that – not only having Adolf manipulated by one extra-terrestrial power, but two – and leaves that standing at the end, just makes this book that trivialises the evil that man – and it was man, and man alone – can do. Which is a shame really.

If you get chance, please visit my blog for book, TV and film reviews - as well as whatever else takes my fancy - at frjameson.com

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Jennifer says

Here is my review of Timewyrm: Exodus.

Before i read this book i had to read Genesys. Which was one of the worst books i have ever read. But i was looking forward to this book. And was it good? Average? Or horrible?. It's brilliant. Which was just what i was expecting. Basically Terrance Dicks took a simple idea of the Nazis winning the war. And then adds a great story to it about time distortion. The story itself is really good. It really does not have any problems. Except 1. Chapter 8 of Part 1 of this book was a little slow. And chapter 7 of Part 3. But overall this is a book i highly recommend you check out.

I give it a 9.5/10

Andrew says

This is the second story in the New Adventures book series that aimed to continue where the original television show left off. It is written by Terrance Dicks, a man with a massive influence on the history of the show.

This story is a direct sequel to Timewyrm: Genesys, and succeeds where that book failed. For a start, the author is interested in telling a good story rather than describing Ace with her kit off, or dropping in needless paedophile sexual innuendo, and what we are left with is a classic style Who story, with historical characters,

and interesting set up, and a satisfactory - if somewhat predictable - conclusion.

If I have any criticism, it is this: Exodus will not attract a casual reader, because the roots of the story are based in a 1960's story (that was originally co-written by Dicks). As a fan I loved the idea, but for a casual reader it might just be a little to "so what?" Loved the idea of the deformed character (see? No spoilers!) but again unless you are familiar with the events of "The War Games" you might not care less. I however did get it, and did enjoy it, and as it has been twenty years since I have read these, I am looking forward to where the Timewyrm saga takes me next!

Gabriel Mero says

Even better than the first one!

Jacqueline O. says

Virgin Publishing's **The New Adventures** follow on immediately after *Doctor Who* was put on hiatus, and feature the Seventh Doctor as portrayed by Sylvester McCoy, and in this story his companion Ace.

Timewyrm: Exodus is the second volume in the four-volume *Timewyrm* series. *Timewyrm: Exodus* opens with the TARDIS landing in London in 1951, but upon leaving the TARDIS the Doctor and Ace realize something is very, very wrong. They've landed in an UK where the Nazis won World War II. It's a bleak, war-torn, depressed London, with no freedom. The Doctor and Ace stay just long enough to try and figure out where history went wrong, discovering that the Miracle of Dunkirk never happened, the German airstrikes on civilian British cities destroyed those cities (London and others in the Industrial North), and the Lightning War included a quick strike at England that the British were unable to combat.

Following some complications, the Doctor and Ace are able to return to the TARDIS and head back in time to correct the aberration.

The TARDIS lands in Munich where Hitler's led a completely unsuccessful attack by the Nazis. As the defeated Hitler runs away, he remarks that he considers suicide an answer. The Doctor aids Hitler in his escape and talks him out of it. Ace is flabbergasted. But the Doctor insists that history must follow its course and if it doesn't it could lead to the disaster they just left.

The next section makes up the bulk of the novel, as the Doctor and Ace arrive in Nazi Germany, just before the Germans invade Poland. Hitler welcomes the Doctor with open arms as the man who saved him in Munich. Ace is appalled by everything - the "No Jews" signs in parks; the atmosphere of fear on the streets, the Nazi-controlled newspapers that report that Poland is rattling the sabre at Germany and threatening the Germans (the exact opposite of the truth) and the other daily horrors of life under a racist dictatorship.

The Doctor and Ace attend a Nazi Rally in Nuremberg, and as Hitler finishes speaking the Doctor asks Ace what she just heard. Ace can only report vague thoughts: blame on everyone else, the idea to make Germany Great Again, etc. But mostly Ace only experienced emotions. The Doctor tells her that her emotions were played like a violin, manipulated, that it was a form of psycho-conditioning, and something that shouldn't even exist yet. He suspects something alien is aiding Hitler. After the rally, the two are caught, Hitler welcomes the Doctor, and the Doctor meets with him alone. Hitler has a fit - a storm of psychic activity. Items fly off walls, swirl around the room, crash on the floor. The Doctor sees the Timewyrm in Hitler. Then Hitler collapses. Only Hitler's private secretary (by instinct) and the Doctor (by knowledge and by his own telepathic abilities) can calm Hitler's fits. The Doctor obtains a medical history.

But there are also rumors of the Black Coven, a secret SS group that is helping Hitler and the Nazis to gain power and control. An invitation is sent to the Doctor, but Ace receives it, and as she's bored (she keeps

getting left behind in hotel rooms with nothing to do) she goes to investigate. She's captured, and a threatening message is left for the Doctor. Ace is taken to Drachenberg Castle, a secret SS stronghold and home to the Black Coven. In due course, the Doctor follows to rescue Ace.

At Drachenberg Castle, the Doctor and Ace discover the War Lords and the War Chief are out to manipulate time. These are characters from the aired *Doctor Who* episode, "The War Games", and I must admit it was fascinating to read a story that bought them back, though there plans were horrifying (bringing about a Nazi Earth, then a Nazi Galaxy, and an Nazi universe - horrifying). Among other things, the War Lords have set up a nuclear reactor in the basement of the castle, have used conditioning on SS stormtroopers to not only make them totally loyal but to make them unafraid of death, and have found a way to bring dead soldiers back to life as zombies. The War Lords remark that it's easy to finish conditioning the soldiers because they were half there already. Ace and the Doctor discover what's going on. The SS plan to sacrifice Ace in a occult ceremony to the Teutonic gods (mostly to appease the superstitious Nazis). During the ceremony, the Doctor frees Ace and uses one of her Nitro-9 capsules he'd confiscated earlier to bring down the roof - and killing most of the War Lords and their SS hoards. The Doctor had also called in the "cavalry" so to speak, and the German regular army attack the castle and SS, and Hitler arrives in a plane. The Doctor explains he uncovered a plot to overthrow Hitler himself and replace him with someone more reliable. But the SS zombies attack. In the end, the Doctor overloads the reactor, and he and Ace escape in the TARDIS. But the Doctor realizes he's made one mistake - he taught Hitler how to control the Timewyrm trapped within him. He and Ace take the TARDIS to Felsenest, where the Doctor goads the Timewyrm to leave Hitler and be dispersed. The Doctor also gives Hitler a lot of bad military advice, which assures that World War II will follow it's historical path - Dunkirk, the failure of bombing the UK, Germany's attack on Russia, etc.

Back in the TARDIS, the Doctor is extremely depressed. He can only think of all the death the six-year war will bring. He feels guilty and responsible. And he's not even sure if history is on the correct path. Ace talks him into returning to 1951 London. They do and it's the London they know. They attend a fun fair festival. Although it was very hard reading a novel set for the most part in Nazi Germany, this was a good story. I can't say I enjoyed it because who enjoys reading about Nazis slaughtering people because they are different or simply for kicks? But the story did flow well, and wasn't predictable. I was not expecting the War Lords and War Chief to show-up, even though in the story the Doctor tells Ace they are dealing with multiple forms of manipulation of the time lines. The Timewyrm really isn't in the story that much, much to my surprise. She's basically trapped - and in the end, the Doctor must free her. No doubt she will be back as there are two more books in the mini-series. Terrance Dicks does treat Ace terribly though - he keeps having her faint. This is completely out of character for Ace - this is the woman who attacked a Dalek with a baseball bat after all. But every time he wants to get Ace out of the way - Dicks has her faint. It's pretty sexist writing. But aside from that, I can honestly recommend the book.

Daniel Kukwa says

Uncle Terry proved that, after two decades of novelizing "Doctor Who" TV episodes, he can also kick butt with original Doctor Who fiction by writing "Exodus" -- the second ever original DW novel. It remains one of the most re-readable books in any range, and it's my personal favourite original DW novel authored by Mr. Dicks.
