

AN ATTACK IN TIME

Written by: Timothy Farr
TDWP Special
Reviewed by Jez Strickley

Timothy Farr's *An Attack In Time* is a deliciously descriptive vignette which offers readers of *TDWP* a glimpse of the original Doctor, chewing on his favourite Venusian Night Fish courtesy of the TARDIS' food machine, and his young granddaughter Susan, whose musings over the intriguing symmetry of the TARDIS give the reader an almost tangible image of the iconic time machine's interior. In short, Farr's cameo effort is just what the Doctor ordered.

The story itself avoids needless distractions by centring upon the two time travellers, and their battle to repel an unexpected invader from the TARDIS. In just a few pages Farr manages to evoke the quintessential atmosphere of early *Who* as the Doctor and Susan turn the tables on their mysterious attacker, and give the TARDIS an architectural shake-up at the same time. The battle in question sees an unnamed aggressor, described as "fluid light", breaking into the wood-panelled primary console room and threatening its two occupants. The Doctor and Susan are then given a brief respite when it becomes clear that the attacker has trapped itself within the TARDIS console. It is at this point that Farr chooses to add a touch of spice to his tale by using the succeeding events to give reason to the TARDIS' notoriously unreliable nature. For, in order to remove the invader the Doctor and Susan must delete the primary console room, wooden roundels and all, and retire to the cream secondary console room so familiar to fans of the series. In deleting one of the TARDIS' console rooms the ship becomes unbalanced and the Doctor must affect an emergency landing. Of course, it should come as no surprise as to where the TARDIS fetches up its stricken crew.

Given its brevity, Farr does well to furnish his narrative with a richness which extends well beyond its short length. More, as well as ticking all the right boxes plot-wise, Farr's crisply composed prose and bang-on dialogue provide the story with a distinct flair



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which drives it along at a fair old rate, effortlessly holding the reader's attention in the process.

Farr's portrayal of the First Doctor and Susan is excellent. Of particular note is the way in which he manages to match the youthful insecurity of Susan with the seasoned certainty of the Doctor with great confidence. The unravelling of the storyline is well-paced and consistent, and the twist in the tale regarding the enforced

loss of the primary console room, and its effect upon writing, making for an altogether thoroughly enjoyable the TARDIS' systems, is a fine embellishment. In con- read. **10/10**
clusion, *An Attack In Time* seamlessly fits together
pithy story telling with a superb style of descriptive