

BAD FEELINGS

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Season 32/Story 9G

Reviewed by: Claire Chaplin

This review may contain spoilers.

The opening paragraph to this story is so descriptive that you can visualise quite clearly the setting in a few seconds, which helps draw the reader into the story without wasting a few pages on description.

The next 3 pages or so set up nicely what is going on, showing clearly that Tamara is undercover, and the well described scenes makes the reader feel her fear of being found out.

It's also nice to have a story that reflects back on the companion's time with the Doctor. It shows clearly how they feel and adds an extra depth to the character that isn't always as obvious. It is different to the other stories that have tried this as Tamara is only on a mission undercover and hasn't left the Doctor for good.

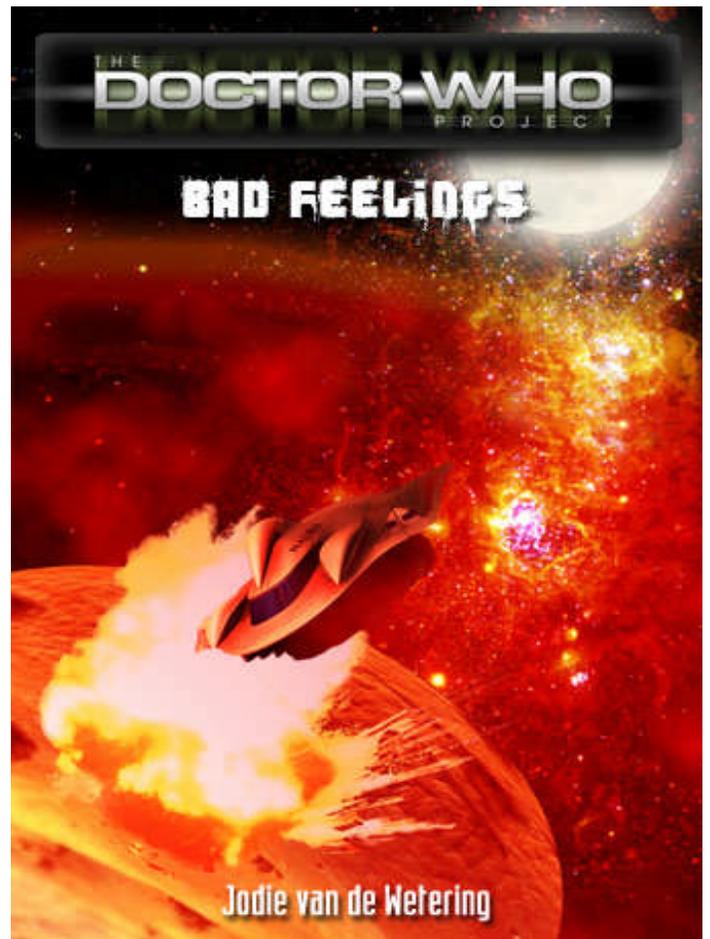
If anything this adds to the story as it gives a clear view of how the Doctor's companion could cope without him in the same situations that he breezes through easily. The description and the feelings clearly conveyed means that the reader can associate easily with Tamara and the story.

It is always very hard to pull of a Doctor-less Doctor Who story but the author manages this quite well in this story. The right length for a story of this style, it makes an interesting and enjoyable read but is by no means as good as it could be, some more plot other than what Tamara has been feeling and why she was undercover may have helped improved this, as it is a continuation of what's gone previously only a slight reminder would suffice.

The writing style works well for this genre of story, posting Tamara's feelings as thoughts works much better and enables more description than if she had told someone her feelings. Avoiding being dialogue heavy is normally a wise move, but you do have the danger of becoming overly descriptive. This story however is neither, it has a lovely balance of dialogue and description and the reader can easily imagine the setting.

The layout of the story itself isn't the easiest to read on a computer screen. Though indents would probably be fine on a printed version, new paragraphs when typed are normally easier to identify by leaving a line gap rather than indenting. Indenting splits the text up quite well for reading but at first glance makes it look like a huge chunk of text that may put some people off.

The ending is very clever in that the suggestion is that the Doctor is around, helping, somewhere, but it doesn't state this as definite. The way Tamara starts to relax at the end



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shows the reader how relieved she is that she isn't as alone as she thought, and makes the reader feel happy that safe hands are still guiding her.

In conclusion, slight niggles aside; it is a very engaging emotional story that you can clearly visualise thanks to the brilliant description. 8/10