

Tim Jones' *The Things That Matter - Part II*, begins the Season 30 omnibus of *The Doctor Who Project*. The Doctor Who Project aims to present stories in the vein of the Doctor Who TV series using their own persona of an eighth Doctor, who is the regeneration of Sylvester McCoy's seventh Doctor.

I was slightly worried in reading '*The Things That Matter - Part II*' as I had not read Part I. However, my worry was unfounded. '*The Things That Matter - Part II*' stands alone and can be easily understood with no prior knowledge of part one.

The Doctor Who Project wisely chose '*The Things That Matter - Part II*' as their leading story, as it is extremely well written. I am yet to read the rest of the stories in the omnibus, but the high quality of the writing displayed in *The Things That Matter - Part II*, will ensure that a newcomer, like me, keeps reading. The construction of the plot, use of dialogue, and vivid descriptions show a maturity of writing style by the author, Tim Jones, that is sadly lacking in many fan-fiction projects and in my opinion his writing style is equal to that of professional (i.e. paid) writers.

The Things That Matter - Part II features the Doctor and his human companion Tamara Scott. The author portrays the Doctor and Tamara with a deep understanding of who these characters are - what they think, what they feel, and why they act a particular way. Tim Jones's understanding of human nature is also evident in the characterisation of the minor characters appearing in the story.

The Things That Matter - Part II opens with the Doctor trying to locate Tamara who has been taken by slave traders. His search leads him to an old Mansion on the outskirts of London and eventually to a space station where the human slaves are being used as research guinea pigs. While talking to one of the people on the space station (a young journalist called Kurik, who has been involved in a subplot up to this point) the Doctor is shocked to learn the identity of Kurik's people, for he has intimate knowledge of their fate. The Doctor rescues Tamara, but is unsure if his presence on the space station has in any way altered the fate of Kurik's people.



Although the plot of *The Things That Matter - Part II* is well constructed and engaging, the participation of the Doctor and Tamara is rather passive. Tamara is a prisoner for most of the story and the Doctor only takes an active role at the beginning and at a few minor points in the plot. This is the only drawback I had with this particular story - that for a Dr. Who story the plot didn't evolve around the Doctor and his actions or those of his companion. An enjoyable read all the same, and I'd give it **8.5/10**

Reviewed by Lesleigh Force