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An Earthly Child (Doctor Who)



Synopsis

30 years after the Daleks' invasion of Earth, the scars still haven't healed. But as Susan Campbell takes drastic action to secure the planet's future, her son Alex, is in need of alien intervention. Or so Alex's great-grandfather thinks...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Audio stories are fun to hear, especially from Doctor Who. The idea that Susan is reunited with the Doctor is a sweet one! I only wish that this story is in "cannon" with the rest of the t.v. series and allows a revisit for the two in the future. Carol Ann Ford's Susan deserves a regeneration scene in the t.v. series! Maybe a Great grandson as a companion?!

Paul McGann and Ms Ford are magic loved it ,wished it was live action well done

It's got Susan, how can it go wrong.

The emotional core of this story is superb. It's the Doctor and Susan, his granddaughter and original companion reunited and how they relate to one another. The scenes with Carole Ann Ford and Paul McGann together are superb. They've got great chemistry and these scenes are beautiful to listen to. Of course, this is Doctor Who, so we can't just have a family reunion. We have to have a plot, and ultimately that's the story's weak point. It's not that Marc Platt doesn't have any good ideas. It's that the script is so dense with plot, that it buries the emotional lead. Keeping in mind, this is a one part

one hour audio drama, we have college protests over high tuition and fear of aliens and a rising national movement against it, we have Susan deciding to call for help from aliens from space and the aliens arrive with less than honorable intentions, in addition they're programmed to ask you questions like a website's terms of conditions and also replicants and mind control. At the same time, you have Alex, the Doctor's great grandson who is drifting through life. Oh, and there are people stranded on the moon. This is a whole lot of plot and plot elements, and most of it is either not resolved or resolved in a rushed way. It took more than half the story for the Doctor and Susan to meet and most of the intervening material was not anything we'd care about. PLatt should have created a far simpler story that would have better played on the characters. There's something wrong with the key plot point of the story is Susan nearly getting the Earth conquered. Jake McGann also turns in a pretty lifeless performance as Alex. The story seems to also have a bit of a message about the dangers of prejudice and paranoia (in this case about aliens) as represented in the Watch Meetings. However, that message is totally blunted when the first aliens to come in response to Susan's call for help are planning take over the planet. Overall, the story rates as high as it does because of the elder McGann (who brings life to every scene he's in and manages to push through the denseness of the story) and the emotional core of the story. It would have been a better listen with a less convoluted and busy story.

This was originally a freebie given away to BF subscribers which, though not part of the season proper, is intended to go in the gap between 'Death in Blackpool' and 'Situation Vacant'. It's also a sequel to 'The Dalek Invasion of Earth' so there should be a lot to interest any old school fan. Sadly, it is let down by one piece of casting that just doesn't work. Half of what McGann junior (as Alex Campbell, great grandchild of the Doctor) utters is barely intelligible and the other half exists in an unconvincing nether world of awkwardness and odd inflection. Sorry, Paul: it pains me to say it but the son you love so dearly can't act. It doesn't help that I've never enjoyed listening to Carole Ann Ford much either, who's style of acting seems to come from a time long before even 1963 (though her meeting with "Grandfather" is rather touching). To be fair, the supporting cast aren't up to much either but as the script is by Marc Platt, it is all well stuck together and fits in nicely with the classic series as a whole, (in spite of a lot of the dialogue being a bit clunky. "Freedom for students!") There are some nice moments and it sounds pretty good but, let's face it: freebies are rarely as good as things that can actually be sold.

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