

THE BOX OF SECRETS

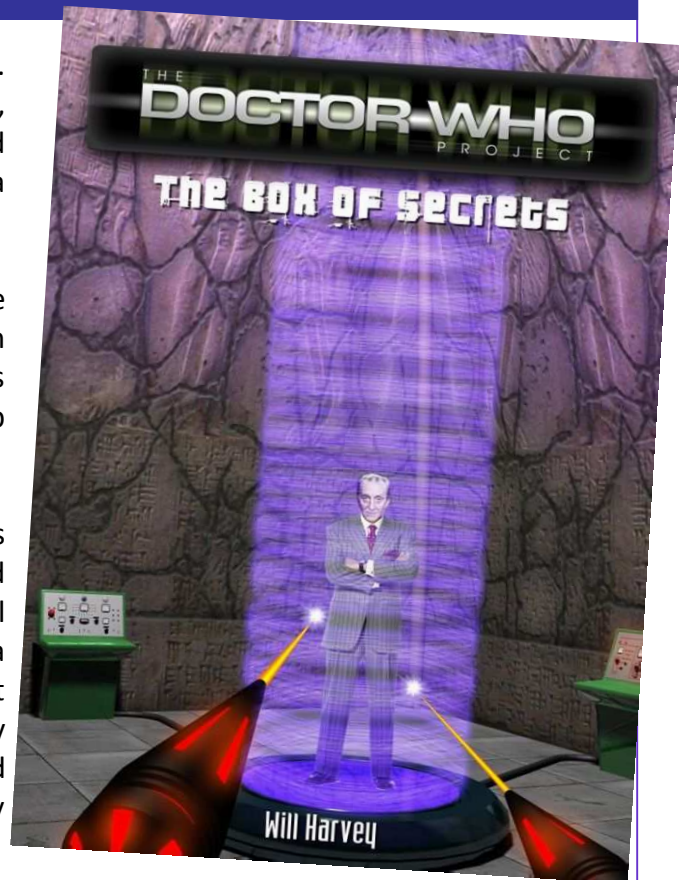
Written by: Will Harvey
Season 36 ▪ Story 10X
Reviewed by David Preston

This is a slightly unusual Doctor Who story. There is no real foe in the conventional sense, no invasion or attack, none of the standard catalysts for a dramatic work; and yet, it is a highly engaging and enjoyable tale.

The Doctor essentially acts a therapist to the Emperor, and through his discussions we learn of the circumstances that have led to his mental instability and the relationship between the Emperor and his brother.

Certainly worth a read. One of the first things that struck me upon reading the story, and one that I applaud, was the wonderful character names. Often such things are a clichéd idea of alien, or alternatively, not quite exotic enough. However, I was notably impressed by them. This could be dismissed as insignificant but I feel it helps enormously with creating an unfamiliar environment.

The end was nicely unresolved with the Doctor keeping the contents of the box without us actually knowing what it was. Hopefully, perhaps inevitably, this will be revisited in a future tale. 6/10



“One of the first things that struck me upon reading the story, and one that I applaud, was the wonderful character names.”