

THE WEB OF TIME

Written by: Robert Mammone

Season 36 - Story 10V

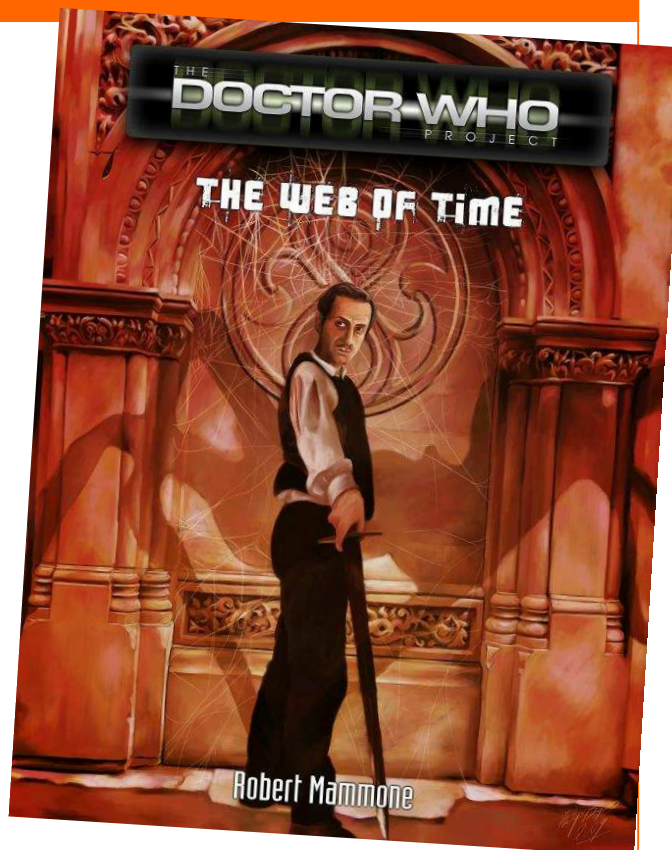
Reviewed by David Preston

My expectations for this, the opening tale of Season 36, were rather high. The story's aim is to resolve the situation setup in the previous season's finale, *Journey's End*, which itself was rather good. Although *The Web of Time* is less than half the length of its predecessor many of the pieces are already in place and much of the groundwork done; this is simply the final act.

A return to Gallifrey, the Doctor alone, a lovely cover and a title emotive of the Classic series all bode well. Unfortunately, the promise, for me, is not delivered upon. The story is undoubtedly nicely written with moody, atmospheric and evocative prose. However, this does not feel like the Gallifrey I know.

The enemy doesn't feel a match for the Time Lords, although admittedly few would be. However, if I was to consider who or what would be a worthy conqueror of Gallifrey quite low on the list would be an insectoid race. Yet here we have just that. In fact, the insects' description sounded much like the Chelonians from the New Adventures novels *The Highest Science* and *Zamper*, at other times conjuring images of the Mutts from *The Mutants* which lessened their credibility further.

In short, I wanted to like this, and initially I did, but the over-reliance on the Matrix, and the convenient plot devices this allows, grew tiresome. Very much an anti-climax to the events created in *Journey's End*. So much so



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that one could feel angry that such potential was wasted. **5/10**