



Doctor Who: Last Man Running

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Arriving on a jungle planet, the Doctor and Leela soon find themselves hunted by a hideous alien life form that appears to be some kind of robot with a taste for human flesh. But who has created it? A band of humans arrives on the planet in search of something deadly and illegal -- the robot? Or the things that created it?

Assuming the Doctor to be involved in the monstrous crimes against nature on the planet, the humans make life difficult for the TARDIS crew -- but who is waiting and watching in the shadows -- and for whose benefit is the arena of peril set up?

Doctor Who: Last Man Running Details

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Nicholas Whyte says

[http://nhw.livejournal.com/1014841.html#cutid3\[return\]\[return\]](http://nhw.livejournal.com/1014841.html#cutid3[return][return]) Last Man Running, which was Boucher's first effort for the Past Doctor Adventures, is not his worst, though the setting - Doctor and Leela bump into a survey team in a hostile environment - is very base-under-siege, and you can almost see the sets wobble. Leela herself gets some good lines and action, but then we discover that she is the ultimate warrior in a rather confusing conclusion. Apparently a lot of fans were disappointed when this came out, and I can see why.

Michael says

The Fourth Doctor & Leela. Between The Robots of Death & The Talons of Weng-Chiang.

The characterizations of the Fourth Doctor and Leela are fair; that's as much praise as I can muster for this effort. The rest of the characters are unconvincing or down right irritating. Many of the ideas put forward by the author seem to be half formed and I got the feeling as I read the book that I'd somehow managed to skip over a chapter or two. The whole work has a sense of incompleteness not least the ending.

Travis says

Not terribly interesting, except that the Doctor and Leela are really well written and we get to see Leela really cut loose and be all jungle girl/amazon warrior for a good chunk of the book.

The writer does try to at least throw some interesting monsters at the heroes.

David Layton says

Chris Boucher is one of my favorite of the Dr. Who series writers. I also admire his scripts for the significantly underrated "Star Cops" series. In this novel he brings along what he does best - concept and action. There is very little deja-vu in the plot. The characters are believable, especially in their motivations. Boucher has taken time to work out the cultural backgrounds to his characters so that their actions make sense.

Angela says

The Doctor and Leela land in a strange jungle where there are only predators. There is a group of investigators chasing a runner on the planet too. This is a very good early Leela story and you really understand who she is. It's a fast moving plot and a quick read. A very good read.

Shane says

This one deserves a re-read since it got a little confusing at times. We see a good deal of Leela showing her skills as a warrior along with an uncanny ability to almost out-think the Doctor himself in a lot of circumstances. Leela's always a joy to watch and she really shows what she can do here, both physically and mentally.

I got a little lost amongst some of the explanations as to exactly how some of the technology worked from time to time but that's where I think the re-read would come in handy. Also, the story seems to jump about a fair amount and again, a re-read would prove very helpful in bringing things into sharper relief.

I liked the focus on Leela and felt I'd been given a chance to get to know her much better.

Recommended. May do a re-read sometime soon.

Daniel Kukwa says

This novel was heading for three stars -- it seemed to be a reasonably engaging "Starship Troopers" riff, with a cast of very annoying, unsympathetic soldiers who were not making it easy to get through the first quarter of the book. But as the situation became darker, and the mystery behind it all more puzzling & more diabolical, the novel became much more seductive and addictive. It's all topped off by a masterful command of the 4th Doctor & Leela, which shouldn't be a surprise. Chris Boucher not only created the character of Leela, but his three TV scripts featuring the same TARDIS team are highlights of their era. Culminating in a surprisingly dark & sudden manner, this novel leaves behind a very satisfying after-taste.

Tim Taylor says

Leela as Chris Boucher intended. Would have been a classic if scripted and filmed.
