



Doctor Who: Borrowed Time

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'You want more time Mr Brown, of course you do. We all want more time. Let me make you an offer...'

Andrew Brown never has enough time. No time to call his sister, or to prepare for that important presentation at the bank where he works. The train's late, the lift jams. If only he'd had just a little more time. And time is the business of Mr Symington and Mr Blenkinsop. They'll lend him some - at a very reasonable rate of interest.

Detecting a problem, the Doctor, Amy and Rory go undercover at the bank. But they have to move fast to stop Symington and Blenkinsop before they cash in their investments.

A thrilling all-new adventure featuring the Doctor, Amy and Rory, as played by Matt Smith, Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill in the spectacular hit Doctor Who series from BBC Television.

Doctor Who: Borrowed Time Details

Date : Published June 23rd 2011 by BBC Books

ISBN : 9781849902335

Author : Naomi Alderman

Format : Hardcover 256 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy, Time Travel



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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Borrowed Time for online ebook

Angela R. Watts says

I really liked this one... xD It would have made a great episode, too.

Purple Grapes Gabriella says

Doctor Who: Borrowed Time is a crazy book. At Lexington Bank, the biggest bank in the whole entire world, has a ton of employees. They are expected to get a humungous project done in an hour. How? There are these weird people who give you watches. This special watch you can borrow time. If you go back a day, it will only affect you, and no one else. However, there is interest. Five minutes per hour, per hour. But when the weird people tell you the interest rates, they say the second per hour very quietly. When you pay back, the watch sucks out the time from your lifespan. If you borrow and you have a ton of unknown interest, and you pay back, you die, and you're a skeleton. Amy got one without realizing the danger, and doesn't pay back. Then the weird people start turning into shark people...

Brooklyn Tayla says

Another winner of a DW novel. Totally canon to the 11/Amy/Rory world. Very fast paced, trippy, slightly terrifying and quite sad. Honestly would've thought Moffat could've written this. Definitely recommend :)

Stephanie says

I'm starting to find that mostly these Doctor Who books all have similar plots... something's wrong with time. But they're still really fun to read and are really great at helping me get through my Doctor drought until Christmas. :)

Mel says

So awhile ago I was really missing Amy, Rory and the Doctor, sad they didn't get a proper last series so went and ordered ALL the books I could find with them from the library. I really enjoyed this. It was Doctor Who meets Momo via Neil Gaiman. It was a plot that mocked the banking crisis, borrowing on credit, compound interest and loan sharks. I think this is my favourite Amy, Rory and the Doctor novel to date. It was a fun time travel story and mocked the career hungry and money hungry world we live in without being heavy handed. It was also nice to have a woman writer for a Doctor Who story as they are far too few and far between.

Kirstie Ellen says

"Oh god, has the Doctor decided I'm useless, well I am useless, but maybe I'm useless in that useful sort of way? Bait, maybe?"

It really breaks my heart how cruel these books are to Rory - he's always being left behind and picked on by Amy and the Doctor and it makes me just want to go and give him a big hug. So far, I've yet to encounter one of these books that doesn't patronise him on a depressing level. But maybe I'm just overly smitten with Arthur Darvill . . .

The Book

Borrowed Time is a really great adventure with the Doctor, Amy and Rory. The Doctor has been wonderfully depicted by Alderman and I think Amy has too (I often find she's the character who waivers the most). So, what happens? After an interesting and seemingly abstract beginning with Amy and Rory stuck inside a bubble that slows down time so that they can watch this particular sunset for, well, for three hours, we move on to the time borrowing endemic that is sweeping the Lexington Bank - and possibly the world. The curious characters of Mr. Symington and Mr. Blenkinsop are handing out wrist watches to the time-pressed employees of the bank with offers they think "you'll find hard to refuse". *Insert sinister laugh here*. All one has to do is twist a dial and hey presto! Back in time you go. Need to get a report done but also have to be at a meeting? Why not do both at the same time?! Perhaps the easiest way to understand this is to think of Hermione and her time-turner in Harry Potter? Got it? Now, these people must also *repay* their time. Yes, you see where this is going? Good, good. Because this is borrowed time that has some severe compound interest (the concept of which only the cake analogy made clear to me). The problem? No one reads the fine print. Thank goodness for the Doctor.

Time Borrowing

I just found the plot in general to be highly entertaining. It's jam-packed with energy and the Doctor is alarmingly realistic. We've got new aliens and original ideas - what else do you need? I found this a refreshing break in the Whoniverse, and I definitely tip my hat to Alderman for tackling the sensitive topic of time and what exactly the rules and regulations are. The *only* thing I found didn't sit with me was the one-line reference to these baddies out-smarting the Shadow Proclamation. Uh-uh. In my rule book, that just doesn't happen. But as I said, one line, I dare say I shall soldier on and live to read another day. And HOORRAY, excellent plot twist Alderman, excellent plot twist. There was so much on the go that I didn't have time to predict that one, or expect it. *Round of applause*. There's truly not a lot to fault this book on.

Amy and Rory

This relationship always breaks my heart. Rory spends what, 2000 years waiting for Amy? And most of the time he's worried she'll just ditch him. Sad face. I wish he had more faith in her and belief in himself. That being said, I think their relationship is *pretty* accurate . . . Rory doing what he's told and sticking to the rules, and Amy stuffing it all up. Amy has a decent sized role along with a substantial amount of flirting and Rory gets to (almost) go in a date (twice) with his wife. *Aww*. See? It really has covered everything, this book. I *loved* the fact that there were references to Rory's 2000 years waiting and Amy's parents actually existing - it slips nicely into the time continuum.

Summary

I just loved it. This book makes me *truly* excited about Doctor Who. It makes me, a) proud to be a Whovian, and, b) keen to read every other Doctor Who book out there. All the wibbly-wobbly timey-wimey loops were

tied up (praise The Lord) and I see no reason to criticise any of it. I present to you, a well written book that I recommend to any Whovian out there looking for something to stick their nose into!

Natalia says

Besides the bit about Narnia, the epilogue had to be my favorite part!

Time sharks. Just, really? CREEEEPY

F.R. says

So here we have 'Doctor Who' does the financial crisis, with The Doctor taking Amy and Rory to witness the biggest banking collapse of the age. Obviously that's a set-up containing a great deal of promise, but there's also something a tad disquieting about it. After all if The Doctor is involved, then there will obviously be malevolent aliens involved somewhere in this crash. But why would human beings need malevolent aliens to crash a bank? Human beings have more than proved themselves stupid enough, greedy enough and venal enough to crash a whole world economy, what would they need outside help for? Introducing outside extra-terrestrials does make it seem like some of the culpability is being removed from the bankers, the asset traders and the other functionaries of greed, and they are people who should feel really, very, incredibly culpable.

Fortunately the book doesn't go quite in that direction. Instead what plays out is a chase through corridors with a few broad swipes at credit cards, pay-day loans, loan sharks and other tricks of high interest lenders, but it's all done for laughs and (ironic really, given that the loan sharks are actually walking sharks) somewhat without teeth. What we have here is a romp in a high-end office block and around the City of London. It's perfectly serviceable in what it does, but doesn't have the reach or the scale of Una McCormick's 'The King's Dragon'. Amy particularly suffers in comparison to that book. Whereas in 'The King's Dragon' she was impatient force pushing the book along, here she's the idiot member of the team who goes and does something stupid. It's all slightly disappointing.

Spin-off books from popular TV shows are always going to be a disposable item. This one is a fun, but particularly disposable example.

Antonomasia says

Naomi Alderman's story in Granta 123: The Best of Young British Novelists 4 was a very funny Gaiman-esque mythology-meets-reality piece. So I wanted to see what she would do with a *Doctor Who* novel. I wasn't *that* impressed.

I've never read any *Doctor Who* fiction before - though a number of my friends have between them read hundreds of volumes of it, so I'd never dismiss it out of hand when such clever people read (and write) it. But I can't say how this compares to other *Who* stories ... and that's what I'd most like to know.

Borrowed Time trundled on satisfactorily enough, like the books of middling comic fantasy writer Tom Holt: derivative and therefore slightly bland style, and a mixture of the embarrassingly obvious and rather clever.

Seeing yet another allegory for the banking crisis made me groan: in 2006 or 7, staff at the London branch of an international bank are approached by two oleaginous aliens, Mr. Symington & Mr. Blenkinsopp, and offered watches which allow them to rewind time and get more work done, in return for an apparently low rate of interest of 5 minutes per hour. The time-lenders can also take the bodily form of sharks ... geddit ... but at least the system is quite intricately designed, albeit with a couple of holes I thought I spotted. I've never been very interested in futuristic time travel, but when stories involve travel to the past, whether for historical tourism or revising bits of your own life, I generally love it. So at least I was more sympathetic to this than if it had been a story of fighting random aliens, which would have needed to be very funny to keep me interested.

Unfortunately I don't like the characters from the Eleventh Doctor series as much as those from the 9th and 10th. The Doctor and Rory seemed true to type though I wasn't so sure about Amy who too often, especially in the first half, seemed mostly to be doing things because they fitted the plot.

The writing was simpler than I expected but a couple of other reviews indicate that kids and teenagers are a big market for these books. The other times I've read children's books by writers whose adult fiction I like, I've often been disappointed; perhaps with a smaller vocab an interesting style just isn't so forthcoming.

This isn't bad, but on the basis of that excellent *Granta* story, I'd hope Alderman can do better things with genre fiction and humour in future.

William says

I became aware of this book through this great article in The Oxford Culture Review (<https://theoxfordculturereview.com/20...>) and I'm very glad I got it shipped all the way from the UK. It's a near-perfectly crafted Doctor Who story with a great sf premise (aliens allow you to borrow time from your future if there are things you need to do now, but you have to pay it back... with COMPOUND INTEREST), a pair of sinister men in suits who are ACTUALLY SPACE SHARKS, giant cockroaches, and a pitch-perfect representation of the Eleventh Doctor, both in his goofiness and in his essential seriousness. It's set immediately before the financial crisis of 2008 but strangely doesn't call that out, even though one of the basic plot points is that alien financiers have been securitizing other people's time without properly assessing the risks -- maybe there wasn't space to draw the parallel in detail. Amy and Rory are also captured well, the supporting characters do more than just stand around, and the detail (Little Green Storage under the Millennium Dome) expands the Doctor Who universe intriguingly. Great fun, and gave me a real nostalgic callback to reading the Target books every month as they came out.

D.L. Morrese says

This is a story of investment banking, the white-collar rat race, fraud, debt, the subjectivity of value, and the dangers of compound interest... sort of. It's not about money or stocks, though. It's about time -- using it, managing it, borrowing it, trading it, and paying it back -- with interest, compounded hourly.

An alien time trader has come to Earth and is loaning harried bank employees the time they feel they need to conduct research, prepare reports, do presentations, and everything else necessary to climb the corporate ladder while still having some time for themselves and their families. The snag is that the time must be paid

back, and under the fine print terms of the contract, some people find themselves owing more than a lifetime. The 11th Doctor, Amy, and Rory must expose the dangers of borrowing on the future because if they don't, humanity may not have one.

This novel has a serious and timely underlying theme, although the story itself is not to be taken seriously. I seriously love books like this. There are far too few of them. When Doctor Who is done well, though, it can provoke thought about a serious idea and still be fun. This story does that well enough. I won't say it's not without some flaws. I thought the characterizations were just a bit off. The Doctor was perhaps a bit too eccentric and Rory a bit too goofy, and the bank employees, well, they were unbelievably oblivious to the strange things going on around them. But, all in all, I enjoyed this book. It's a quick and easy read and a great way to spend an evening or two between Doctor Who episodes. I recommend it to all Doctor Who fans and other lovers of positive science fiction.

Kribu says

Fittingly, I read this one entirely on a plane taking me first to and then again back home from the Doctor Who Festival in London last weekend.

And it reminded me once again that while the Twelfth Doctor is MY Doctor (and this is where I'm really tempted to insert some utterly fangirlish, smitten gushing over how ridiculously gorgeous Peter Capaldi is in real life, especially close up, and how wonderfully firm and warm his hand is, and how radiant and genuine his smile is, and how I melted into a little puddle of goo when getting my photo with him), some of my favourite Doctor Who in book form is still, and consistently, from Eleven's era.

I don't know why this is but somehow most authors seem to have an easier time getting a good handle on the characters and their voice with Eleven, Amy and Rory, and when you add in a really rather original, interesting plot - because at least I haven't seen a lot of sci-fi or time-travel stories that take place almost entirely in a contemporary 21st century London bank, with a lot of talk about presentations and board meetings and compound interest etc - then the result can't really be anything but a pretty great book.

So, yeah, I actually really enjoyed this one.

Carl says

As I picked Borrowed Time up and started to read, I had a nagging feeling I knew the author name from somewhere, and sure enough, the author is the very same Naomi Alderman who more recently wrote The Power, a bestselling science-fiction novel with a feminist plot twist, which has been the talk of the broadsheet culture supplements.

There are plenty of signs in this earlier work that the author would go on to greater things, as this is certainly one of the best examples of new series Doctor Who novels I've read. Events take place in the capitalist environment of a multinational bank, which calls to mind the recent TV episode Oxygen. If (like me) you were turned off that story by the didactic dialogue and promotion, you might think this book isn't for you. However, although it certainly could be read as parable on the dangers of greed, this never overwhelms the

story to the point where it feels less an adventure, and more a lecture. Quite the opposite; it is a hugely entertaining ride that adeptly spins financial tropes such as "compound interest" and "loan sharks" on the way to great effect.

Regular characters of the Eleventh Doctor, Rory and Amy are present and convincingly correct, with this incarnation's manic energy - the arms and legs all over the place and the mouth which never stops talking - beautifully portrayed, as are Amy's moody turns and Rory's unswerving loyalty. Characters, monsters and gadgets are developed fully with a humourous eye for detail - I particular enjoyed the camera from the future that addresses its user in Chinglish.

The climax of the book - which sees the Doctor separated from companions - is especially effective, to the point where I couldn't put the book down for the last fifty pages or so, a rare experience for me. And to round things off, in the last few pages there is a delicious hint of a sequel set in the past.

A multilayered and intricate book that never feels difficult, and is indeed consistently enjoyable, this is a wonderful work from a skilled author who I would happily bank with.

Scott says

After Jonny's excellent Who book *Touched by an Angel*, I didn't think the next book could live up to it. I was wrong.

Less concerned with emotional depth than Jonny's, this is far more a satirical, even political book, exploring the recession and bank collapses - right in line with the show's original remit to educate and entertain at the same time - I can't recall a Who book ever taking the time to explain the workings of compound interest before!

Given the complexity of the ideas she explores, and the huge difficulty of communicating them for kids and being fun and exciting at the same time, it's hugely impressive how brilliantly she manages to pull it off.

Funny, clever, and very, very well written, this was a joy from start to finish.

Lauren Stoolfire says

What a fun *Doctor Who* story! I especially liked that ending. The author and the narrator totally hit the mark with the some of my favorite chat, The Doctor, Amy, and Rory.
