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From Cardiff, Wales, the Torchwood team fights aliens. Captain Jack Harkness, from UK BBC Doctor Who TV series leads Gwen Cooper, and Toshiko Sato to a monster in a bathroom, a mystery at an army base, and stolen nuclear fuel rods. Meanwhile, Owen Harper vanishes from the hub, when a Second Reality game leads him to an ex-girlfriend.

Another Life Details

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From Reader Review Another Life for online ebook

E.B. says

SPOILER FREE

critical FANBOY WARNING

The worst part of this book is that there is zero JackxIanto yaoi fangirl service. Bummer. But the bad parts aren't *that* much of a buzz kill any way.

I read another review here on GoodReads.com where the reviewer said s/he stopped reading because there were so many typos. Well, before I started, I decided to keep track. There were about 13 typos in all, through out the whole book. Give or take. Which may not sound like a lot, but it is. Whomever edited this book, did a piss poor job of it. What annoyed me the most was that there was one on page 253, line 13. The last paragraph of the book! The last paragraph? Did the editor not read the last page?

Another negative point; The author had absolutely no grasp on the character of Toshiko. Which I thought was very odd, as she seems like the most basic character in any team based story line. She is the shy computer nerd, with a crush on the rebel. Anghelides actually has Toshiko say "Don't make me slap you" to Owen. Toshiko would NEVER say that to Owen. Not in Series 1 at least. And Anghelides] barely touches on Toshiko having a crush for Owen- Through a subtle observation by Owen. I really hated that, because **Toshiko is my favorite character**, so to have her written in a way that isn't "natural" for her character is annoying and hard to read for a FanBoy.

On the other hand Anghelides had the best grasp on Jack and Gwen. describing Jack as a man who can enter any room and command authority. I loved how Anghelides kept referring to Jack's coat as his "greatcoat". The Author also has Gwen showing her connection to her past as a beat cop and the awkwardness of running into her old colleagues at crime scenes and having to exercise her new position or rank to get her job done. When I watch the TV show, watching Gwen trying not to change, trying not to become like the rest of the Torchwood team, is a concept I find interesting and it was nice to see Anghelides explore that a little bit.

Torchwood, as a concept, really lends itself well to book form! Really well. They're Alien Hunters, sure, but Gwen's police approach to situations and the teams approach to clue gathering and problem solving give this book a tiny bit of a Mystery crime novel feel.

The book starts off a little on the dull side with a seemingly meaningless subplot involving Owen. This book takes place before the episode "Cyberwoman" so it's great for fans to see Ianto lurking around the Hub suspiciously. However, the last 10 or 12 chapters are VERY good. Typos and all. It really turns into something you could envision playing out on the show. Had they the budget. With a clever, plausible (and by plausible I mean, it works in the *WHOniverse*) ending. It works.

Another thing I loved about this book was how British it was. The turn of phrase the characters and the author use were very fun for an American to read. Although, there is a lot of play with the Welsh language that I found completely unreadable. Fun, but I would gloss over the words, just like some of the characters in the book. Which made picturing Gwen and Ianto's amusement that much easier.

If you are a fan of the show, as obsessive as I am to the point where you are driven to read this book, Do it. It's obscure enough in the states where most people won't know it's a book based on a British science fiction television show about alien hunters. There by keeping your street cred in tact.

Angela says

Torchwood investigate a string of murders that are grisly and unusual. An alien has to be involved. Though when their main suspect dies, it becomes clear that something did not add up.

The characters are spot on, and the story moves along well. This is definitely not a book for children, the violence and descriptions place the Torchwood novels in the same vein as the tv series. This is a Jack, Gwen and Owen centred novel. The idea of the alien was clever, especially that they kept parts of the people they took over.

A good read.

? Irena ? says

I love Torchwood and I love Jack Harkness, both in Doctor Who and in Torchwood. It doesn't hurt he is played by John Barrowman either.

This story takes place a few months after Gwen Cooper started working for Torchwood, so her boyfriend still doesn't know anything about her job and Jack isn't involved with Ianto. Something is killing people in Cardiff and their deaths are so bizarre that Torchwood is on the case. It takes them from a disgusting jellyfish monster to a mysterious death of one soldier and a disappearance of another to stolen nuclear fuel rods.

I love Jack Harkness. I love his character and how he deals with problems and threats. There isn't enough Jack in this one though. I liked all the action parts of the story.

What I didn't like is occasional shift to second person narrative. Another thing I didn't like is Owen's character, but anyone who watched the series won't be surprised. His whole attitude towards the items they collect and keep in Torchwood Hub and his job can be summarized in the following passage: 'He felt his face and neck flush in a momentary panic at the thought of the alien tech turning up at the hospital, until he resigned himself to the impossibility of doing anything about it.' I knew he wouldn't die, but I found myself wishing his death more than once. He was *that* stupid, annoying and full of himself.

In any case, I would recommend this to people who liked the TV series.

Amy says

Owen enjoys becoming someone different in Tosh's new virtual reality interface for an online role playing game like Second Life. A Bryuydac life form enjoys becoming someone different as it hops from human host to human host as it gathers things it desperately needs to get back home. Both enjoy seeing the world through someone else's eyes, but only one is causing death and destruction in the real world.

I was fairly impressed with the adaptation of Torchwood to novel format. It has all the depth that makes Torchwood a great series: depth of emotion, intelligence, sexual tension, action, and quirky characters. The

novel successfully brings together several story lines that at first seem unconnected, making it a much more complex novel than the Doctor Who novel I just read. The novel must take place some time in the middle of season one rather than between season one and two of the series because it assumes that Owen and Gwen have never had any sort of fling and Ianto seems annoyed with Jack's sexual banter toward him. I think this particular author could have done better with Jack's dialogue, though, because it sounds more British than American. What American would ever say, "I think I've just *trod* in dog shit"? But that's really the only negative thing I can say about the book. It definitely helped satisfy the need for watching a new Torchwood episode between seasons.

I'll definitely pick up the next 2 Torchwood novels which, by the way, make a complete picture of the cast when displayed side-by-side on your bookshelf.

N says

Loads of good research went into this book, as well as a lot of love for the Torchwood crew. The atmosphere is spot-on: urban, dirty, full of things going wrong and ordinary people being dragged into gruesome circumstances. Plus, it's got a brilliant homage to my favourite James Cameron film.

It's great to see such a focus on Owen, and I completely adore the way this book portrays him. He's allowed to mess up and to be a complete arse. It's especially nice to see him in a hospital setting for once. He also goes cruising for men — consensually this time — and is shown to be a total nerd. Ianto gets some great moments as well, especially in his unresolved sexual tension with Jack and in getting very jumpy when people accidentally remind him of his Cyber-girlfriend stashed in the basement.

The bits about virtual reality (a Second Life parody) are nice, if a bit hokey — the author doesn't seem to feel quite as much at home in this world as he does in describing Cardiff. The words he uses for the video game that Owen plays sound more like an anthropological perspective than that of someone who actually enjoys gaming. But it works well enough, even if Tosh's technical tweaks to the game are implausible bordering on magic.

At times the book is a bit too edgy, but that's half the fun of Torchwood. A cool adventure overall.

Tom Malinowski says

This is the first time I've read a book based off a TV series. What a thrilling, captivating read. Anghelides definitely captured the characters well. The book takes place within a few months of Gwen joining the team, so I was in for a great flashback of the time when these five were all working together. Sigh... Just because there are so many episodes of the show, doesn't mean that those were the adventures Torchwood was limited to. Great subplot concerning 'Second Life' game and how Tosh's knowledge of technology can tweak that for an even immersive environment.

Loveeac says

I love Torchwood. Love the characters, the story lines, all of it. So when I found out there were books, I

REALLY wanted to love them, too.

I didn't. Well, for the most part, I didn't. The plot kind of dragged. A lot. There were many typos/wrong word usages. One that had my fiber-arts loving back up was "crotchet edge". It is crochet! *ahem*

The thing that really made it very difficult for me to finish reading this book was the switching between third person and whatever it's called when you tell a story in "you"-form. Completely and utterly jarring. At first I thought it might be to have an obvious distinction between our heroes and the bad guy, except it happened in hero moments, too.

I did like the portrayal of the crew. Tosh might have had a little more spunk to her than what I remember her having around the time this story supposedly plays out, but I liked it.

katie says

EXACTLY what I wanted in a Torchwood book! And I don't just mean the Jack/Ianto hints, because a couple of those were a little...well, they just didn't quite work for me.

Alena says

The Torchwood novels, released in progressive sets of three throughout the show's run, follow the chronology of the TV series in terms of character development and major events. This first book is set somewhere around the second or third episode of Series 1, with the corresponding early versions of the characters: Jack is tough and mysterious and shows little warmth; Gwen still thinks like a beat cop, and is frequently appalled by Jack's lack of humanity; Owen is a petulant creep who chafes at Jack's orders; Toshiko gushes techno-babble while having little defined personality; and Ianto is still solidly in his one-dimensional butler role, though there are refreshing moments when informed readers know he's slipping off to the basement to check on Lisa. (Amusingly, he deflects whenever Jack tries to flirt with him. Definitely early days...)

There are some fans who liked the original characterizations from series 1, but I am not among them. That made elements of this story less appealing to me (why should I care about Owen's love life when I really just want him to be hit by a bus?), but in the book's defense, overall, the writing is very true to the voice of the characters at that point in the series. There are even moments that foreshadow some of the developments to come, which is nice, and there are occasional nods to Jack's mysterious past -- or future, whichever way you view it.

That said, there were a few moments that felt off in terms of characterization -- Owen's digital avatar and game of choice was not at all what I would have expected for someone of his personality type, nor was his supposed lack of technical knowledge believable. (For that matter, the entire MMO description felt very much like someone trying to relate something they had never personally experienced. Perhaps the author didn't know any gamers?) And Toshiko, who had the least "screen time" in this book, was surprisingly standoffish and caustic toward Owen, even threatening bodily harm, which seems out of character for her.

In terms of plot, it's a bit more complicated than the usual episode adventures, with several avenues of

investigation going on at once, but that's not an unwelcome change for a series that characteristically suffered from too many one-dimensional crises. There's a bit of Rift-related hand-waving and super-convenient technology -- again, typical Torchwood fare -- and the last third of the book or so is entirely predictable, but it's not handled badly. (To be fair, this book has a more complete storytelling structure than most of the Torchwood episodes did...)

In short, if you liked Series 1, this installment is worth reading. But be warned -- there's a lot of pre-redemption Owen in it.

Noah Soudrette says

This book was a poor launch title for the new Torchwood book series. The one positive is the characterization. While Gwen and Jack were a little more whiny and/or angry than usual, all the characterizations in here were pretty spot on.

The biggest problem however, was the plot. The story is overly drawn out, very little of consequence happens in most of the book, and the majority of it just doesn't make sense. The idea of an alien jacking people's bodies to act as operatives is fine, but why does the alien's physical addiction to spinal fluid translate to the human host? He'd get no benefit from all the people in the book who get their heads bitten open. Also, why introduce this idea of a Second Life style game? We spend way too much time on it, it's outdated and an obvious attempt to jump on a "neat trend the kids love" that no one was ever interested in in the first place (how many crime shows recently have had murder plots revolving around Second Life as well... ugh). To top off all of these problems, the proofreading is also atrocious. Come on guys! Avoid.

melydia says

Cardiff is flooding and people are dying horribly and Owen is reconnecting with an old flame via a cross between Second Life and World of Warcraft. It was fun to see the old gang back together again, even back to before Rhys knows anything about Gwen's new job. If you like the early seasons of Torchwood, you'll like this little adventure, but like many books based on a TV program, it does not stand on its own.

Jenny says

4 1/2 ??

Owen is an idiot. There, I said it. Kept thinking it through the second half of the book because SERIOUSLY?!?!? I know Owen has this defunct in him that makes him do stupid things for women he has feelings for, but this is a new low... (yes, even considering the time travelling rift debacle...)

Apart from that, the story stayed true to the series. All the characters were well described, and I quite liked the "monster" parts to be described in the second person. Gave it an interesting perspective.

I wish there would have been more Jack/Ianto interactions, but it is happening quite early in the series, so I guess they hadn't hooked up yet. I would also have liked a bit more flirting between Jack & Gwen, because I

do remember feeling something there in the beginning of the series - and shipping them (but then again, I shipped Jack with pretty much every main character, cause he's just THAT good).

The writing was good, enough to make me imagine the Hub and the action as I was reading it. I had one small problem about (view spoiler) But, other than that, it followed the series well enough to keep me entertained.

? percy says

after going on a buying binge, it suddenly occurred to me: are there torchwood books? and LO! BEHOLD! the fun about these is that they're (hopefully) adult, like the torchwood series.

rings up the BBC hi what's up i'd like to write a torchwood book it has the tenth doctor and jack harkness sleeping together in it. possibly with ianto jones. what's the plot, you say? that is the plot! what, you mean i need more plot? okay, what about a sex alien who - hello? HELLO? they hung up.

Writerlibrarian says

First book from the BBC inspired by the Torchwood series featuring Captain Jack Harkness from Doctor Who fame. For the fan of the series the book is a nice tie over until series 2 begins. There are three books so far. Another Life is set before Cyberwoman. If you haven't seen the series some of Ianto's behavior will not ring a bell for you. The plot is interesting but the pace is very slow. The characters' introduction are minimal. The author assumes that the readers know the players. Which is not a bad thing, it cuts on the repeats. The plot is slow to begin and not all the strands of the story fit nicely. But overall it's a interesting read. Not as good as some fan stories but definitely worth a look if you are a fan of the series. Yes, Jack harasses Ianto just like in the series. :)

Shelley says

Lots of sexy, snarky Jack in this one, which is worth an extra star right there. Ianto has some great lines, too, especially in banter with Jack. And with Owen! Maybe that deserves another star. Some of the VR scenes are incredibly hysterical - Ianto's tail! All in all, fairly decent and I hope he writes more in the series this year.
