



## Doctor Who: Hothouse

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Somewhere in the south of England stands the Hothouse. Five vast, state-of-the-art biodomes, all steel and glass. Inside, rock star turned environmental activist Alex Marlow has a plan to save the world from climate change. By any means necessary...

There's something growing inside the Hothouse. Something that could turn back humanity's tide. A voracious alien vegetable called the Krynnoid. The Doctor's going to have to stop it. Stop Marlow. Stop Marlow's fanatical acolyte, Lucie Miller...

Save the world. By any means necessary.

## Doctor Who: Hothouse Details

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### **Mel says**

I must admit I've never been a fan of the Krynnoids. From the Green Death episode which was quite revolutionary for its environmental message I always felt that they were a step backwards. That they just portrayed people who were concerned about the planet in a negative way. Making fun of the hippies. I would say that was true for this one too. It did try and make things a little less black and white, but I'm afraid a lot of the time I found myself agreeing with the crazy environmentalist.

Still this was a good episode with a tight plot, good characterisation and a dystopian near future Earth. Lucie was very good and forgetful Doctor was also well done (His rantings against humans made a nice change to Tennant's love fest). It definitely seems like they brought things up a level for the third series.

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### **Jamie Revell says**

As is fairly obvious from the cover, this features a return of the Krynnoids from the television story *The Seeds of Doom*. It's not a particularly innovative treatment of them, to be sure, although neither is it entirely unoriginal. One of the notable features is the updating of the story to a clearly contemporary setting, with references to global warming and concerns about immigration (although, this having been written in 2008, the immigrants in question are Polish, not Syrian).

The focus, however, is on a fairly traditional base-under-siege story, in this case set in a sort of bio-dome in the English countryside. As so often in the 8th Doctor audios, it's helped by good acting, with Sheridan Smith as Lucie managing to upstage Nigel Planer as an ageing rock star and environmentalist. This, and the believable yet somewhat dystopian setting (it appears to be set in the near future) help raise it above the merely average rating that the plot itself probably deserves.

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### **Christopher Buchanan says**

A 'Seeds of Doom' reboot with a preachy 8th Doctor. Meh.

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### **Shaun Collins says**

Despite being a rehash of Seeds of Doom, this story works incredibly well for the 8th Doctor and Lucy, especially picking up the seeds of his amnesia left over from Orbis (see what I did there). The sound design is particularly great from Big Finish, and who doesn't love the Krynnoid? For more details, check out our review at [www.travelingthevortex.com](http://www.travelingthevortex.com) (Episode #365)

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## **Steven says**

The Doctor versus omnivorous broccoli, basically, with the climate change theme hammered home with Mjolnir.

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## **Charlotte says**

A Doctor rusty on his human interaction skills after spending 600 years with jellyfish. A companion going to great lengths to win back his trust. And a world affected by climate change.

Even though I felt like some of the real horror was going on off-screen (off-radio?), with natural disasters and border closing and humanity going into panic mode, I still got the shivers from some of the events in the play. Quite thanks to the sound effects of Big Finish and some great acting.

And as always, an excellent performance from McGann & Smith.

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## **Steven says**

After being away for a lifetime, the Doctor finally returns to Earth. What he finds is a world on the brink of ecological collapse. Alex Marlowe, former rock musician turned wealthy eco-warrior, thinks nature should fight back. And he knows just the plant to do it.

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## **Colin says**

Not a bad story, but not great. I don't much like the plotline where the Doctor is re-learning his relationship with Miller.

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## **Tabitha says**

Although I wasn't super engaged with this story, I didn't find myself noticing how interesting it is that Doctor Who manages to preach about things like global warming while just making it sound like the Doctor is confused by humans... I did really enjoy the villain, but I always like them better when they're doing bad things for what they think are the right reasons. I did find the 'monster we know' to be a little difficult to understand, more so the farther into the story we were.

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## **Nicholas Whyte says**

"Hothouse is almost a direct reprise of The Seeds of Doom, Krinoids and all, but done with great verve and double-crossing. Ex-Young One Nigel Planer doesn't seem quite to know what he is doing, but the rest of the

cast, regulars and guests, are great."

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