



## The Twilight Streets

*Gary Russell*

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There's a part of the city that no one much goes to, a collection of rundown old houses and gloomy streets. No one stays there long, and no one can explain why - something's not quite right there.

Now the Council is renovating the district, and a new company is overseeing the work. There will be street parties and events to show off the newly gentrified neighbourhood: clowns and face-painters for the kids, magicians for the adults - the street entertainers of Cardiff, out in force.

None of this is Torchwood's problem. Until Toshiko recognises the sponsor of the street parties: Bilis Manger.

Now there is something for Torchwood to investigate. But Captain Jack Harkness has never been able to get into the area; it makes him physically ill to go near it. Without Jack's help, Torchwood must face the darker side of urban Cardiff alone...

## **The Twilight Streets Details**

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Author : Gary Russell

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## From Reader Review The Twilight Streets for online ebook

### Susanne says

I agree with what many others have said - great book! I read it in one sitting (which I hadn't planned on but I couldn't put it down).

I especially like how this book embraces the relationship between Jack and Ianto.

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### Lisa Emmerson says

A little more complicated than most books in the series so far, nice to see some different ideas

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### Alena says

As with much of *Torchwood* EU, I have conflicting feelings about this book. On the one hand, it has some great individual scenes, zippy one-liners, and the return of Idris Hopper (a minor *Doctor Who* character who was originally slated to fill the position later occupied by Ianto Jones). On the other, the characterizations are uneven (and in the case of Jack, bordering on disturbing), and the plot is confusing. Though parts of the book are enjoyable, it's somehow unsatisfying as a whole.

The plot is convoluted and a bit difficult to follow. Series 1 antagonist Bilis Manger returns--I'll confess, he wasn't my favorite villain--and absconds with members of Torchwood 3, and there is another Big Threat coming from the rift. There's some flashy-but-not-really-relevant drama involving clowns, and some general techno-magic handwaving about the resolution (we did a Science Thing! we don't need to explain how!). This is peppered with interesting character moments throughout, as members of the team see themselves enacting potential future scenarios.

But I can forgive the weak conflict; after all, the TV series was notorious for those, and let's be honest--nobody reads *Torchwood* for the plot. It's not science fiction; it's a character-driven fantasy series with aliens, and the characters are what we really came for, right?

This brings me to my biggest gripe with this book: What the heck is going on with Jack? In spite of substantial character growth (both in the TV series and in previous novel installments), he has somehow reverted to being the self-absorbed jerk he was early in the series. Even though he and Ianto are supposed to be pursuing a more romantic relationship by this point, Jack taunts Ianto, lies to him, blows him off, and is generally rude. (Contrast this with the previous book in the series, *Trace Memory*, in which Jack is sensitive to Ianto's hurt feelings when one of Jack's previous lovers shows up, and they end up talking through it and holding hands). When Jack encounters Idris Hopper, it is revealed [very minor spoiler, but tagged for safety] (view spoiler) THAT IS NOT OKAY, JACK.

Idris Hopper is one of the high points of this book, though I don't think he was utilized to his full potential. Supposedly, the character was originally meant to return in *Torchwood*, but was replaced during series development with the character of Ianto Jones. This background knowledge makes for some fun moments when Idris and Ianto are compared by other characters, or when they face off in person (usually being catty

over Jack, because that's as deep as this book goes, though I would have loved to see them have a real sass contest). Idris is refreshing because he's one person Jack's charm *doesn't* work on, and while he's not as snarky as Ianto or (*Torchwood* Big Finish audio character) Norton Folgate, he has the potential to be another source of dry wit under stress. (Something for the writers of future installments to think about, perhaps?)

In summary, the book has good moments, and some pithy and quotable lines, but overall it's not one of the best plots in the series. It's not a good jumping-on point, but *Torchwood* fans who are completists will want to check it out. Just realize that you may not like Jack much in this installment.

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### **? Irena ? says**

#### **3.5**

Hard to rate. There are moments that made me want to scream, but since this is basically an *all Jack* story, I think it deserves a higher rating from me.

For those who have watched *Torchwood*, they know Billis Manger very well. It is one of the most enigmatic enemies they have.

The whole story revolves around a part of Cardiff that nobody can do anything about. Every time someone tries to do something about it, nothing happens. Every time people try to live there, something drives them away. It is not surprising then that there are a lot of ghost stories connected to Tretarri. Even Jack isn't immune to it. While people can at least try to live, make it better or whatever they tried to do there, Jack can't even enter.

I loved the idea for the story. *Torchwood* fans won't be surprised by Billis Manger's ability to show a future to Jack's team. The events from *End of Days* are mentioned too.

The events here show exactly the kind of people Jack works with. I know that some might argue that all that was imaginary or that they were out of character (I disagree), but most of the actions were exactly the things those people would do given enough chance. Jack's team is the most incompetent group of petty, insecure and jealous individuals I've seen. Only Ianto is worthy to be anywhere near Jack. And Rhys too, but he isn't a team member.

It doesn't matter whether the events are true or not, this is exactly what would happen.

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### **V.L. Locey says**

This is the *Torchwood* I fell in love with.

Banter, aliens, flirtations, Jack and Ianto embracing the attraction between them. Toss in Bilis Manger and you have all the ingredients for a darn fine novel, especially for fans of the show. A fast paced romp with the gang from the Hub that flowed well and kept me turning pages at a breakneck speed. Well done, Mr. Russell!

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### **Jules Jones says**

Sixth of the Torchwood tie-in novels, set late in second season and with a lot of canon references. And my most favourite of all the canon references is the return of Idris Hopper, the Mayor's secretary from the Doctor Who episode Boom Town. :-)[return][return]There is a small block of streets in Cardiff, built by a Victorian businessman as model housing for his workforce. And never occupied for more than a few weeks at a time. Things happen to the people who try to live in Tregarri. Jack doesn't know why, because Jack can't get in. He gets a three day migraine every time he tries. But now the Council is renovating the block, with full-on gentrification and street parties to show off the results. Not just on the rate-payers' money, either -- private sponsorship is paying for the celebrations. But the block becomes more than a minor mystery for Jack's off-duty hours when it becomes apparent that Billis Manger is behind the plans for change. And Billis is still using visions of the future to prod the team into action.[return][return]It seems simple enough. Another round of stop Billis Manger and save the world. But the old man's relationship with Good and Evil is rather more complex than that...[return][return]Really enjoyed this one. It's got an interesting plot, some excellent character development, and entertaining interactions between the various characters. All the regular characters get some page space, and there's some good stuff on the Jack/Ianto, Gwen/Rhys and Tosh-Owen relationships. Also a delightful little scene in which Ianto tells Torchwood's Little Miss Sensitive (yes, he calls Gwen that) some home truths about what it's really like to be bisexual. :-> There's a lot of stuff referring back to canon, but most of it is tied into the story in such a way that it enhances the story for those who've seen the episodes without excluding those who haven't. It also includes a good in-universe explanation for why the Tardis crew didn't encounter Torchwood during the events of Boom Town (the external reason, of course, being that Torchwood the series was still a twinkle in RTD's eye at the time). The reason for the AU future's potential existence got a bit woolly in places, but the story in that timeline is really well done, if possibly over-angsty for some fans. Which is why I liked it, of course. :-)[return][return]Oh, and a word of praise for cover artist Lee Binding, who has done a lovely job in depicting some key elements of the story.

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### **Ariadne . says**

To be honest, this is one of the books I've enjoyed the most out of the Torchwood novels. I liked how most of the characters were written, particularly Jack, Ianto, and Rhys, I totally disliked Gwen. For some reason she isn't written as likable as she is in the TV series.

Am I the only one having trouble with Billis Manger? I know it was an interesting twist for the story, but it just bothers me his role as an ally to Jack and Torchwood.

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### **Juli says**

lightweight but fun

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### **Iamshadow says**

Absolute rubbish. The characters managed to be both flat and unrecognisable, while the author got carried away with a fanciful and ridiculous plot that frequently confused and annoyed me. Don't waste your time. There are fan fiction authors out there writing far, far better stories. Get on live journal and read dsudis' Get Loved, Make More, Try To Stay Alive, demotu's A Matter of Time, sam\_storyteller's The Doctor and Mr Jones or The Theory of Two Centres, or d8rkmessngr's The Oncoming Storm instead.

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### **Wayland Smith says**

This is the sixth of the novels based on Torchwood, a dark spin off from Doctor Who. Personally, I'm a big fan of the show, which is why I was interested in the novels in the first place. I've found them to be uneven, but this is one of the better ones.

Among the elements at play here are several characters from both the Dr. Who and Torchwood series returning, a section of town that Torchwood leader Jack Harkness can't enter and the mystery behind it, and a very dark future version of what could have happened to the Torchwood crew.

I thought this was well done. It's largely about Jack, my favorite of the characters. There were also good scenes with the others, including a nice part where Ianto gets a bit of steel in his spine and tells of Gwen. I liked the characterizations and the ties to the shows.

The "evil" Torchwood in the future actually made a lot of sense, not just a "we turned them evil to tell a story, isn't it cool?" kinda thing. And the ugly secret behind it was a nice reveal I won't spoil here.

I enjoyed this one, and thought it was a great addition to the stories of Torchwood. I still wish they'd bring the show back.

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### **Mercedes Zhang says**

It is a very nice novel with some description about a very fascinating future which I like best. If you are a janto fan this won't let you down and even you are just a Ianto fan, this book also shows a brave- as - always Ianto who actually save the world (and the future). Also if you are quite into the relationship between Tosh and Owen, you can find really nice connection and interaction between these two characters in this book. And it also has a very intriguing ending.

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### **Nathalie says**

By far my favourite (as of now)! Loved the team's dynamics, the friendly banter as we see it in the series and especially the Jack-Ianto-scenes ugh. Oh and Bilis Manger, of course. That'd quite a way to make a villain something that's not quite evil and not good either.

Jus loved it!

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### **Aricia Gavriel says**

This looked as if it had the potential to be something very special, but the writing lets it down big time (or perhaps Gary Russell should be comprehensively edited, and wasn't), and ... well, if these novels get any shorter --! I think this one manages to reach about 50,000 words, and the hardcover is bulked out with so much whitespace, one mourns on behalf of trees.

For me, Russell didn't "get" the characters, which further robs the reading experience. \*sigh\* Maybe I'm just getting too picky in my old age? I've read ten of the Torchwood books (I believe there were 19??) and eventually I decided to call it there, because the costs involved far outweigh the reading pleasure most of these books deliver. Damn.

Warning: impending rant:

Why doesn't an actual FAN write a really great novel ... and why won't BBC look at better quality Torchwood fiction? You can't convince me that fannish writers don't try to show them great novels, but they prefer to publish very substandard fiction, almost as if dealing with fannish writers is a taboo. Ack. Grrrr. Okay, rant over.

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### **Kiri says**

Not impressed. I've enjoyed the Doctor Who novels more than this, my first Torchwood novel. The quality of the writing leaves a lot to be desired - not very sophisticated. Much like a Doctor Who novel with a lot of references to sex added.

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### **Evamaria says**

A friend gave me this and I read it in one day. I must say I was surprised how good it was - not brilliant (TV tie-ins rarely are), but it reads like an episode, and all characters get their moments (especially Ianto, which makes me happy). Plus there's lots of continuity, making it really feel like part of the Torchwood universe.

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