



## The Undertaker's Gift

*Trevor Baxendale*

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## **The Undertaker's Gift** Trevor Baxendale

The Hokrala Corp lawyers are back. They're suing planet Earth for mishandling the twenty-first century, and they won't tolerate any efforts to repel them. An assassin has been sent to remove Captain Jack Harkness.

It's been a busy week in Cardiff. The Hub's latest guest is a translucent, amber jelly carrying a lethal electrical charge. Record numbers of aliens have been coming through the Rift, and Torchwood could do without any more problems.

But there are reports of an extraordinary funeral cortege in the night-time city, with mysterious pallbearers guarding a rotting cadaver that simply doesn't want to be buried.

Torchwood should be ready for anything - but with Jack the target of an invisible killer, Gwen trapped in a forgotten crypt and Ianto Jones falling desperately ill, could a world of suffering be the Undertaker's gift to planet Earth?

## **The Undertaker's Gift Details**

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Author : Trevor Baxendale

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## From Reader Review The Undertaker's Gift for online ebook

### Jim C says

**Actual rating is 3.5 stars.**

This is a book that is based on the television series. I would recommend readers to have seen some of the television show before reading this book. This book takes place after the tragic events of season two. The team is still reeling and there is a new threat to the world.

I enjoyed this offering from this universe. My first worry with media tie-in novels are the portrayal of the characters. That was quickly squashed as I had no problem envisioning Jack, Gwen, and Ianto. There are a couple of minor plots that go along with the main plot and I was interested in each one. The main plot had a little bit of horror mixed in with mystery and I was so invested in it. Then the finale came and this lowered my rating the half star. It works for this universe but I thought it was a little too convenient even for this show. It was a little bit of a let down.

Even though the conclusion wasn't the strongest this was still an enjoyable book. The ride to get to the conclusion was excellent and I do enjoy spending some more time with these beloved characters.

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### Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1990023.html>[return][return]has all the narrative problems of a book set between series 2 and Children of Earth - massive alien menace threatening to destroy the world starting with Cardiff, serious threat to Ianto's life, both of which we recover from effectively with a giant reset button. It is well told, with great scenes from the blowfish and the visceral horror of the undead, but the framework is a bit predictable.

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### Tony Pope says

If you enjoyed the Torchwood series on TV, chances are you will enjoy being able to revisit the Torchwood universe introduced by the Dr. Who spinoff.

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### Emily Ross says

It's been a long time since I've read a Torchwood novel, and this was pretty good to return to them with. The characters felt like themselves, I liked the extra characters that were added for the storyline, the plot was pretty good and it was easy reading. At the end of each chapter, I didn't want to finish. The only issue was the resolution, which happened in about three pages and was pretty naff. Come on, Trevor, that ending felt like you were either trying to keep within a word limit, or you weren't entirely sure how to end the novel.

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## Lasciel says

Very enjoyable story line - the end of the world - so a normal day for Torchwood. Some pretty dark themes running through which were well thought out. Jack's relationship with death being the biggest and most obvious component here, but there's also a few other touching subjects implied.

The pacing was good, action packed from start to end if a little too long in the build up. A few too many fore-warnings for my liking. I loved the conclusion in a sci-fi geek sense - very nice. However, in a story line sense I found it a little lacklustre. The solution was a touch too easy in my opinion, also the scientist in me is annoyed by lack of ingenuity on the part of the characters.

The combat and action sequences were good, well written and gripping. All in all a good story that I enjoyed reading.

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## Lisa says

This was the first time I've delved into the Torchwood fandom via the books and I have to say that the writer has done an excellent job of capturing the heart and soul of the characters.

The danger through out the book was nicely built upon right through the whole book until the final chapters and as a fan who enjoys a little "hurt" involving her favorite characters? This book delivered that in droves.

All in all, it was an excellent read with an engaging story and spot on characterization. Definitely worth reading if you enjoy Torchwood.

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## Wayland Smith says

I have enjoyed most of the Torchwood books. Unfortunately, this wasn't one of them. The threats here get resolved in a very dues ex machina way, with a lot of coincidences. Also, the veteran Torchwood crew miss a lot of things along the way. You expect a certain amount of obliviousness from the monster-fodder in a horror or slasher movie, but not from veteran Torchwood agents.

I'm hoping the next book will get back to the usually higher quality of the series.

Recommended only if you're a real hardcore Torchwood or Dr. Who fan.

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## Eri says

I started dividing Torchwood books into two categories - possible re-read after some time and read once and that was enough and this certainly goes to the first category. On the other hand I might be sliiiiightly sad that this is the last full story book with Ianto, as the next book is just collection of short stories. Anyway.

I can imagine this to be the glorious two-episode ending of season 2.5. Undertaker's gift gives the reader bit

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of scare that it's not going to end up so well and leaves you reading as fast as you can to find out how do they survive this apocalypse (because they HAVE to survive, right?).

The world might be ending all the time, but sometime its not just about the world, but about the people too, and seriously if somebody gave this to me as an episode, I would want to choke them for braking my heart.

Spoilers!

(view spoiler)

This book certainly lives up to any expectations. Definitely recommended to Woodies of all kinds.

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### **melydia says**

This takes place between Series 2 and Children of Earth. I had a little trouble following the story, especially as the main baddies were written in such a way that I felt like I was supposed to already know who they were. And yet somehow I still spotted the secret weapon/solution to all problems a mile away. Basically, these aliens have decided that Jack and his team will screw up the 21st century, so they send some Big Bad to destroy the earth. Meanwhile, some college kids come upon a funeral procession made up of beasties described a bit like The Silence (but that might have just been the cover art influencing my mental picture). I suspect I would have enjoyed this more had I binge-watched the first two seasons immediately prior to reading it, so I had all the in-show history and characters and nuance fresh in my mind. This was a decent step back into the world of Torchwood, but not my favorite of the novels.

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### **Katie Brock says**

I love Torchwood. As it's been off the air for a while now and my TBR challenge this month was to read a book based on a TV show I decided to pick this up.

Being Torchwood there is some adult material but that doesn't distract from the plot. Long story short- an alien race are sending an assassin after Jack Hackness because they feel he cannot control the 21st century.

if you know Jack you know thats impossible.

What follows is dramatic, gruesome and apocalyptic.

The characters were written really well and it felt like I had only left the Torchwood universe for a second.

Definitely a novelisation where you could actually see it happening as an episode considering there were different viewpoints beyond the Torchwood trio of Jack, Gwen and Ianto.

Would thoroughly recommend.

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## Lavender says

Another great Torchwood novel. Jack and company save the world (again). Recommended to sci fi fans or fans of Dr Who/Torchwood.

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## Chimney says

Original review can be found at [\*Inconceivable Book Reviews\*](#)

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*(This review may contain spoilers for season one and two of the television series Torchwood.)*

Having enjoyed the Torchwood series, which is a spin-off of the ever popular Dr. Who, and also being a huge fan of the character, Ianto Jones, I decided to take a chance on reading one of the books based off the series. I have never read a book that was made from a television series before, so I was unsure what to expect really, never tending to hear great things about them. However, I was pleasantly surprised.

This book jumped from several point of views and things seemed a bit spilt off, but everything ended up tying together in the end as everything that happened to each character began to merge into one. The jumping around didn't feel choppy and flowed nicely together (though there is a point where a character has a weapon to the side of their head and then a second later it is gone). I found myself immersed in the crisis the Torchwood team was facing (Ianto's sarcastic humor helped).

During the novel they keep mentioning a casket, but they never mention what was in it and when the reveal came I found myself slightly surprised. The ending did feel a bit rushed and to me it had a very similar feel, atmosphere wise, to season three.

There was something, however, that continued to drag me out to shake my head at certain points and that was the amount of the Gwen and Jack relationship the author had going. This book takes place somewhere between season two and three and at that point Jack a more physical/emotional relationship with Ianto. However, in this book, though Jack showed some concern over Ianto, it felt he was more inclined towards Gwen and was constantly thinking about how beautiful she was. I admit this detracted from the story a lot for me and is my biggest complaint about it, but overall everything else was very nicely written and I got a similar feel while reading it as when I was watching the television series.

I did enjoy this novel on the whole and I do plan to read another one eventually. The amount of Jack/Gwen may have clashed for me, but everything else maintained a fun and quick read to give a nice Torchwood fix. I would recommend this book to Torchwood fans that have seen at least all of season one and two not just because of some spoilers, but I do also feel you need to know a little bit about the characters before diving in.

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## Tara Horak says

Torchwood – The Undertaker's Gift

This is the first Torchwood novel I have read in full so far and I have to say that I think it was a great one to start with.

This book is set after we have lost Tosh and Owen. You have the world under threat from something that seems unbeatable, and possibly would be if it wasn't for the fact that we have Captain Jack Harkness on our side.

At the same time we have a group of people from another planet and another time that are out to get Jack personally. This is where this book really catered to what I love to watch and read. Their sneak attack on Jack misses their target and gets Ianto.

It's full of great hurt (for the Hurt inclined) and comfort as well. The Jack and Ianto moments are fantastic and I couldn't have read it fast enough. In amongst the hurt and pain and stress over the world's impending doom is some great humour as well. Some of the dry one liners from Ianto were exactly what we have come to love about his character on the show.

Jack was written very much in character in this book that it was easy to hear his voice and his reactions and feelings on things that happen in the book to himself, the world or Ianto was right on for how I believe Jack would feel.

All in all, I loved this. From beginning to end it was exciting and thrilling. A great start into my reading of Torchwood novels.

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### **Erika Williams says**

As a fan of the television series, it's hard for me to judge this book solely on its own merit. So I'm not even going to try. If you are debating about whether you're going to read this book, you've probably already watched the series. This book exists for expanded universe material and nothing else.

For me, this book defines average reading material. There's nothing in it that particularly strikes me as great, but there wasn't anything to make me want to pull my hair out either. The plot is what you would expect from Torchwood, complete with a reset button that the series overuses. Except for when you want them to use the reset button, that's when they forget about its existence. The added non-Torchwood characters were rather bland. I never cared about what happened to them, and they monopolized about half of the book space. The only thing this book has going for it is that it's not bad, which isn't saying much considering it's a tie-in novel.

The thing I really took away from this book, however, is how little Jack deserved Ianto. The book seemed to revel in this notion, or it was just trying to make us think Jack and Ianto were ill-suited for each other. Yet all I could see was Jack being an undeserving jackass who I was starting to despise by the end of the book. Run off on them again, Jack, nobody cares! Both of them are better off without you.

Basically, Ianto was dying and Jack was too obsessed to care. To be honest, it was worse than that. It was more like "You're dying anyway, so do you mind terribly if I use you as canon-fodder while I go rescue perfect, irreplaceable, gorgeous Gwen?" Meanwhile, poor Ianto is half-dead and so in love with Jack that he

just decides to go along with it. Hence, Jack never deserved Ianto. At least in this incarnation.

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### **Michael T Bradley says**

I liked this book more than I feel I should have for the first half. Baxendale takes the interesting route of actually writing this as a horror novel - a BIT unusual for Torchwood, but certainly not something impossible to imagine - and it WORKS. Once the titular threat is explained, however, and the aliens from the future arrive, and all that ... it all becomes quite groan-worthy, BUT the first half is quite solid, and it kept me interested enough to finish the book. Though I haven't read the majority of the previous TW books, I was pleasantly surprised that this book references a lot of stuff that came earlier, rather than just existing in its own universe. The TW expanded universe actually feels a bit more cohesive than the TW TV universe.

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