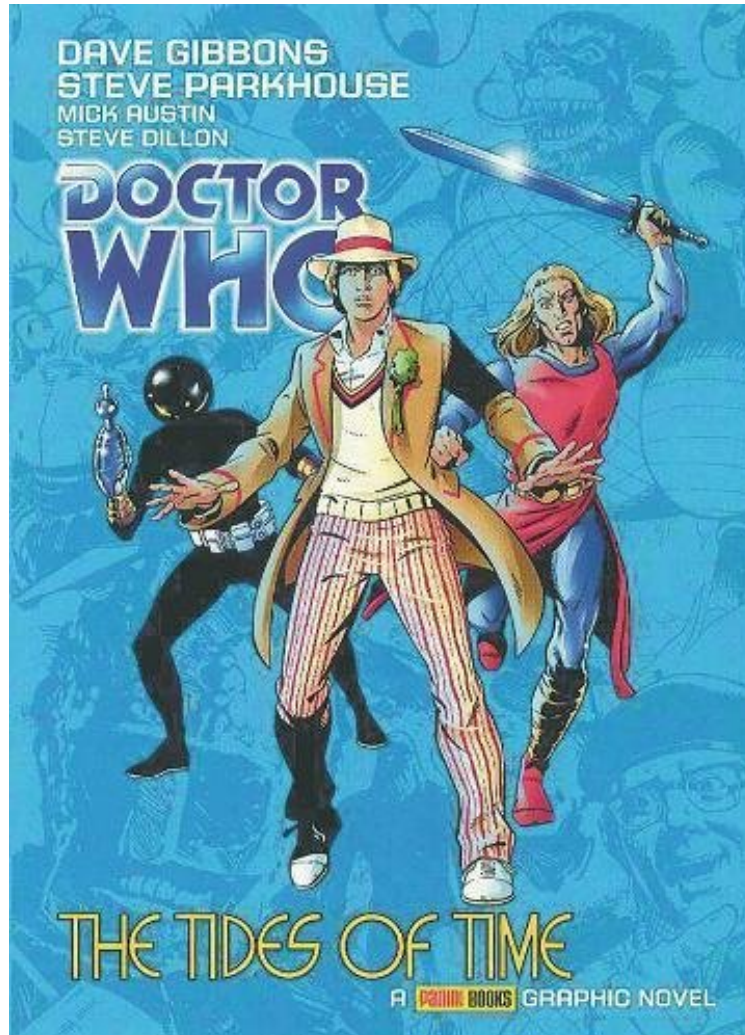


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Doctor Who: The Tides of Time

Mick Austin

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Mick Austin : Doctor Who: The Tides of Time before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Doctor Who: The Tides of Time:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One step forward, two steps back.By MorticrooWhereas most of the earlier Fourth Doctor comics were episodic, these stories begin introducing a lot of serialization. Plot threads carry over from one adventure to the other. Stories feel much bigger than they did before.Unfortunately, this book begins to develop a serious problem, in that it tends to portray the Doctor as a passive figure who is acted upon instead of acting. It introduces new characters like Shayde, Gus, and a trio of psychic commandos who are willing to blow away all the enemies with guns. The Doctor takes a backseat to the action and primarily functions to give infodumps and shuttle the more violent characters around in his TARDIS. It seems like Steve Parkhouse didn't know how to write Doctor Who

stories where the Doctor uses his brains to solve problems, so he introduced a bunch of brawny companions who shoot their way through. The earlier Fourth Doctor stories might have been shallow, but the Doctor was always at the forefront of them driving the action. The new artists aren't quite up to Dave Gibbon's standards, Mick Austin in particular tends to draw the heads way too big on his characters, like he's a caricature artist. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bland, and not Doctor-specific. By Johanna Draper Carlson. Since Doctor Who: The Tides of Time started as serialized, it's a dense read. I finished the first seven-part, 50+ page story feeling as though I'd completed a typical graphic novel, and I had six more stories to go. (I didn't like any of them quite as much as the first, though.) It's also physically heavy, with 226 pages of heavy, glossy paper. The stories are reprinted from DWM #61-84 and Doctor Who Magazine #86-87 (I assume that the title was changed and numbering continued, since one story runs across the gap). The book begins with the Doctor happily hanging out in the small English village of Stockbridge playing cricket. There's no indication of why, or how he got there, or when this is supposed to take place, since there are no companions. I didn't realize how much I missed them, since this guy is pretty bland without those more vibrant personalities to play off of. Or maybe it's Steve Parkhouse's writing. Without companions, the Doctor also winds up thinking or talking to himself more than seems right. Dave Gibbons' art is a treat to pour over, though, and the likeness is very good. The new character, Shayde, didn't impress me much. Visually, he's a guy in a black leotard with a globe for a head. Story-wise, he's computer-connected, so he knows everything; he can become a shadow, so he can be anywhere; and he robs any sense of danger from the Doctor. I couldn't figure out why a writer would want such a magic out, unless the short chapter structure was more frustrating to deal with than I imagine. The next story is a short (two-chapter) comedic interlude about a geeky conspiracy nut encountering the Doctor. It's a prelude to the next long story, about an alien source of fear. At that point, Gibbons is replaced by other artists, mostly Mick Austin (who when he first takes over, gives us a stumpy Doctor who looks about four feet tall) and Parkhouse. The Doctor winds up accusing a possessed TARDIS of lying to him, getting hit by a car, and trapped by a fire. Good action panels, but not what I think of as in character for the version of the Doctor I know. And that's my biggest issue with these stories — they could have been applied to almost any science fiction hero. They didn't seem unique to the character. Heck, one sequence could be more accurately titled Shayde Action Comics. The bonus story by Paul Neary is an eight-page short from Doctor Who Weekly #17-18 where the Fourth Doctor goes back in his own personal time, reverting to previous versions, and then forward again.

Join the heroic fifth Doctor in his complete Doctor Who Magazine comic strip collection - six incredible out-of-this-world adventures from the pen of Steve Parkhouse: "The Tides of Time," "Stars Fell on Stockbridge," "The Stockbridge Horror," "Lunar Lagoon," "4-Dimensional Vistas," and "The Moderator!" Featuring stunning artwork from the award-winning Dave Gibbons (Watchmen), plus Mark Austin (Judge Dredd) and Steve Dillion (The Punisher) and scripts from 2000AD's Steve Parkhouse.