



Lethbridge-Stewart The Grand Finale!

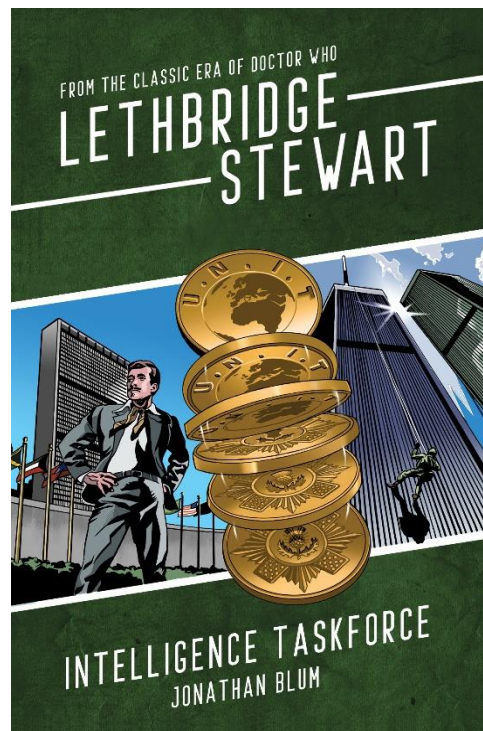
Candy Jar Books is pleased to announce the fourth and final title in its final series of **Lethbridge-Stewart** novels.

Intelligence Taskforce is written by Jonathan Blum, his second **Lethbridge-Stewart** novel, but by no means his first foray into *Doctor Who* fiction. During the 1990s he penned several *Doctor Who* novels with his partner, Kate Orman, for BBC Books, including *Vampire Science* and *Seeing I*. Outside of books, he also wrote the seminal Big Finish audio, *The Fearmonger*.

Range Editor Andy Frankham-Allen says: "There is two ways to look at this book; it's either a sequel, or it's the second part of one novel. I'm inclined to think of it as the latter, since it was initially only planned as one novel."

Jonathan Blum says: "When I first pitched my story to Andy, it was just one book – Andy said I could go a bit longer than usual because it was the grand finale. Then I submitted it, and he said, 'okay, not quite that long...' I'd already cut out a bunch of bits from my outline, because I knew I was running long, but the submitted draft was about 90,000 words, where most of the Lethbridge-Stewart books were around 70,000. In passing I said 'you know, there's these subplots in the original outline that I left out, we could put them back in and make it two 60,000 word books...' In my defence, I did have COVID at the time! Don't try this at home, folks – usually you'll be laughed at. But luckily, this helped Andy with his schedule, so he said 'make it two 70,000 word books and you're on'. But that meant I still had to come up with even more new material! The story split neatly in half – book one became 'what's going on and who's behind it', while book two was 'how do we stop them, and how far are they planning to go'. If you look at the books as basically an old-style Doctor Who four-parter, the expansion was in parts two and three!"

As well as ending the series proper, and setting up UNIT, Jon had a couple of other very important scenarios to work on at the behest of Andy.



Jonathan continues: "For me, the defining note of Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart is that he's such a conventional, upright figure – and yet he has to deal with so much interplanetary barking insanity. And as we know from the TV show, he allies himself with some weird people. His life is fundamentally strange, but he stays so normal – what does that mean about him? How can he actually do that? There's a possible answer in here, and it's not one the Brigadier would like... In the books he and Anne have this great personal history with the Great Intelligence and their family, this chaos lurking under the surface of their orderly lives, and they're both going to have to face that. And for a representative of The System, he spends an awful lot of time skirting the rules; he only really seems conventional and rigid when he's standing next to the Doctor! Here, in order to get UNIT as we know it off the ground, he's going to have to both rebuild the system from within, and work outside it. And, without intending to, burn some crucial old bridges..."

The cover is once again provided by Adrian Salmon. He says; "It was quite a technical exercise this one! My intention was to make the 'coins' be knocked back colour-wise to suggest movement as against solidity, and I think it works!"

Blurb:

Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart is in disgrace. And alone.

As the inquiry into his recent actions closes in, he takes personal leave, and heads to the United States to hunt answers. The conspiracy he's been uncovering stretches to the highest levels, involving people with the ability to manipulate probability and random chance, who could skew the fate of the entire world. But what for?

From the UN building to the Pentagon, the streets of Harlem to the shores of Barbados, Lethbridge-Stewart has to leave behind his secure position and build a new team of international allies. What they establish could bring the world together to face alien threats... or their different agendas could tear everything down.

They locate the man behind the conspiracy. But is there someone – or something – behind even him?

A coda to the series, **The Lost Son** by Tim Gambrell, will be released later in the year.