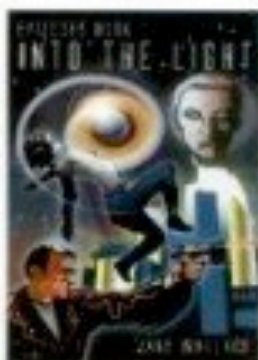


Book

EPIZODES BOOK I: Into the Light Reviewed by Iou Van Coot

Into the Light follows the adventures of Major Tom Sevin, a special-operations agent working for Coalition Space Command. He has vowed to hunt down the enemy officer who killed his family. But when his own side surrenders to the sinister rules of the Ghost, he is left to continue the fight alone. Now a renegade, he agrees to execute a dangerous mission for the fledgling Resistance: to travel to Goid, the distant mother-world, and rally reinforcements for a final, decisive battle.

The journey is perilous and his enemies manifold. In a thrilling race against time, Sevin must escape a ruthless corporation and a rogue geneticist, as well as the ever-present Ghost who are determined to bring him to justice. However, the greatest test is yet to come. When Sevin finally meets his nemesis, he must make a choice: will he satisfy his revenge or save his crew and the woman he loves?

Into the Light is very promising start to the new science-fiction trilogy, *Episodes*. It's written by Jane Wallace, a Hong Kong-born British fiction writer who creates a classic world full of adventures and intrigue. The book is certainly a page-turner.

Movie

Letters to Juliet Reviewed by Carl Sutherland

Feel like an instant vacation in northern Italy? This romantic comedy has the most gorgeous cinematography. Moreover, this Gary Winick-directed picture has a little more emotional heft than the average chick-flick.

The story is based on a real tradition in Verona where Shakespeare set his famously tragic *Romeo and Juliet*. Apparently generations of heartbroken ladies have written letters to the fictive 13-year-old heroine and attached them to the walls of the house where she purportedly lived, and this is the concept that drives the thin but engaging plot.

New Yorker Sophie, portrayed by Amanda Seyfried from *Mamma Mia!*, is a Shakespeare fan who takes her alpha male fiancé to Verona for a pre-honeymoon. Once there, however, he is less interested in being her Romeo than in investigating local produce for his soon-to-open New York restaurant.

The narrative swifly gathers pace in unexpected ways. Perhaps the shiniest star in this lush production is Vanessa Redgrave, who at 73 delivers another classy performance in the autumn of her remarkable career.

Music

Body Talk Pt 1 Reviewed by Carl Sutherland

Robyn
Konichia Records



Adorable Swedish dancing queen Robyn earned global fame with her 2007 mega-hit *With Every Heartbeat*. And she's going to get everyone back on the dance floor again with a couple of tracks from her new album, *Body Talk Pt 1*.

The lead-off single, *Dancing on My Own*, biases a comet trail of melancholia and exhilaration that recalls her earliest hits. Another highlight is *None of Dem*, which finds her putting about being on the hunt in a nightclub, taking on a 1980s Grace Jones manner persona, and delivering a high-voltage tune with worldly conviction. But the rest of the album - and there are only eight songs here - is more filler than thriller, though with a few flashes of the old electro-pop magic.

The Stockholm native plans to release two more albums before Christmas but she might be better off packing a dozen or so tracks into just one. *Body Talk Parts 2* and *3* might not be the generally underwhelming, but I rather fear the worst.