



Doctor Who and the Day of the Daleks

Terrance Dicks , David Mann (Cover Artist)

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UNIT is called in when an important diplomat is attacked in his own home - by a man who then vanishes into thin air. The Doctor and Jo spend a night in the 'haunted' house and meet the attackers - who have time-jumped back from the 22nd century in the hope of changing history. Travelling forward in time, the Doctor and Jo find themselves trapped in a future world where humans are slaves and the Daleks have already invaded. Using their ape-like servants to Ogrons to maintain order, the Daleks are now the masters of Earth. As the Doctor desperately works to discover what has happened to put history off-track, the Daleks plan a time-jump attack on the 20th century. This novel is based on a "Doctor Who" story which was originally broadcast from 1 to 22 January 1972. This title features the "Third Doctor" as played by Jon Pertwee, with his companion Jo Grant and the UNIT organisation commanded by Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart.

Doctor Who and the Day of the Daleks Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who and the Day of the Daleks for online ebook

Trent Reedy says

I grew up in a tiny Iowa farm town of 1,000 people. We had a grocery store with a little wire rack of paperback novels. These were mostly romance and western books, but one day, spinning the rack just in case something interesting popped up, I saw DOCTOR WHO AND THE DAY OF THE DALEKS by Terrance Dicks. This was probably about 1990, during the dark times when Doctor Who had just been cancelled in England and was next to unknown in America. At the time, I had never seen the DAY OF THE DALEKS tv story, and I was unaware at the time that the book I'd found was a novelization of the same. All I knew is that I was lucky to have found anything about Doctor Who, and I absolutely loved this story. I must have read DAY OF THE DALEKS three or four times in those days. Terrance Dicks was script editor for the TV version of this story and he's a fine novelist in his own right. This book is simply wonderful. It will remain a very special part of my library.

Michael says

If there has been one glaring omission from the classic *Doctor Who* Target novels audiobooks line, it's "The Day of the Daleks." One of the first serials adapted by Terrance Dicks, "Day of the Daleks" was one of the first Target novels I read (though it was under the U.S. Pinnacle reprint, including the fantastically, ranting introduction by Harlan Ellison) and it's easily one of the strongest adaptations the line ever produced.

And while I was delighted that the story was finally getting the audio treatment, part of me was still a bit nervous about visiting this old friend from my Target-obsessed days. Could it live up to the greatness associated with it in my memory?

The good news is that it not only lived up to my fond memories of it, it may have even exceeded them.

"Day of the Daleks" shows exactly how good Terrance Dicks is at adapting the television series when he's given time to really get into and develop the story and he's not constrained by a page count. In fact, this adaptation is so good that when I finally got to see the four-part televised version a few years later, I was a bit let down by it. Dicks does a fantastic job of character and world building on the pages of this story, making the story far richer than anything we see on our screens. Even a recent "special edition" on the DVD that adds some new effects, corrects some Dalek voices and offers a few other tweaks can't compare to just how effective the printed version is.

For a series about time travel, classic *Doctor Who* rarely looked into the mechanics and implications of it. "Day of the Daleks" is an exception where time travel and its implications play a pivotal role in the story. When a high ranking British official is mysteriously attacked by commandos who seemingly vanish into thin air, the Doctor and UNIT are called in to investigate. Turns out the guerrillas are resistance fighters from the future, trying to change history so the Daleks won't conquer the Earth and enslave all of humanity.

Dicks' adaptation not only develops the characters of the various guerrillas who travel back in time but also gives us a more nuanced look at the top human servant of the Daleks, the Controller. Dicks delves into his motivations and even makes us understand and feel a bit of sympathy for him, even as he's trying to help the

Daleks maintain their stranglehold on humanity.

The world-building involves a far bleaker view of the future than was realized on the screen, where it felt like it was just another *Doctor Who* episode filmed in a rock quarry. Limited only by the power of the reader's imagination, Dicks paints a world like something out of the pages of Orwell. Dicks even manages to make a weakness of the serial (the absurdly silly chase on a motorized tricycle) seem exciting, fast-paced and memorable.

All in all, Dicks turns "The Day of the Daleks" into an absolute delight and one of the true highlights of the Target range.

Returning to the audio range for "The Day of the Daleks" is Richard Franklin, who starred in the original serial as Mike Yates. Franklin has delivered some solid audio performances with a couple of other Pertwee-era stories, so I was looking forward to seeing what he'd deliver here. Maybe it's that Yates isn't quite as pivotal or as involved in this story as he was in "The Claws of Axos," but this one doesn't feel like Franklin's strongest work. For every good choice he makes (the Controller's accent, the Ogron voices), there are some that left me scratching my head. The biggest is how Franklin interprets the voices of the Doctor, the Brigadier and Benton. I suppose that part of it could be familiarity with the actors who play these roles on screen. But something felt distinctly off about how Franklin brings them to life in this reading.

And since this is a Dalek story, we get Nicholas Briggs bringing the Dalek voices to life. Briggs does a superb job of distinguishing one Dalek from another (helped immensely by Dicks creating some distinction between the pepper-pot shaped baddies). The voices used are authentic to how Dalek voices were created on the show at this point in the series run. They are more from the corrected special edition DVD than the original version. (The original voices were VERY off due to the long absence of the Daleks from television as their creator tried to find new ways to exploit them).

I'll admit part of me wished that Briggs (and the production) would really have a good go at fans by delivering the Dalek lines in the original television voices.

Again, "Doctor Who and the Day of the Daleks" is a highlight of the Target novels. And while the audiobook isn't quite as solid as I'd hoped it would be, it was still a fun way to revisit my fond memories of reading this story during my early days of *Doctor Who* fandom.

Adrian Sherlock says

Hugely enjoyable like the vast majority of Terrance Dicks' novels based on Dr. Who serials. With the Third Doctor he is really at home and this intelligent story came up well as a compelling read. I'm biased when it comes to Terrance Dicks and his Dr. Who books as they basically were the first novels I ever read and they got me hooked on reading from a young age and kept me interesting right through high school. This book is a little meatier than some, with illustrations as well. All in all, highly enjoyable. The time-paradox plot is exceptionally good!

Terence says

I was watching Pertwee's Doctor battling the Daleks today (14 June 2018) and remembered that I had read this when still a young lad.

Joe Cooper says

First book I ever tried to read, back when I was seven or eight. I could hardly read (developmental disorder, it later turns out) but my love for Doctor Who sought this book from the school library and I proceeded to spend one excruciating hour failing to read aloud even the first sentence. Now, over twenty years later, I come back to it. Tick.

Very atmospheric. For kids that can read, it would be a lovely novel to get stuck into.

Myles Parish says

Rather like the story on which it is based, this is Who by Numbers. It's good fun but little is added to the proceedings by putting it in a book. There's a passing attempt at characterisation for many side characters but on the whole it remains the passable romp that it was on television. Enjoyable but unmemorable.

Ethan says

I'm normally not a huge fan of novelizations. I got this as a present a few years ago and I've recently been watching a lot of old Doctor Who, so I figured I'd check it out. It was really fun. I probably would've loved this book a lot when I was 12, but I liked it now, too. The writing style definitely feels aimed at a younger crowd (maybe about a 10-16 age group), but if you can look past that the story is fun and the Doctor is, as always, quirky and hilarious.

Michael says

Resistance fighters travel back through time to try to prevent a future where humans are subjugated by heartless machine creatures. No I'm not talking about The Terminator. In 1972 The Day of the Daleks was one of my earliest memories of the show (The Daemons was the first). I was five years old and I had no clue what was happening regarding plot. All I knew was that it had Daleks (previously viewed through fingers in the Peter Cushing movies) and a lot of people waving guns around. But it was only two or three years later that I'd remedy the situation by first learning to read and then by getting my hands on the Target novelisation by Terrance Dicks. I was pretty enthralled with this one at the time and even without the nostalgia there's still plenty for the older me to appreciate. Terrance Dicks adapted Louis Marks' script with a lot of obvious enthusiasm to improve and embellish, from the opening extra scene describing a meeting of the downtrodden but undefeated human guerrilla fighters of the 22nd century, to the numerous action scenes getting a much needed injection of flash-bang-wallop. What results is a more atmospheric portrayal of the Dalek ruled future and the ruin of war ravaged humanity. The sequence from the serial where the Doctor tries to evade capture using a balloon wheeled trike that barely ever got to jogging pace, pursued by Ogrons trying not to look like they are running on the spot, is replaced by an unrecognisable all out Mad Max trike chase. Most of all I

enjoyed the early scenes where the three guerrillas first appear in our time, not in the bright light of dawn but in the dead of night, with Ogrons in close pursuit, getting into a three way shoot out with UNIT troops while the Doctor helps himself to wine and cheese on his ghost vigil. The plot is just about completely unchanged but Dicks just gives it all a good polish, even reinstating a few scenes that were planned but never made it into the show due to production issues, most notably the bookended time anomaly gag where the Doctor and Jo meet themselves for the second time.

Original artwork, features on script to novel, Terrance Dicks, Louis Marks and a new introduction by Gary Russell.

Mel says

I have this is NOT one of my favourite episodes. I remember it being kinda pointless and lame. I think I feel asleep towards the end. But I was surprised by how much I actually did enjoy the book. I think the book did a MUCH better job at creating the post-apocalyptic world with the Daleks in control. It was much more grim and oppressive. The story seemed to flow much better, the plot made more sense. The terrorists seemed more convincing and sympathetic. And the explosions were better. Clearly a case of imagination having a better budget than the BBC.

Travis says

What starts out looking like a case of political espionage, then turns into a pretty cool story involving time travel and the Daleks.

The time travel bit is very clever, it actually feels like UNIT gets to do something and there are a couple of good scenes with the Doctor and the rest of the cast interacting.

One of the really early episode adaptions. I'm almost afraid to watch the episode, fearing it won't live up to the book.

Doug says

Pulpy, but the prose is bright and clear. The voices of the TV show are perfectly presented, and the action is fairly badass for the time period.

Artur Coelho says

O problema de ler aventuras antigas de Doctor Who é a desconexão cognitiva entre a imagem dos livros e a minha ideia pessoal do personagem, um mix de energia de David Tennant, da excentricidade de Matt Smith e da aridez de Capaldi (pertinho ao clube dos que não vão à bola com o nono Doctor). Mas a aventura é dos

tempos clássicos, de um Doctor que encantou gerações antes de eu ser nascido (a primeira edição data de 1974) encarnado pelo actor Jon Pertwee.

Não esperemos um clássico de FC neste livro, antes um episódio mais desenvolvido. A ameaça dos Daleks vem de um futuro tornado possível por um momento-pivot que no presente mergulhou a Terra numa guerra nuclear. Há uma confusão sobre o que causou esse momento, o que dá um bom mote ao estilo de história de viagens no tempo em que os efeitos precedem causas inesperadas. Temos saltos a um futuro distópico com a Terra dominada pelos Daleks, unidades da UNIT em combate contra criaturas monstruosas, e combatentes pela liberdade que, se não pela intervenção do Doutor, seriam os reais causadores do futuro que querem a todo o custo evitar.

Christian Petrie says

Here we are with the first encounter between the 3rd Doctor and the Daleks. Additionally, it is the first time for them to appear since Evil of the Daleks. As far as story wise, it is not too bad.

The story starts off with guerrillas from the future coming to prevent World War III. During the course of this the Doctor and Jo end up in the future. In the series of stories, this is the first televised story that involves time travel and altering history.

Even though this has been used in other science fiction stories, it works fine for this story. The appearance of the Daleks does feel like a side thought. It does not hamper the story, nor does it move along.

This is a generic story that raises an interesting concept, yet just does not add anything special to it.

Michael Lasco says

2nd favorite Dalek story.

Lee Cadwallader-Allan says

Another captivating read!!
