



Doctor Who: Diamond Dogs

Mike Tucker

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“Here on Saturn, it literally rains diamonds.”

For over fifteen years the crew of Kollo-Zarnista Mining Facility 27 has been extracting diamonds from deep within the atmosphere of Saturn, diamonds that help to fund the ever-expanding Human Empire. But when a mining operation goes wrong, a rescue mission must be launched to save a worker lost overboard, a worker who claims that he has seen something amongst the swirling clouds. Something that can't possibly exist.

When the Doctor and Bill arrive, they immediately find themselves caught between hostile miners, suspicious security guards and corrupt company officials as they face accusations of sabotage and diamond theft.

And below them, in the crushing atmosphere of the gas giant, something is starting to rise.

An original novel featuring the Twelfth Doctor and Bill as played by Peter Capaldi and Pearl Mackie.

Doctor Who: Diamond Dogs Details

Date : Published April 20th 2017 by BBC Digital

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Author : Mike Tucker

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Diamond Dogs for online ebook

Kribu says

So, yeah.

looks at the star rating

... I think I liked it. :P Obviously, it's not like I'm saying "this is the most amazing book that ever was or ever will be" but .. it's quite possibly my favourite *Doctor Who* book I've read. And I've read a lot of them. And I've not been over the moon about most of the recent ones, so - between having felt a little let down by the relatively few Twelfth Doctor related offerings there have been in general, and having had to wait *such* a long time for a new batch, *and* not even having Clara on board... I was a little apprehensive.

But damn, I'm glad I picked this one to read first out of this brand new trio of S10 tie-in novels. (Not to say the other two suck, I very much hope not - I just haven't read them yet!) Because this (and I pretty much gobbled it down in a couple of hours) was basically everything I could ask from a tie-in book - excitement, a fair plot that moves along, some new characters who actually feel like rounded people with a life and back story, and more than anything else, plenty of awesome action by the Doctor.

Gah. I'm going to miss Twelve so much. I'm just glad he's been around long enough for the writers to finally get a decent handle on him, because I really loved him in this one. So much. *all the hearteyes*

Also, given that the books had to be written before anyone had actually seen Bill in action (although it's pretty clear the writers have had a fair idea about the first three S10 episodes to work from - so for anyone who prefers to stay in the dark, there's a couple of mentions of things happening in *Smile* and *Thin Ice*, although no more than what can be assumed from the trailers), I thought the characterisation - based on what we've seen so far, in *The Pilot* - was pretty spot-on. She doesn't have an awful lot to do in this book, but neither is she just a bystander, and for me the balance of the focus on Bill and the Doctor was just about right.

Anyway. Yes. Not going to talk about the plot, other than it worked well enough for me, and I've always loved those Doctor Who books that tackle the humans' far-future affairs, this time mining diamonds in the rings of Saturn - which I could just visualise.

Heidi Manley says

I love the dynamic between the Doctor and Bill, brings out the characteristics just like they were together on screen. I loved this book and the general picture it gave of Saturn and the story of a saboteurs and who to trust.

Irredeemable Shag says

A fast, fun read! I'm not typically impressed by the NuWho original novels as they don't have an ongoing

storyline of their own. They just fill-in the gaps between episodes. While that's true of this book as well, the spot-on characterization and TV series style pacing grabbed me. I could hear in my head Peter Capaldi and Pearl Mackie delivering these lines. I could easily visualize seeing this as an episode of Series 10. Recommended!

F.R. says

Reading the ancillary material so soon after the series ended does offer a different perspective on the development of the last twelve weeks of TV my viewing.

The guys who wrote 2017's selection of spin-off novels (and they are all men, disappointingly) would only have had chance to read the early versions of the first few scripts and nothing else. It's no surprise then that all three of these books seem to be Doctor/Bill focused, with only passing mentions to Nardole. Nor is it really a surprise (though it's always commendable) that Mike Tucker here manages to capture Bill so well. Even if he probably wouldn't have seen Pearl Mackie's superb performance, it's clear a properly realised version of the character was already in place.

And how well her character stands up on the page, just throws into contrast how weirdly off the portrayal of The Doctor is.

Much different to the kindly, sympathetic figure we actually had in the last series, this is very much the aggressive cantankerous Doctor that Clara had to deal with back in Series 8. He even wheels out the insult 'pudding brains' (and does it with such frequency that it starts to smack of laziness on the author's part).

If I had to guess, I'd say that the opening scripts – and this novel – were written before P-Cap decided to leave the role. Once it was clear he was going, the character was softened in the scripts to make him a more sympathetic character as he headed towards his denouement. But because publishing operates on a different timescale, there wasn't quite time for the books to do the same and so the other grumpier version of the Doctor remains.

(I am quite prepared for the other books to blow this theory out of the water, by having a proper Series 10 Doctor in their pages).

Wrong-ish Doctor apart, DIAMOND DOGS is at its core a moderately enjoyable yarn about mining diamonds from the atmosphere of Saturn.

Now I love mining stories in DOCTOR WHO. They are a staple. They're practically their own sub-genre, like 'base under siege'. So, I was all set to really like this one, and as such was surprised me at how indifferent it left me. The story is fine, it has a good sense of action and crams a load of incident in. But it's also fairly mechanical, with poorly defined villains. There are also way too many characters. A head-spinning amount of characters. Not everybody needs to have names, particularly when their personalities are so poorly defined.

It's a forgettable book then, a disappointing book even – made doubly so that in a novel called DIAMOND DOGS, there's only one other obvious David Bowie reference (a character who has 'Queen Bitch' etched on her back). That really is a missed opportunity. If I was writing a DOCTOR WHO novel with the same title as a Bowie song, the editor would have to beg me to stop including Bowie references, and even then, I probably

wouldn't.

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Daniel Kukwa says

It reads like a very good Target novelization...including an asterisk call back to "Doctor Who and the Invisible Enemy". Unfortunately, it's a bit too familiar for my taste -- a mash-up of episodes such as "Fury From the Deep", "42" and other base-under-siege stories. Slick (Mike Tucker does write a solid action sequence), and incredibly easy to read...but I was hoping for something with a bit more substantial meat. I'm longing for the days of "Doctor Who" novels like "The Eyeless" and "Prisoner of the Daleks".

Garrett says

Enjoyable. Less about 12 and more about the Saturnian diamond syndicate, its corporate backers, and internal corruption that fuel the plot of this one. Has the feel of a Terrance Dicks 4th Doctor novel, and there's lots of good alien stuff and Bill is well developed and well used.

Chris Wing says

Now, if it's one thing I love, it's a Doctor Who book. Or rather, a Doctor Who book with an author I both am familiar with and enjoy.

Mike Tucker has been writing Doctor Who books for a long time now and I know he puts out tales that I will most likely enjoy.

The plot is fast paced and engaging, the voice of Bill and the Doctor are well realised (which is a deal-breaker when not achieved) and the secondary characters are well-developed.

My only criticism is that the story is too short!

Yes, I know, this is a common thing with me (so I like more time taken on, well, everything in a book!), but I really do feel it whizzed through at a tremendous fast rate.

Don't get me wrong, it certainly suits the pace of current episodes, but it did feel like an hour long single episode. Too long for a regular 45 minutes, but not in depth enough for 2 episodes (90 minutes).

So, I can appreciate how this is perfect for many readers. You really can get easily drawn into the story, ride along at a breakneck speed and get to a satisfying conclusion before a younger reader may get tired (I guess!).

There is some great imagery for the mind's eye and, as I say, the Doctor and Bill are expertly realised, so reading their scenes are a joy. And how Tucker managed to and an appropriate amount of depth to six or so secondary characters, is a marvel to experience (and an inspiration, hopefully)!

Great stuff.

Ken says

The Doctor and Bill head to the far future where the Kollo-Zarnista Mining Facility 27 has been extracting diamonds from deep within the atmosphere of Saturn.

It's a fun New Series adventure with plenty of great references to the Classic series.

Sharon says

So the four stars, are because, this is a very enjoyable piece of cultural Valium and sometimes you just need light escapism, with a snarky super intelligent alien hero who likes showing off. Maybe not great science fiction but definitely a book for fans.

Mel says

How could I resist a Doctor Who novel called Diamond Dogs! It was quite a good space adventure of a mining colony. Laura Palmer was in it! But not the drug addicted prostitute we all love, rather a very hard working security guard in love with the view of Saturn's rings. Which was nice to give her a happy science fiction ending. But alas she didn't get it on with Bill.

Emily Ross says

I liked this book, the first of the Season 10 trio of novels. It had a good plot, good characterisation (which is surprising considering that the authors had to write this with little to no knowledge of the Doctor/Bill/Nardole interaction) and pretty good secondary characters. While its not my favourite Doctor who novel (those being The Blood Cell, with the 12th Doctor, Borrowed Time, with the 11th Doctor and The Last Dodo, with the 10th Doctor) it was good.

Jason Bleckly says

Shoot the editor. Great story. Pathetic publication. I distinctly remember at least 2 pages with 2 stupid proofing errors on the same page. Not to mention all the others littered throughout the book. If this low standard is maintained I may stop buying them.

Nicholas Whyte says

<https://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2879932.html>

Set in a future where humans and their alien allies are mining the rains of pure diamonds that occur amidst the clouds of Saturn. Tucker when on form is one of the best Who novelists writing at the moment, and here he is on form - great characterisation of the Doctor and Bill, a nice mystery saboteur plot which ends in a decent twist, loads of fan service for previous Who stories both Old and New, and tight writing. This was the first of the three Doctor-and-Bill novels this year (I accidentally read the second one already) and it's a good start.

David Rhodes says

A great fast read which was exactly what the doctor ordered. This adventure is set roughly around the fourth episode of Bill's series. This means everything is still highly new and exciting for her. The story really captures that awe inspiring wonder. I also really enjoyed the many Easter egg references to many colonies and planets mentioned previously in the Whoniverse.

OLeg89 says

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