



Doctor Who: The Scales of Injustice

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‘And what exactly, Doctor Shaw, do you think C19 does with the dead bodies of plastic dummies, reptile men, primordial throwbacks and all their human victims?’

A little boy goes missing; a policewoman begins drawing cave paintings; and the employees at the mysterious Glasshouse are desperate to keep everyone away -- the Doctor suspects it's all down to a group of homo reptilia. His assistant, Liz Shaw, has ideas of her own and has teamed up with a journalist to search for people who don't exist.

While the Brigadier has to cope with UNIT funding, the breakdown of his marriage and Geneva's threats to replace him, the Doctor must find the reptiles alone.

And behind it all lies a conspiracy to exploit UNIT's achievements -- a conspiracy reaching deep into the heart of the British Government.

Can be read free online at the BBC's *Doctor Who* site.

Doctor Who: The Scales of Injustice Details

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Author : Gary Russell

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Scales of Injustice for online ebook

Meagan says

I really good novel send off of Liz Shaw. She left abruptly so it's good to see some time of reasoning behind it. The story read like an old Doctor Who serial. With the episodes, and the graphic content they could've only gotten away with occasionally. Really good read, characterization of Liz was spot on. Plus it was nice to see Mike Yates' promotion and some of the Brigs home life. Plus not all that much focus was put on The Doctor.

Matt says

Although not a Doctor Who novel I would have picked randomly, I ended up reading it because of it being chosen as the next discussion book for The Doctor Who Book Club Podcast, which I have recently become infatuated with. As it turns out, I ended up enjoying *The Scales of Injustice* greatly, and I really can't figure out why I didn't think I would.

"The Silurians" and "The Sea Devils" are two of my absolute favorite Doctor Who serials. I love the idea of an alien whose role as a villain or a friend is ambiguous. The Earth Reptiles (as they refer to themselves in this novel) are neither good nor bad; there are some among them who think that an alliance with humans is the right thing to do, and others who, much like the humans, believe the only answer is to eradicate their opposition. This conflict in the television serials and in this novel throw away the standard "good vs. evil" mentality of a lot of Doctor Who stories. The ambiguity is really what makes it interesting.

Not long after the events of "Inferno," the Silurians appear to be causing trouble around England again. A handful of people suddenly go missing, and naturally, the Doctor and UNIT spring into action to find the source of the disappearances. It quickly becomes apparent what is behind the incidences, and the Doctor once again tries to negotiate a peace between the humans and the reptilian humanoids who previously ruled the planet.

The Scales of Injustice goes a long way to fix some perceived continuity errors that would pop up in the later Fifth Doctor serial "Warriors of the Deep." Although I haven't seen the Fifth Doctor story in question, there are apparently some issues in that the Doctor in "Warriors of the Deep" appears to already have a previous relationship with characters that hadn't previously appeared on the show. In this novel, the first meeting of the Doctor and some of the characters later in that serial is shown, thus fixing the problem. It is a good example of a tie-in working to benefit continuity, rather than mess it up.

Gary Russell's greatest strength is his quality of characters. He has a perfect grasp of who everyone is, including both the characters that had already existed in the show, and his own characters are as interesting and three-dimensional as the ones we are already familiar with. Among his created characters are the villains, who I won't go into detail about for spoilery reasons, and the Brigadier's secretary Maisie Hawke, a headstrong and intelligent woman who is written in such a way that she feels like a character we've known all along. Although apparently she is based on an unnamed character who has a minor appearance in "Day of the Daleks," this is for all intents and purposes her creation. She, and the aforementioned villains, are well-

written and interesting characters that I found myself wanting to know more about.

The best part of the novel is the character development of Liz Shaw and Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart. In Liz's storyline, we get to know a lot more about what is going on inside of her head, especially in the events leading to her departure from UNIT. Russell is loyal to who she is in the television show, with adding just enough to make her an even more likable character than she already was. It makes me wish even more that we had a chance to see more of her on the show.

In the Brigadier's storyline, Russell writes a bit of his private life. We see him interact with his wife and daughter, as his marriage slowly begins to fall apart as the result of the strange hours he is required to keep in his role as UNIT. It is a common story of a working man whose focus is perhaps in the wrong place, but it is made all the more poignant to see it happening to a character who most Doctor Who fans have some affection for, and who is seen mostly as just the military man with occasional moments of affability.

Perhaps most important of any part of the novel, is that we get a departure scene for Liz Shaw. Her farewell in the final chapter of the book is perfectly done and memorable, as good as any of the departures we have seen on the screen. Although there are occasional issues in this novel with the plot getting a bit jumbled, and perhaps too many characters to keep track of, it is still a worthwhile and quite great novel because it adds so much to the story without getting in the way. We get to know the characters better because of the book, and that's really what these sort of books should be about.

Daniel Kukwa says

A beautiful reprint edition of a wonderful "Doctor Who" Missing Adventure. Never mind the delicious details regarding Silurian culture, this is a book that develops the background of UNIT and its political paymasters to a fabulous & fascinating degree; it provides some powerful insight into the Brigadier in particular...including one detail that will send ripples into the series' 50th anniversary. If there is a weakness here, it's that the 3rd Doctor & Liz have virtually nothing to do in this novel except act as bystanders and commentators. Profound & emotional commentators, to be sure...but it would have been nice to have them a bit more involved in all the action.

James says

Bottom line: it's got a good concept that regrettably gets a bit bogged down in a somewhat laborious execution, but it's nonetheless worth it for the character stuff.

Like Gary Russell, one of my favourite seasons of Doctor Who is season seven with the third Doctor and Liz Shaw. That was a major draw for me when I bought this book, and on that factor it succeeded really well for me. Liz getting a proper explanation for her leaving and some real internal life was fantastic to see, and Russell writes her marvellously. Seeing the (sadly quite brief) interplay between her and the Doctor on-page was a dream come true.

Unfortunately, the other element taken from that season- the Silurians- doesn't come out quite as sparkling. There's a lot of really great ideas here, but sometimes it felt like people were expositioning at me about the Silurians for the sake of building up those interesting ideas on their own rather than more seamlessly

integrating them into the plot. The point of view wanders around quite a lot, which unfortunately made the novel feel quite unfocused, and it never quite builds up the tension for a tense climax as a result.

Also, good lord a lot of people die unnecessarily in this book, which Russell does acknowledge in his introduction. By unnecessarily, I mean in terms of the story being told; it gets tiring and predictable after a while. People die in Doctor Who, we get it! Calm down!

Still, it's nice to see the idea originally presented with the Silurians, that of an ancient civilisation that has eroded away and wants to reclaim its former glory, get more room to breathe. The TV show never quite had room to really show the Silurians as people, but this book rises to that task quite well.

It's worth a look if you love the third Doctor's era. Definitely get the 'Monster collection' reissue, though; the cover is absolutely lovely.

Andrew says

This was stonking good fun. :)

There's such a lot of good stuff in this book. It acts in a way similar to Who Killed Kennedy? did, in that it gives some background to events that occurred in season 7, and substantially explores the shadowy C19 organisation that was introduced in that book. And even if it's not Gary Russell's creation, lots of elements he adds to it are inspired. The Pale Man with the scar is a wonderfully nasty character, and visually striking to boot. He's also been enhanced with cyber-technology (in a similar way to Tobias Vaughn, complete even with a scene in which the Pale Man's chest is filled with smoking bullet holes) which gives us some really cool moments of him denting a bottle of glass, and smashing another bottle so hard together that instead of smashing it, he compresses it into tiny little bits. Along with him is the blond man (who is thoroughly repugnant) and the Irish Twins, a deliciously creepy couple, who do everything in perfect unison (as they've been injected with Nestene blood, turning into semi-Autons. Also cool).

As you may have gathered, the idea of a shadowy organisation working behind the scenes, as people referred to as just the "x man" positively oozes X-Files. By no means is this a bad thing, and in fact I think only adds to the appeal of this story to me, and also gives a whole new added depth to the UNIT stories.

There's also features like the Vault, a large secret base underneath the Cheviot Hills, where the blunderings of former stories are used for experiments. Really, this is where the fan boy jizzum starts spilling. Throughout that section, I was like "ooh! WOTAN!" and "looh! Mars Space Probes!". I love it when Doctor Who manages to wrap up its own continuity into a more organic whole, (something which the 90s books did particularly well), and this book does it incredibly well. It was also one of the reasons I really liked Who Killed Kennedy?, of which this book is quite similar, and it just makes for a much more satisfying reading experience to have a sense of all the Doctor Who stories being a real, functioning world, with elements from previous stories having effects on later ones (as it would in the real world).

There's also a secondary story of the Sea-Devil/Silurian hybrids. As this review points out, there's no real point for them being Silurians, but I'm more than glad they're in there. It makes for a really interesting addition to the story, and Russell anyway does manage to flesh out their culture and society much more, making them a far more worthwhile addition than simply a stock monster fill.

Russell also develops the characters much better than they were presented in the show. Season 7 has to be one of the coldest, bleakest and darkest seasons in the show's history (which by no means is a bad thing, as is actually my reason for it being my favourite Jon Pertwee season), and one of the reasons for this is how unpersonal the characters are. We don't really learn anything of either the Brigadier or Liz's lives, so this book is able to really open them up properly.

The Brig's story is tragic in this book. It's heartbreakng to see the slowly crumbling and decaying relationship he has with his wife

Christian Petrie says

When I think of The Missing Adventure series from Virgin, this book is what I expect. The Missing Adventures gave the opportunity to fill in Doctor Who History, and this does that.

Before I go any further fans of Doctor Who will get more out of this story, but it is a good story for those interested in Doctor Who as well. The story is about the return of the Silurians, or Earth Reptiles as they are known as. This time the Doctor is trying to prevent what happened in The Cave Monsters and a new menace is happening that could affect UNIT.

Gary Russell does a splendid job of fleshing UNIT out, given the depth that we did not get on TV. He fleshes Liz Shaw out and shows problems the Brigadier had at home. Then to cap it off, he gives Liz the departure that we did not get on TV.

For the Silurians, we see more of them and the missing linking material. This fills in the blank between The Cave Monsters, The Sea Devils, and Warriors of the Deep. We learn more about them and their motives.

To cap it all off, we are introduced to C19, the Glasshouse, and the Vault. In the expanded Doctor Who universe more is to come, but it also addresses what has been happening after the events of the previous UNIT stories. The cleanup of the battles.

If you are new to Doctor Who you might not get all the references, but at the same time you will have an enjoyable story that you can still keep up with. You might get more surprises from it than a Doctor Who fan, as there are similar things to other stories.

There is only one downside to this story. With everything going on and how the story ends, it asks for a follow up story. Some characters you want to know more about. I know that we do find out some things with Warriors of the Deep and Business Unusual, however, a strong follow up story should have been made. Other than that, a great book all around.

Matthew Kresal says

As Gary Russell himself has said, the Virgin Missing Adventures were created to fill in the holes left by Doctor Who's TV continuity. That is exactly what The Scales Of Injustice sets out to do. Filling in gaps left by 1983's Warriors Of The Deep and the decision not to give Liz Shaw an exit in either Inferno or Terror Of The Autons, this novel may well be one of the most necessary Missing Adventures for fans of the series.

For starters Russel seems to know his characters. By the time I reached the end of "Episode One" Russel had proven (to me at least) that I was reading the third Doctor, Liz Shaw and the Brigadier as played by Jon Pertwee, Caroline John and Nicholas Courtney. The same can be said of the entire UNIT family as well right down to Benton and Yates. The chemistry is there in the dialogue and in the descriptions of the characters actions in a way rarely captured in the MA's or its successor the PDA's. If nothing else The Scales Of Injustice features one of the most accurate recreations of the Pertwee era cast.

Then there's the new characters thrown into the mix. It is no secret that Russell's stories make strong use of continuity and this novel is no exception to that rule. Infusing elements from across the earthbound stories of the series (even including some references to Remembrance Of The Daleks), Pertwee's first season as well as Virgin's own Who Killed Kennedy Russell brings a new set of villains into the series: Townsend, managing director of the Vault and his henchmen "the Irish twins". Together they make for some fantastic villains especially in the novels final "episode". Add in the Brigadier's wife and daughter into the mix as well to give a personal side to the UNIT era that was missing on TV. Then there's the Silurians and their teenage captive Marc Marshall who between them have some of the novel's best dialogue. All together it is a good mix of supporting characters.

Also, Scales Of Injustice features one of the better novel plots as well. By choosing to fill in the gaps I talked about at the start of this review, Russell had his work cut out for him. Here Russell certainly rises to the task without getting so heavy that the story gets stopped in its tracks. In the novel we get the infusing of UNIT, the Silurians, Department C19, Glasshouse, the Myrka (though thankfully not the pantomime horse version seen in Warriors Of The Deep!) and the exit of Liz Shaw. Writing to fit into Season 7's seven episode format Russel never wastes a moment even right down to the cliffhangers which really sells this as a "missing adventure". The highlight though for me was Liz Shaw's wonderfully written exit which, to my mind, was way better handled then the version seen later in Devil Goblins From Neptune. If you aren't turned off by continuity references and instead revel in them then you should find this a terrific Doctor Who novel.

The Scales Of Injustice is a missing adventure in every sense of the term. From its accurate recreation of the leading cast to good supporting characters and the tying up of a few loose ends Gary Russell writes a story worthy of being a seven part story from the beginning of the Pertwee era. While it might not be the greatest Doctor Who novel or even the best of the Missing Adventure range but you know what it is? It is a fantastic addition to the series and a terrific read.

Kelly says

I can't help it. I love all things Doctor Who. I don't necessarily enjoy every single TV episode but I do love the books, especially when they are written by such excellent authors. This is one of the monster collection and I had already read the weeping angels one and enjoyed it. I enjoyed this one, which concerns the Silurians, just as much and have decided to try and read all the monster collection asap.

What I do love about these books is that you always see the little nuances and differences between the different Doctors as they appear. In 'Scales of Injustice' we are reading about the third Doctor as played by John Pertwee and it does come across in the mannerisms etc. I think that just shows what good writing is behind this book. The story was intriguing, gripping in places and slightly horrific in others which makes it a 5 star package.

Ellie says

A good, action-packed VMA with an unsatisfying ending that I've since learned is wrapped up in two of Russell's other books for later Doctors. Well that's fine but I didn't know going in that I was going to need to read two sequels with the Sixth Doctor in order to see the villains get their comeuppance, so I was a bit put off by that. Recommended for: Doctor Who continuity buffs (who'll catch all the references, unlike me); fans of Liz Shaw as a character (she gets good development in this one); fans of Silurians/Sea Devils (lots of exploration of their culture in this).

Ian Mcardell says

This sprawling UNIT epic, set at the end of Series Seven, pits the Doctor against Silurians, Sea Devils and sinister forces. Serving also as an exit story for companion Liz Shaw, the story is perhaps a little over-stuffed with references to and cameos from the Earth-bound Pertwee era, but is great fun nonetheless.

Jacqueline O. says

This original *Doctor Who* novel features the Third Doctor (as played by Jon Pertwee) and Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Shaw and the Silurians again. References abound not only to "Doctor Who and the Silurians", but also "The Sea Devils" and "Warriors of the Deep". And, as always, meetings between apes and "Earth Reptiles" do not go well.

Also the plot involves political intrigue between Parliament, the Glasshouse (the UNIT hospice), and C19. Someone wants to discredit the current head of the Glasshouse and take it over, turning it into another Vault making weapons from alien technology and in some cases from aliens themselves.

Dr. Liz Shaw finds herself embroiled in these plots when she's contacted by a Dutch investigative reporter, who, unfortunately, turns out to be a C19 agent. Meanwhile, the Doctor is running around chasing Silurians, hoping for a better result than the last time.

The Silurian plot seems very repetitive, but it turns out slightly better than normal for most stories involving the intelligent previous intelligent species from Earth. The other main purpose of the novel is to give Dr. Liz Shaw a better send off. I enjoyed that part of the book. Actually, this book seems to be more of a book about Liz than about the Doctor - who does very little, and is mostly ineffective. Not that the book reverses the standard Doctor and Companion roles entirely - Dr. Shaw doesn't come off as a Super Woman, but it's a different take on an original novel.

I have the e-book version, and the cover looks like one of the Target novelisations. It was also very short, only 191 pages in e-book format. I don't know if I read a condensed or abbreviated version, or what, but I think if it had been a bit longer, the story could have been expanded a bit, resulting in a better story. This was more like a novella.

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nhw.livejournal.com/743504.html>[return][return]I think the first Doctor Who spinoff novel I read was Gary Russell's Invasion of the Cat-People, long long ago. I was so deeply unimpressed that it was years before I read another one. Since then, of course, I've become aware of Russell as the host of numerous DVD commentaries and as a talking head on Doctor Who Confidential, not to mention being reminded of his activities as child actor in the Famous Five and editor of Doctor Who Monthly. It's not always a howling success when someone who writes about the genre turns their hand to fiction, but after my recent bout of Serious Reading this seemed like a relaxing option, snagged from the BBC website in electronic form.[return][return]And to my relief the book is OK. It's basically a boiled together combination of Doctor Who and the Silurians plus The Sea Devils, with flash forward to Warriors from the Deep, plus some backstory about the breakup of the Brigadier's first marriage and what Liz Shaw was really up to in Cambridge. The book also includes a very nicely done farewell scene between Liz and the Doctor, which of course was not shown on screen. The book could pass as an above-average novelisation of a seven-part TV story, which I think is what the author was aiming at, so can be rated a success.

Ken says

Originally written in the 90's this story was republished in 2014 as part of The Monster Collection following the success of the 50th Anniversary books the previous year.

With a wealth of stories to choose from for the first Seven Doctors I suspected they would choose the standout stories whilst the show was off the air. I wasn't disappointed!

This fits seamlessly in between Season 7 & 8, they are my favorite TV Tie in Novels.

Lots of nods to both Pertwee's First Year aswell as other stuff that Classic Who fans will enjoy, only quibble is that The Doctor and Lis Shaw don't feature as much as I would have liked but The Brigadiers side story makes up for that.

Andrew says

Read this as the copyright has reverted to author and as such was a free download on Manybooks.

The Book(as suggested by the cover) takes place during John Pertwee's reign as the third Doctor and is very much of his Earthbound/UNIT style adventures..adversarys this time around are the sillurians but in some ways they are incidental to the whole plot as the main story involves a Conspiracy around Government agencies with a hit man and shadowy grey man too.

The Conspiracy provides much of the action and lends the book a fast pace, the characters are well fleshed out in particular the Brigader who in this book faces domestic problems on top of the usual governmental type ones.

All told a fun read and well worth a download.

Mark says

Over the course of the half-century existence of the Doctor Who franchise the Doctor has been joined on his many travels by a series of companions. Most last for a period of time, then move on with their lives after some event or development leads to a parting of the ways. On the show this usually involves a formal farewell of one sort or another or, in the rare case when a companion dies, a degree of mournful reflection. Occasionally, however, a companion abruptly disappears with barely an passing explanation and a new companion appears to fill the void. Though she was not the first to suffer such a fate there was nobody less deserving of such treatment than Liz Shaw. Introduced at the beginning of the seventh season. as a brilliant scientist she quickly proved to be a more than a capable associate of the newly Earth-bound Doctor, and played a vital role in his adventures. Yet when the eighth season began she had already decamped back to Cambridge, to be replaced by someone new.

Gary Russell's novel provides readers with a story of the events that led up to her departure. In it she is drawn into a conspiracy involving C-19, the government department tasked with overseeing UNIT operations in the United Kingdom. At the same time a new group of Silurians emerges near a seaside town, leading the Doctor to embark on a solo mission in the hope of avoiding the tragedies of his previous encounter with humanity's predecessors. Amidst all of this the Brigadier is forced to cope with a shrinking budget and a marriage on the verge of collapse, none of which he can allow to interfere with his job of keeping humanity safe from the extraordinary threats it unknowingly faces.

If all this sounds a little busy for a relatively short novel, you would be right. While Russell handles it fairly well for the most part, oftentimes characters and settings pass through the book's pages in such a rush that they often move out of the story before any sense of who they are is successfully established. Giving the characters more time to breathe might have made for a better book, especially as doing so might have given their many deaths (for a Doctor Who novel, the body count is surprisingly high) a greater impact than was otherwise the case. Yet in the end the story itself is entertaining enough, and Liz Shaw gets the dignified departure her character so richly deserved. For many fans of the series, this will be reason enough to read the book.
