



Doctor Who: The Menagerie

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"It is said that this city rests over the great menagerie. Men who felt tempted to meddle in science were cursed and turned into beasts."

A nameless city on a primitive, rain-sodden planet. The ruling Knights of Kuabris strive to keep order as hideous creatures emerge from the sewers to attack the populace. It seems that there might be some truth in the prophecies after all.

While Jamie languishes in the castle dungeons, the Doctor is forced to lead an expedition beneath the city to search for the fabled Menagerie of Ukkazaal. Meanwhile Zoe has been sold as a slave to a travelling freak show - and one of the exhibits is coming to life.

Doctor Who: The Menagerie Details

Date : Published May 18th 1995 by Virgin Pub (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780426204497

Author : Martin Day

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Doctor Who, Science Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: The Menagerie for online ebook

Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/2067118.html>[return][return]I found this rather a confused and slightly tedious tale, the Doctor, Jamie and Zoe landing on a planet where medievalish humans are dominated by an anti-science cult and various subterranean alien races emerge to do battle or otherwise prop up the plot. The is one nice scene with Jamie and Zoe driving a hovercar together. And there is a nice continuity touch: the I in IMC originally stood for Issigri.

Christian Petrie says

Nearing the end of the Second Doctor stories and before entering the final story Doctor Who and the War Games this is the Missing Adventure before that story.

One thing during the course of re-reading my Doctor Who books is coming across ones I remember one or two things about and seeing what the story was about. This one I remember because ties IMC featured in a Third Doctor story with the Issigri family from Doctor Who: The Space Pirates. That was one minor sentence in the whole book, and I still remember it, but it is not what the story is about.

As seems common with the Missing Adventures so far we have a brief incident at the beginning, but you don't find out how it is tied to the story until half way through.

Martin Day does a great job with introducing a new world that seems similar to Earth at a certain point in time. Even though we, and the Doctor know it is not Earth, part of the mystery is finding out why it is different.

The Doctor, Jamie, and Zoe are split up and each wind up working on part of the mystery themselves. The pieces come together to show how the experiments of those in the past affect the present.

The enjoyment of this story is we actually see the affects of an experiment. It is a neat concept showing how the repercussions of something can take time over time.

The story does not develop the TARDIS crew, but gives depth to an adventure they are on. Overall it is a good story to read. It might not be the strongest, but is fun to read.

Travis says

The plot is so-so, the bad guys aren't that interesting and the author doesn't seem to know what to do with the Doctor's companion, Zoe, so she just comes across as either boring or a bit snotty.

Not one of the better 'Missing Adventure' books.

Daniel Kukwa says

Martin Day is on record as not being very proud of this novel. Technically, it's his weakest Doctor Who book...but only by comparison, as his later novels were so damned good. It has a forgettable plot, but the main cast is handled particularly well...no small feat, as I believe the 2nd Doctor is the hardest to capture in print. It deserves more praise than it usually receives...if it receives any at all.

David Layton says

In this novel, Martin Day manages to keep several mysteries going and reveals them at just the right times, though the main mystery, the identity of Zaitabor, becomes clear too soon. The Doctor and his companions are well managed. In particular, it is entertaining to see Zoe handle matters on her own, without always relying on the Doctor or Jamie to get her out of a "situation." The novel might win the award for the funny names in a SF book award: try Mecrim, Defrabax, Zaitabor, and Rexulon, for instance. Not quite as outlandish as Zaphod Beeblebrox, but close, and thus too humorous for an otherwise serious novel. Another problem is the mixed medieval/high tech culture of the main setting. Though there is some justification for the high tech part, feudalism is not the obvious form into which a society would degenerate, and this one is just too close to movie medievalism to be convincing.

Jacqueline O. says

The Menagerie is part of Virgin Publishing's **Doctor Who - The Missing Adventures** paperback original novels series. This one features the Second Doctor (Patrick Troughton), Zoë, and Jaime, which is one of my favorite Doctor and companion combinations. However, the story is just, well, to be frank, pretty awful actually.

The Doctor decides to take his companions to a low-technology world for a nice vacation. The TARDIS lands, and the three wander to the local village and enter the pub. Within minutes, the place is raided, and the three are split up. The village where they have landed is in the iron hands of the Knights of Kubris - technology-hating religious zealots who have not only banned all technology and science, but also live "only in the moment", banning the study of the past, and forbidding any planning for the future.

OK, it may sound like Tea Party paradise, but the problem is the first half of the book is very slow going, as it feels like one grand lecture that goes on and on. The Knights position is completely untenable. to live without science and technology is pretty much impossible - and wrong. But to condemn the study of history, and make it a crime to discuss what you're having for dinner tomorrow, much less your plans for the weekend... It's just not a natural state of affairs.

And if you think the anti-science nature of the Tea Party is just plain wrong, Martin Day's novel comes across as strident preaching to the converted. Science and technology are cool, and necessary, and one simply cannot pretend they don't exist or ignore them. Besides, learning from the past then using technology to develop improved ways of doing things **is** the only way to prepare for the future - one certainly cannot fight it, or in real life, travel backwards to some "golden era" (especially as there is no "golden era").

Eventually *The Menagerie* wanders around to explaining what had happened. The planet itself had an

underground scientific/military research station. This station was exploring using genetic manipulation to create biologic weapons. They succeed in creating a new creature called a Mercim, but the creature also harbors a deadly microbe. Between the aggressive nature of the Mercim and the deadly nature of the microbe the research team is virtually wiped out. A few escape to the planet's surface and their descendants occupy the planet at the time that the Doctor and his companions arrive.

The research station's home planet sends a rescue/investigation party, but it is more or less too late. In a last, desperate act - the leader of the rescue party, who has contracted the disease spread by the Mercim, is turned into a Cyborg. He leaves the planet in his spaceship, immediately crashes, and this cyborg is the leader who had established the science and technology-hating Knights.

Perhaps the novel would have worked better if it had started with the research station. I can certainly picture the Second Doctor warning the military scientists against "messing with forces they shouldn't", then if it had jumped forward to see the cultural result of the disaster, the story might have worked better, and the first half been less boring and strident.

Overall, the novel something for only the completist to own. I read an e-book version. It's not the worst *Doctor Who* novel I've read, but it's far from the best.

Mel says

I must admit I wasn't that fond of this. The setting was just too forced and messy. A planet that was reverting to barbarism but in rather a confusing and not very believable way. There wasn't really enough of the Doctor, Jamie or Zoe and when they were there they were more caricatures than themselves. Zoe in particular seemed poorly written and the Doctor seemed really hard on her much preferring Jamie. I must admit I gave up on this one about a third of the way through.
