



Doctor Who: Rose

Russell T. Davies

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Discover the new *Doctor Who* classics.

“Nice to meet you, Rose. Run for your life!”

In a lair somewhere beneath central London, a malevolent alien intelligence is plotting the end of humanity. Shop window dummies that can move – and kill – are taking up key positions, ready to strike.

Rose Tyler, an ordinary Londoner, is working her shift in a department store, unaware that this is the most important day of her life. She's about to meet the only man who understands the true nature of the threat facing Earth, a stranger who will open her eyes to all the wonder and terror of the universe – a traveller in time and space known as the Doctor.

Doctor Who: Rose Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Who: Rose for online ebook

jess says

....This book made me happy. So ridiculously happy. Reading it felt like a warm hug welcoming me back to the universe that I grew up loving. I hadn't realized how much I missed these characters and how much I missed RTD's writing.

Because despite the fact that it was just a retelling of a story he already told thirteen years ago, it still felt fresh and new and so undeniably RTD. After six seasons of Moffat you don't know how nice it was to go back to the beginning.

I was initially a little worried that it would just be a written version of the episode, but the book went into much more detail and "behind the scenes" of all the events shown in the episode. So much new information and backstory and depth was given to all of the characters, from Rose herself all the way to Wilson the caretaker who has died before the episode even begins.

But the character who benefits the most from this has got to be Mickey. I've always loved Mickey, but especially during the first season his character often gets the short end of the stick. This novel helps to change that, Mickey's past is explored in great detail, he's given an amazingly likable group of friends, and his personality and motivations are so nuanced and beautiful and I found myself empathizing with him and caring much more for him than I did the first time I watched the pilot.

Where the novel truly succeeded was where RTD always succeeds, the characters. The little guys who are so easy to overlook but who often times have the most compelling stories of all. RTD gets that and consistently does an amazing job at making viewers/readers care, I mean truly care, about every character no matter how minor he includes. Every death is carefully designed and means something to the plot, every piece of information he tells us about a seemingly unimportant character goes on to make the ultimate ending to whatever their storyline is even more impactful.

RTD makes a story about plastic mannequins coming to life and trying to take over the world an engaging and exciting story to read. That takes skill. The novel follows Rose's story that we all know and love, but also a variety of other people as they travel around London that night. And it works, I cared about all of them even though many were just given a couple paragraphs of writing in total, and that I think is the real magic of RTD.

He also totally shaded Moffat's crack in time storyline which was beautiful and made the book worth buying for that line alone.

Finally, I can't not mention this. This book was gay. Really, really gay. It was amazing and wonderful and very obviously the level of gay RTD would have made the show if he could get away with it in 2005. It's stated explicitly that the doctor can be "male, female, somewhere in between or neither" and one character even uses they/them pronouns for the Doctor. One of Rose's best friends is a trans woman and two of her other friends who are boys have a very sweet romance sub-plot. And if that wasn't enough there were three different background gay couples, which of course isn't the pinnacle of representation but is always lovely to see.

So overall, READ THIS BOOK IF YOU LIKE DOCTOR WHO. It's a quick read and nicely written and will

make you want to cry over how much you miss the early days of this show. It also #confirms that the fourteenth Doctor is a black woman with a flaming sword and the fifteenth Doctor is gender neutral and uses a wheelchair. What more could you want??

Chris says

I have a mixed history with Doctor Who novelisations. Some I find totally miss the magic of the original. Many are just fair retreads of what was on screen. And a number add more and make them a worthwhile addition. This however manages to do something really new and exciting.

The story in itself is largely unchanged with only a few additions (mostly upping what they could do with the autons). However, it reframes it in a few interesting ways:

1. It very much makes it the start of Season 27, not series 1. By which I mean it places it both thematically and textually much more as part of the ongoing series. This obviously was not something they could do on screen as many of these elements would have been confusing for newer viewers but for fans who will be reading this it is a very rewarding experience. In fact there are a lot of forward references which obviously they couldn't do then but are beautiful now.
2. It moves it from being a fun adventure to a much darker drama. It both ups the level of cosmic horror (which will become the norm for the second half of season 1) and brings out a lot more of the kitchen sink realism, in particular featuring misogyny, racism and suicide as parts of every day life for Rose and those around her. (Once again being similar to Season 26 in that way).

My only slight qualm with it is Jackie is not quite as well done as a character, but I think that is more due to the levels with which Coduri is able to play her.

Whilst I don't think this is how the episode should have been done on screen, it is my preferred text as to go back and read this is doing so much more.

Karoliina Koppel says

It was the best Doctor Who book I've ever read (though I've read only about 6 of them). The only bad thing was RTD's writing. The plot was good but some of the paragraphs repeated what was already written.

Every character got a punch of back story and it was pretty good. Also Rose wasn't a little bitch here like in TV episode (example leaving Mickey).

The chemistry between the Doctor and Rose was even better than in the original episode.

Alain Lewis says

Oh that time in 2005 when the air was full of anticipation as what the new Doctor Who series was going to be like. It was all new, Nu-who, and here it is gloriously described by Russell T Davies as he expands on his creation with lovely Easter Eggs here and there. It's a wonderful trip to that wonderful time.

Susan Ferguson says

The first episode in the 9th Doctor. I really liked this episode on television, in the written story there's a few things I think were added in hindsight that I didn't enjoy so much - I certainly don't remember them in the broadcast episode. Maybe seeing the thoughts of the characters other than the Doctor kind of bugged me. Anyway, it was good to relive the episode.

Gabriel Mero says

I love that Target is FINALLY adapting the modern Doctor Who episodes into novels like they did with the classic series; and how appropriate that the first release was the premier that brought Doctor Who back into the public's eyes and heart and launched what has been an incredibly successful relaunch. This novelization is written by none other than the man behind the revival, Russell T. Davies. I thoroughly enjoyed how he fleshed out Rose's past (and foreshadowed future events) as well as the characters that appeared in only a few scenes of the episode, as well as the plot itself. Clive, in particular, got a more expanded backstory. I enjoyed the mentions of the future Doctors post Nine (11, 12, and 13) as well as Rose recalling the drunk stranger in the alley on New Year's (10 just prior to his regeneration.) I especially loved the mention of Donna Noble sleeping through the Auton Invasion. My only criticism is that Davies felt the need to make several minor characters gay, bi, or trans for no reason. It's a pet peeve of mine when writers use sexuality as a plot device. Sexual orientation does not equal character or personality.

Katherine Sas says

In prose as well as on screen, RTD and Moffat have the delightful and complimentary talents to be brilliant in completely opposite ways. They are really two halves of a whole (which made their episode collaborations just sparkle) and I'll miss their collective and individual contributions to Doctor Who. Where Day of the Doctor spends itself entirely in the twisty and twisted labyrinth of the Doctor's mind, "Rose" keeps him remote — indeed the only such character in the entire story. But in the end, both approaches emphasize the ultimate enigma of the character in different ways. RTD is still the master of crashing the Doctor into the utterly mundane and material realities of human life. While Moffat presents even Clara and Osgood as larger than life echoes of the Doctor's heroism, RTD sells the wonderfully flawed humanity of his characters: Rose's selfishness, Jackie's opportunism, Mickey's well-intentioned but ineffectual nature, Clive's tragic longings, the Doctor's occasional callousness, and even the aborted and greedy ambitions of Wilson the caretaker. And as ever, RTD's vision is darker: the sick gallows humor, the revelry in the slaughter, the willingness to embrace disappointment. Neither approach is correct or better than the other. These two novels, Rose & Day of the Doctor, demonstrate the opposite poles of what the new series of Doctor Who has been and can be, and their tension is what has made the new series so compelling and successful.

Tony says

O, I so hope this is the first of a Target Collection of all New Doctor Who. It's a fantastic novelisation that fleshes out characters and plot elements from the original episode. I'm going to keep this short because it is late and I'm tired but I'd love this book for Chapter 6 - Life at No. 90 on its own. Great work RTD. And

hopefully, more to come.

Daniel Kukwa says

For the first time in almost 30 years, we get new Target novelizations of modern "Doctor Who" stories...and who better to inaugurate the continuation of the line that Russell T Davies himself -- the man who brought the show into the 21st century. "Rose" is exactly what Target books were best at: not a simple transcription of an episode, but an expansion, an enhancement, and re-imagining that acts as a companion to the original. Like the best Target novelizations of the mid 70s and the late 80s, this is a book that manages to include an enormous amount of expanded material, yet maintain a compact, concise shape. Absolutely brilliant...a brilliance I inhaled in the span of an hour!

Nicholas Whyte says

<https://nwhyte.livejournal.com/3017727.html>

Back in the bad old days of 1996, Russell T. Davies wrote a Seventh Doctor book called *Damaged Goods* (more recently adapted for audio by Jonathan Morris for Big Finish). It included the following interesting points:

- * The first character we encounter in the story is the daughter of Mrs Tyler, who is a single mother
- * She says to the Doctor at one point, "You think you're so funny", a line almost echoed by Rose Tyler a decade later
- * The Tylers live on a council estate where strange things are happening
- * The strange things include (but are not restricted to) a doppelganger of a black neighbour created by an evil alien intelligence
- * The Doctor's female companion is Roz
- * At the very end the Doctor goes back in time to meet the young Tyler girl before the adventure started in her time line
- * As the alien invasion fully manifests lots of people die horribly and swiftly

So this novelisation is actually the third time, not the second, that Davies has visited some of these themes.

Of course he needs to use the script of the 2005 story as his basis, and also has to make it accessible for the younger audience whose aunts and uncles may have bought this, but he adds a lot more material here, starting with a great pen-portrait of the office caretaker, Bernie Wilson, who is the first of many characters to die horribly in *New Who*. Most notably, Mickey gets considerably more depth and characterisation than he was ever granted on screen, and it turns out that he is in a band including a trans woman and two young men who are just on the cusp of realising their true feelings for each other. The treatment of Jackie on the page seems much more sympathetic than she got on the screen, and poor Clive gets an expansion to his background as well:

"And now, in sudden coordination, every dummy in every window lifted its arm and swung down. Row upon row of glass shattered, bright chips cascading to the floor. All along the street, people screamed, yelled, some still laughing. Caroline said, 'Well that's not very funny,' and she grabbed hold of the boys to pull them back.

But Clive was staring. With horror. And yet, with delight.

Because he remembered.

In his files. In those mad old stories of monsters from Loch Ness, and wizards in Cornwall, and robots at the North Pole, there had been tales, from long ago, fables about shop-window dummies coming to life and attacking people, a slaughter, so the secret files said, a massacre on the streets of England, hushed up ever since by the Powers That Be, the population doped and duped into forgetting. And Clive, even Clive, had read those stories and thought, How can that possibly be true?

But here it is, he thought. It's happening again.

Which meant the Doctor was true. Every word of him and her and them. All Clive's fantasies were now becoming facts, right before his eyes. But if the glories were true then so were the terrors. And Clive felt a chill in his heart as he watched the plastic army step down into the street.

He turned to his wife and children.

He said, 'Run.'

Caroline stared at him, more scared by the look in his eyes than by the dummies. He said quietly, 'I'll try to stop them. Now for the love of God, run.'

And Caroline, at last, believed. She looked at her husband for one last time and said, 'I love you.' Then she took hold of the boys' hands, and ran."

The one character we don't learn so much more about is the Doctor himself. We get a bit more circumstantial detail about the Time War, but Davies put more than that in the 2006 Annual. Of course, this is sensible enough; the book is told from Rose's point of view, and for her the Doctor is a mysterious stranger who disrupts her ordinary life; the cosmic adventures are yet to come. But having seen how some of the other characters are enhanced by Davies from the printed page, the enigma of the show's central personality is even more palpable than it was on the screen.

Still, this is a worthy start to what we must hope is a revival of the old tradition.

Oliver says

11 year old me watched "Rose" on BBC 1 thirteen years ago and from that moment I can honestly say Doctor Who changed my life. I'm not normally so exaggerative but I really believe Russell T. Davies' run of the show made me a better person. This novelisation was just what cynical 24 year old me needed right now.

Lindsey says

I didn't realize that this was the book version of the first episode of the current Doctor Who. However, even if I did know that I would have still read the book because it's the 9th Doctor and Rose!!! I can't get enough of the 9th Doctor and Rose. Really wish we would have had more time with them together in the series but at least readers can visit them in the books.

Ken says

Target novelisations have always been an integral companion for Doctor Who fans, originally they were the only chance to experience an older story during pre-home video releases.

But the appeal has never gone away, the main reason is that it gives the chance for authors to develop their ideas without the constraints of a tv budget.

Most recently there's been reprints of the best stories, whilst audiobook releases have also been popular. So it's great that the BBC are finally producing books of the modern Doctor's.

'Rose' was the first story in the revamped series, so it makes for an obvious choice to be amongst the first batch of adventures.

The novel stays faithfully to the episode, teenager Rose having just finished work for the week in a London department store stumbles across a strange man that tells her to run.

It's a great introductory story to the iconic Timelord. It includes all the concepts of the series.

One aspect of the episode that I'd always found problematic is when Rose investigates this mysterious man named simply The Doctor, she comes across Clive - Someone Who has spent he's time researching this strange man.

As the tv show serves as a reboot, the only information he has is on the Ninth incarnation. The book improves upon this and includes both the past and future selves of the Timelord.

There's plenty of other references not only to the RTD era, but the whole show aswell. I found myself constantly grinning during these moments!

It's a nice fun read, really adds an extra layer to a strong story.

I just hope that these become regular releases.

Sarah says

Better than my wildest dreams. Brings 2005 flooding back.

Charlene Tiu says

When my husband first showed me this series, I must admit I wasn't a huge fan of the first episode. I didn't like Christopher Eccleston, I wasn't scared of manikins, and as a female, I couldn't relate to Rose Tyler. After reading this book, my whole perspective came to a dolphin flip. This book made me fearful of Autons, they are relentless plastic! The way they explained the Nestene Consciousness, was brilliant. I fell in love with Rose page by page. How you can feel so empty and search for purpose by following a timelord. I highly enjoyed this reading, it made me laugh, pushed my heart to remain curious, and kept me wanting more. Thank you Russell T Davies! And thank you hunky hubby.
